

The Pied Piper of Hamelin



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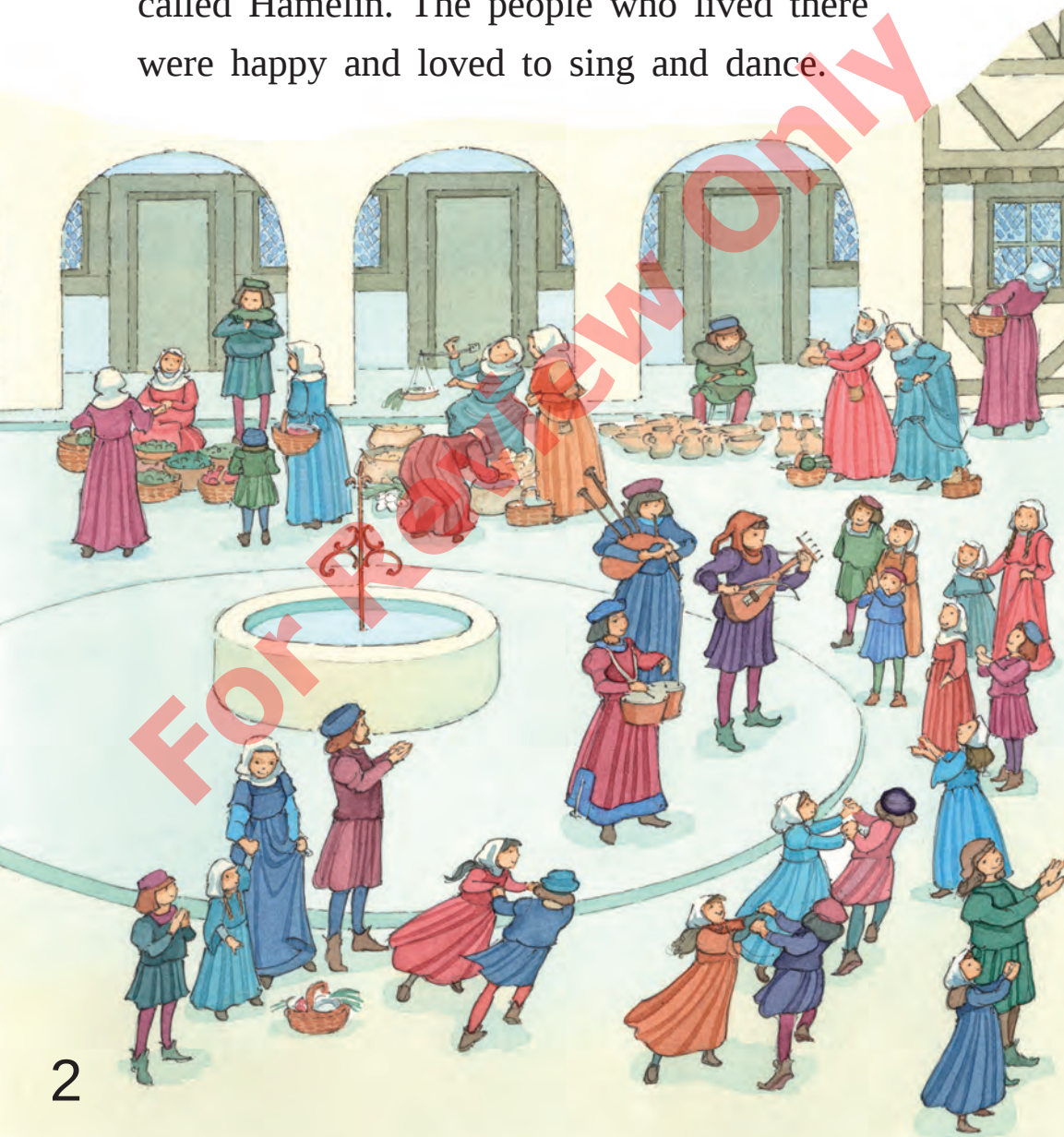
The Pied Piper of Hamelin



retold by Jill McDougall
illustrated by Pat Reynolds

Chapter 1

Once, long ago, there was a pretty little town called Hamelin. The people who lived there were happy and loved to sing and dance.



But then, one day, the rats came.



Suddenly there were rats everywhere. There were rats in every street and on every roof. There were rats in every shop and in every house.

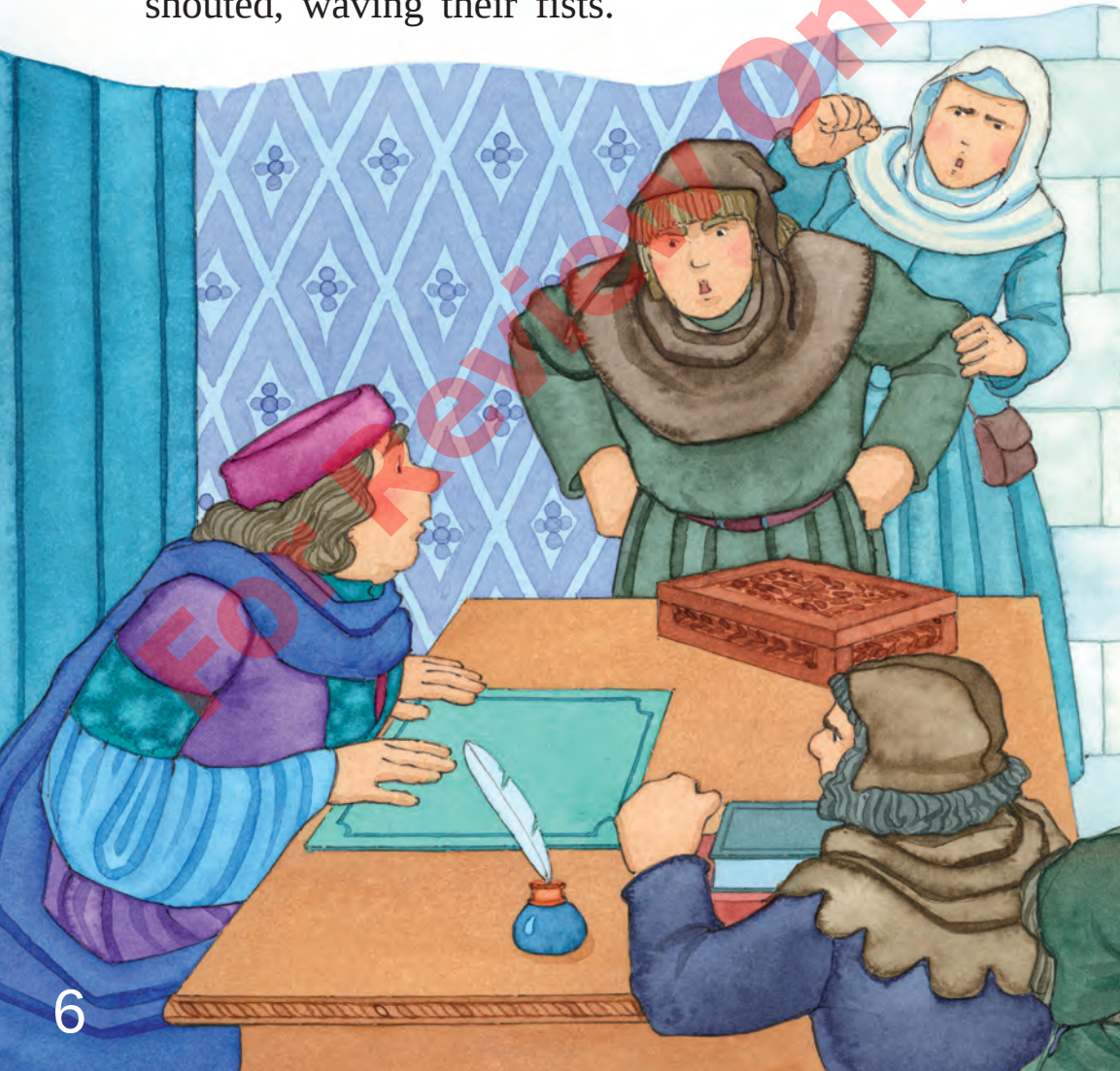


They sneaked into the kitchen and licked the spoons. They scampered upstairs and hid in the pillows. They even crept under the blankets and nibbled people's toes at night.



The people of Hamelin could take it no longer. They marched to the Town Hall to see the Mayor.

“You must get rid of these rats!” they shouted, waving their fists.



“Who, me?” said the Mayor. “But what can I do?”

“Anything!” said the people. “We will give you one more day to fix the problem. After that, look out!”

