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Sommario/riassunto	In the Middle Ages the castle was an important military and administrative centre, essentially utilitarian in its design and in the purposes it served. Because it played so central a role in medieval history, and because the wealth of material is so great, the author has concentrated on English sieges undertaken in the period from the Norman Conquest to the War of the Roses. This includes many dramatic actions fought on the continental dominions of the English Crown such

as Chateau Gaillard and Rouen. Drawing from contemporary records  
and his own inspection of sites, Philip Warner's narrative

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