

grr martin song of ice and fire

Grr Martin Song of Ice and Fire is a monumental series of fantasy novels penned by George R.R. Martin that has captivated millions of readers worldwide. Known for its complex characters, intricate plots, and richly detailed world-building, this series has cemented its place as a cornerstone of modern fantasy literature. In this article, we will explore the origins, themes, characters, and cultural impact of "A Song of Ice and Fire," providing a comprehensive overview for both new readers and longtime fans.

Introduction to Grr Martin's Song of Ice and Fire

The series, which began with the publication of "A Game of Thrones" in 1996, is set in the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos. Over the subsequent years, Martin expanded this universe with several sequels and related works, creating a sprawling saga characterized by political intrigue, warfare, and supernatural elements.

Origins and Development of the Series

How the Series Came to Be

George R.R. Martin started working on the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series in the early 1990s. Inspired by historical events like the Wars of the Roses, Martin aimed to craft a story that intertwined medieval history with fantasy elements. The first book's success led to a series planned to include seven volumes, though as of 2023, only five have been published.

Published Books in the Series

The main sequence includes:

- "A Game of Thrones" (1996)
- "A Clash of Kings" (1993)
- "A Storm of Swords" (2000)
- "A Feast for Crows" (2005)
- "A Dance with Dragons" (2011)

Future installments, "The Winds of Winter" and "A Dream of Spring," are highly anticipated by fans.

The Themes and Motifs in A Song of Ice and Fire

Power and Corruption

One of the central themes of the series is the pursuit of power and its corrupting influence. Characters vie for control over the Iron Throne, often resorting to treachery, betrayal, and moral compromise.

Honor and Morality

The series explores the complex nature of morality, where characters often face difficult choices that challenge traditional notions of good and evil.

Fate and Free Will

Supernatural elements like prophecy and magic intertwine with characters' decisions, raising questions about destiny and autonomy.

War and Peace

Political conflicts frequently erupt into brutal warfare, highlighting the costs of power struggles and the desire for peace.

Major Characters and Houses

Key Houses of Westeros

The series revolves around several noble families, each with its unique traits and ambitions:

1. **House Stark:** Known for their honor and connection to the North.
2. **House Lannister:** Wealthy and politically astute, with a penchant for cunning.
3. **House Baratheon:** Kings in the realm, involved in the struggle for the throne.
4. **House Targaryen:** Former rulers ousted from power, seeking to reclaim their throne.
5. **House Greyjoy:** Sea-faring rulers of the Iron Islands.

Notable Characters

Some of the most memorable characters include:

- **Eddard (Ned) Stark:** The honorable Lord of Winterfell.
- **Daenerys Targaryen:** The last surviving Targaryen seeking to restore her family's legacy.
- **Jon Snow:** The supposed illegitimate son of Ned Stark, who plays a pivotal role in the series.
- **Tyrion Lannister:** The witty and resourceful dwarf navigating court intrigue.
- **Cersei Lannister:** The ambitious queen and political schemer.

The Magic and Supernatural Elements

While rooted in political realism, "A Song of Ice and Fire" incorporates supernatural aspects that deepen its mythos:

- **Dragons:** Extinct for centuries, they are resurrected by Daenerys Targaryen, symbolizing power and chaos.
- **White Walkers:** Mystical beings from beyond the Wall, representing the threat of an icy apocalypse.
- **Magic:** Includes blood magic, prophetic visions, and the mystical "greenseers."

The Impact of the Series on Popular Culture

TV Adaptation: Game of Thrones

HBO's adaptation, "Game of Thrones," debuted in 2011 and became a cultural phenomenon. Spanning eight seasons, it brought the series to a global audience, though it also faced criticism for its later seasons' pacing and plot choices.

Fan Community and Fandom

The series has inspired a vast community of fans who engage in:

- Fan fiction and art
- Theories and debates about plot developments

- Conventions and cosplay events

Influence on Modern Fantasy

"Grr Martin's" work has influenced numerous authors and has set a new standard for mature, gritty fantasy storytelling.

Future of A Song of Ice and Fire

While fans eagerly await the release of "The Winds of Winter" and "A Dream of Spring," George R.R. Martin continues to work on these novels. The series' conclusion is highly anticipated, with many speculating how the intricate plot threads will resolve.

Conclusion

Grr Martin Song of Ice and Fire remains a landmark series that combines political intrigue, complex characters, and supernatural elements to create a compelling epic. Its influence extends beyond literature into television, gaming, and popular culture, ensuring its legacy for generations to come. Whether you're interested in exploring Westeros or understanding the craft of storytelling, this series offers a rich and immersive experience that continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is George R.R. Martin's 'A Song of Ice and Fire' series about?

It's an epic fantasy series set in the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos, featuring noble families, political intrigue, magic, and dragons, with a focus on the struggle for power and survival.

How many books are planned in George R.R. Martin's 'A Song of Ice and Fire' series?

As of now, five books are planned, but only five have been published: 'A Game of Thrones,' 'A Clash of Kings,' 'A Storm of Swords,' 'A Feast for Crows,' and 'A Dance with Dragons.' The remaining books, 'The Winds of Winter' and 'A Dream of Spring,' are upcoming.

What is the significance of the Iron Throne in the series?

The Iron Throne symbolizes the ultimate authority and kingship over Westeros, and much of the series revolves around the struggle to claim or maintain control of it.

How do the themes of 'A Song of Ice and Fire' reflect real-world issues?

The series explores themes like power, loyalty, betrayal, corruption, and morality, mirroring real-world political conflicts, human nature, and societal struggles.

Is there a TV adaptation of 'A Song of Ice and Fire'?

Yes, the successful HBO television series 'Game of Thrones' is based on George R.R. Martin's books and covers the main storylines, though it diverges in some plot details.

Who are some of the main characters in 'A Song of Ice and Fire'?

Key characters include Jon Snow, Daenerys Targaryen, Tyrion Lannister, Arya Stark, Sansa Stark, and Jaime Lannister, among others.

What role do dragons play in the series?

Dragons are powerful mythical creatures that symbolize Targaryen power and magic, and they play a crucial role in Daenerys Targaryen's storyline and the series' overall mythology.

When will the remaining books 'The Winds of Winter' and 'A Dream of Spring' be published?

There is no official release date yet; George R.R. Martin has been working on 'The Winds of Winter' for several years, and fans are eagerly awaiting its publication.

What impact has 'A Song of Ice and Fire' had on popular culture?

The series has influenced literature, television, gaming, and fan communities, popularizing the fantasy genre and inspiring spin-offs, merchandise, and a dedicated global fanbase.

Are there any planned spin-offs or prequels related to 'A Song of Ice and Fire'?

Yes, HBO is developing several spin-offs, including 'House of the Dragon,' which explores the history of House Targaryen, with others potentially in development to expand the universe.

Additional Resources

G.R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire": An Epic Saga of Power, Politics, and Humanity

Introduction

G.R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" is a sprawling literary phenomenon that has captivated readers worldwide for over two decades. Renowned for its intricate storytelling, complex characters, and richly detailed world-building, this series has redefined modern fantasy literature. From its humble beginnings as a novel titled "A Game of Thrones" to an international cultural phenomenon adapted into a highly successful television series, Martin's saga offers a compelling exploration of power, politics, loyalty, and human nature. This article delves into the origins, themes, characters, and cultural impact of "A Song of Ice and Fire," providing a comprehensive understanding of why it remains a landmark in contemporary storytelling.

Origins and Development of the Series

The Birth of a Literary Phenomenon

G.R.R. Martin, an American novelist and short story writer, began working on "A Song of Ice and Fire" in the early 1990s. Inspired by historical events like the Wars of the Roses and medieval European politics, Martin sought to craft a fantasy series that eschewed traditional tropes of good versus evil, favoring morally complex characters and unpredictable plotlines.

His initial idea was to create a large, multi-layered world where political intrigue and human flaws would take center stage. The first book, *A Game of Thrones*, was published in 1996, receiving critical acclaim for its realism and depth. Over the subsequent years, Martin continued to expand the narrative, eventually releasing five novels, with additional volumes planned to complete the story.

Publication Timeline and Challenges

The series' publication has faced numerous delays, primarily due to Martin's meticulous writing process and the increasing complexity of the plot. Some of the notable books include:

- *A Game of Thrones* (1996)
- *A Clash of Kings* (1990)
- *A Storm of Swords* (2000)
- *A Feast for Crows* (2005)
- *A Dance with Dragons* (2011)

Fans eagerly await the forthcoming publications of *The Winds of Winter* and *A Dream of Spring*, which are intended to conclude the saga.

Thematic Depth and Literary Significance

Realism in Fantasy

Unlike many traditional fantasy series, "A Song of Ice and Fire" is characterized by its emphasis on realism. Martin grounds his story in the gritty realities of political machinations, warfare, and human frailty, often blurring the lines between hero and villain.

Key themes include:

- Power and Corruption: The pursuit of power often leads characters to moral decay, illustrating that leadership is fraught with moral ambiguity.
- Loyalty and Betrayal: Shifting allegiances and treachery are central, emphasizing the fragile nature of trust.
- Fate and Free Will: Characters grapple with their destinies, often making choices that influence the course of events.
- Human Nature: The series explores themes of greed, honor, love, and revenge, painting a complex portrait of humanity.

Political Intrigue and Complexity

The series is renowned for its intricate political plots, reminiscent of medieval courts and dynastic struggles. The narrative weaves together multiple perspectives, including those of noble houses, common folk, and mystical entities.

The political landscape features:

- Power struggles among noble houses vying for control of the Iron Throne.
- The rise and fall of alliances, marriages, and betrayals.
- The influence of religion, magic, and prophecy on political decisions.
- The role of espionage, propaganda, and manipulation.

This depth of political complexity makes the series not just a fantasy epic but also a commentary on real-world governance and power dynamics.

Key Characters and Houses

The Central Houses

The series revolves around several noble houses, each with distinct traits and ambitions:

- House Stark: Known for their honor and loyalty, they rule the North from Winterfell. Key figures include Eddard Stark and his children.
- House Lannister: Wealthy and cunning, they reside in Casterly Rock. Notable characters include Tyrion, Jaime, and Cersei Lannister.
- House Baratheon: Rulers of the Stormlands, with Robert Baratheon as king at the series' start.
- House Targaryen: Former rulers over Westeros who are attempting to reclaim the throne.

Notable Characters

Martin's series boasts a vast array of characters, each with nuanced motivations:

- Eddard Stark: The honorable lord whose sense of duty sets much of the plot in motion.
- Daenerys Targaryen: The exiled princess seeking to restore her family's legacy.
- Tyrion Lannister: The witty dwarf navigating the treacherous political landscape.
- Jon Snow: The presumed illegitimate son of Eddard Stark, whose journey explores themes of identity and duty.
- Arya Stark: A young girl seeking justice and adventure, embodying resilience.
- Bran Stark: The young boy who develops mystical powers, hinting at the series' magical elements.

The Role of Magic and Mythology

While grounded in realism, the series incorporates elements of magic, prophecy, and myth, enriching its narrative tapestry:

- Dragons: Once thought extinct, they symbolize Targaryen power and serve as a link to ancient magic.
- The Others and White Walkers: Mystical beings threatening Westeros from beyond the Wall.
- Warging and Greensight: Characters with the ability to enter animals' minds or see into the future.
- Prophecies: Such as the "Prince That Was Promised," shaping characters' beliefs and actions.

Martin balances these mystical elements with the political and human stories, creating a universe where magic influences but does not overshadow the human drama.

Cultural Impact and Adaptations

The HBO Series: "Game of Thrones"

Premiering in 2011, HBO's adaptation of "A Song of Ice and Fire" catapulted the series to global fame. Known for its high production values, complex characters, and shocking plot twists, the show garnered critical acclaim and numerous awards.

However, the adaptation also faced criticism for deviations from the source material and controversial narrative choices, especially in later seasons. Despite this, it significantly boosted the series' popularity and brought fantasy storytelling into mainstream consciousness.

Influence on Literature and Media

The series has influenced a wave of fantasy literature and media, inspiring new authors and creators. Its success demonstrated that adult-oriented, complex fantasy narratives could achieve mainstream success.

It has also impacted popular culture through:

- Memes and social media discourse.
- Merchandise, including clothing, games, and collectibles.
- The emergence of fan theories and elaborate lore discussions.

Spin-offs and Future Projects

HBO has announced several spin-off projects, including:

- "House of the Dragon": A prequel series exploring the Targaryen dynasty.
- Other potential series set in the same universe, expanding on the lore and history.

These projects aim to capitalize on the universe's depth, ensuring that Martin's world continues to enthrall audiences beyond the original books and the "Game of Thrones" series.

The Legacy and Ongoing Saga

Critical Reception and Literary Significance

"A Song of Ice and Fire" is widely regarded for its literary innovation, blending traditional fantasy with political realism. It has received numerous awards and has been praised for its complex characterizations and storytelling mastery.

Despite its acclaim, the series has also faced criticism for its violence, moral ambiguity, and the long wait for the concluding volumes. Nonetheless, its influence on the fantasy genre is undeniable, setting new standards for depth and sophistication.

Anticipation for the Final Volumes

Fans worldwide eagerly await the publication of *The Winds of Winter* and *A Dream of Spring*. These concluding volumes are expected to resolve long-standing mysteries, character arcs, and political conflicts, providing a definitive end to the saga.

Martin's meticulous planning suggests that the conclusion will be as intricate and impactful as the journey so far, making it one of the most anticipated literary events in recent memory.

Conclusion

G.R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" stands as a monumental achievement in modern literature, blending historical inspiration, complex characters, political intrigue, and mystical elements into a compelling narrative. Its influence extends beyond books into television, pop culture, and the collective imagination of fans worldwide. As the series approaches its conclusion, its legacy as a groundbreaking work in the fantasy genre is firmly cemented, promising to resonate for generations to come. Whether as a reflection on power, human nature, or the unpredictable tides of history, "A Song of Ice and Fire" remains a masterclass in storytelling—epic, intricate, and profoundly human.

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grr martin song of ice and fire: A Game of Thrones (HBO Tie-in Edition) George R. R. Martin, 2011-03-22 NOW THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES—THE MASTERPIECE THAT BECAME A CULTURAL PHENOMENON Here is the first book in the landmark series that has redefined imaginative fiction and become a modern masterpiece. A GAME OF THRONES In a land where summers can last decades and winters a lifetime, trouble is brewing. The cold is returning, and in the frozen wastes to the North of Winterfell, sinister and supernatural forces are massing beyond the kingdom's protective Wall. At the center of the conflict lie the Starks of Winterfell, a family as harsh and unyielding as the land they were born to. Sweeping from a land of brutal cold to a distant summertime kingdom of epicurean plenty, here is a tale of lords and ladies, soldiers and sorcerers, assassins and bastards, who come together in a time of grim omens. Amid plots and counterplots, tragedy and betrayal, victory and terror, the fate of the Starks, their

allies, and their enemies hangs perilously in the balance, as each endeavors to win that deadliest of conflicts: the game of thrones. A GAME OF THRONES • A CLASH OF KINGS • A STORM OF SWORDS • A FEAST FOR CROWS • A DANCE WITH DRAGONS

grr martin song of ice and fire: A Game of Thrones 4-Book Bundle George R. R. Martin, 2011-03-22 The perfect gift for fans of HBO's Game of Thrones—a boxed set featuring the first four novels! George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series has become, in many ways, the gold standard for modern epic fantasy. Martin—dubbed the American Tolkien by Time magazine—has created a world that is as rich and vital as any piece of historical fiction, set in an age of knights and chivalry and filled with a plethora of fascinating, multidimensional characters that you love, hate to love, or love to hate as they struggle for control of a divided kingdom. This bundle includes the following novels: A GAME OF THRONES A CLASH OF KINGS A STORM OF SWORDS A FEAST FOR CROWS

grr martin song of ice and fire: George R. R. Martin's A Game of Thrones 5-Book Boxed Set (Song of Ice and Fire Series) George R. R. Martin, 2012-09-10 For the first time, all five novels in the epic fantasy series that inspired HBO's Game of Thrones are together in one eBook bundle. An immersive entertainment experience unlike any other, A Song of Ice and Fire has earned George R. R. Martin—dubbed “the American Tolkien” by Time magazine—international acclaim and millions of loyal readers. Now this bundle collects the entire monumental cycle in the most convenient format available: A GAME OF THRONES A CLASH OF KINGS A STORM OF SWORDS A FEAST FOR CROWS A DANCE WITH DRAGONS “One of the best series in the history of fantasy.”—Los Angeles Times Winter is coming. Such is the stern motto of House Stark, the northernmost of the fiefdoms that owe allegiance to King Robert Baratheon in far-off King's Landing. There Eddard Stark of Winterfell rules in Robert's name. There his family dwells in peace and comfort: his proud wife, Catelyn; his sons Robb, Brandon, and Rickon; his daughters Sansa and Arya; and his bastard son, Jon Snow. Far to the north, behind the towering Wall, lie savage Wildings and worse—unnatural things relegated to myth during the centuries-long summer, but proving all too real and all too deadly in the turning of the season. Yet a more immediate threat lurks to the south, where Jon Arryn, the Hand of the King, has died under mysterious circumstances. Now Robert is riding north to Winterfell, bringing his queen, the lovely but cold Cersei, his son, the cruel, vainglorious Prince Joffrey, and the queen's brothers Jaime and Tyrion of the powerful and wealthy House Lannister—the first a swordsman without equal, the second a dwarf whose stunted stature belies a brilliant mind. All are heading for Winterfell and a fateful encounter that will change the course of kingdoms. Meanwhile, across the Narrow Sea, Prince Viserys, heir of the fallen House Targaryen, which once ruled all of Westeros, schemes to reclaim the throne with an army of barbarian Dothraki—whose loyalty he will purchase in the only coin left to him: his beautiful yet innocent sister, Daenerys. “Long live George Martin . . . a literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the wild vision of the very best tale tellers.”—The New York Times

grr martin song of ice and fire: A Dance with Dragons George R. R. Martin, 2013-10-29 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • THE BOOK BEHIND THE FIFTH SEASON OF THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES NAMED ONE OF PASTE'S BEST FANTASY BOOKS OF THE DECADE Here is the fifth book in the landmark series that has redefined imaginative fiction and become a modern masterpiece. A DANCE WITH DRAGONS In the aftermath of a colossal battle, Daenerys Targaryen rules with her three dragons as queen of a city built on dust and death. But Daenerys has thousands of enemies, and many have set out to find her. Fleeing from Westeros with a price on his head, Tyrion Lannister, too, is making his way east—with new allies who may not be the ragtag band they seem. And in the frozen north, Jon Snow confronts creatures from beyond the Wall of ice and stone, and powerful foes from within the Night's Watch. In a time of rising restlessness, the tides of destiny and politics lead a grand cast of outlaws and priests, soldiers and skin-changers, nobles and slaves, to the greatest dance of all. A GAME OF THRONES • A CLASH OF KINGS • A STORM OF SWORDS • A FEAST FOR CROWS • A DANCE WITH DRAGONS

grr martin song of ice and fire: *The World of Ice & Fire* George R. R. Martin, Elio M. García Jr., Linda Antonsson, 2014-10-28 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Perfect for fans of A Song of Ice and Fire and HBO's Game of Thrones—an epic history of Westeros and the lands beyond, featuring hundreds of pages of all-new material from George R. R. Martin! If the past is prologue, then George R. R. Martin's masterwork—the most inventive and entertaining fantasy saga of our time—warrants one hell of an introduction. At long last, it has arrived with *The World of Ice & Fire*. This lavishly illustrated volume is a comprehensive history of the Seven Kingdoms, providing vividly constructed accounts of the epic battles, bitter rivalries, and daring rebellions that lead to the events of A Song of Ice and Fire and HBO's Game of Thrones. In a collaboration that's been years in the making, Martin has teamed with Elio M. García, Jr., and Linda Antonsson, the founders of the renowned fan site Westeros.org—perhaps the only people who know this world almost as well as its visionary creator. Collected here is all the accumulated knowledge, scholarly speculation, and inherited folk tales of maesters and septons, maegi and singers, including • full-color artwork and maps, with more than 170 original pieces • full family trees for Houses Stark, Lannister, and Targaryen • in-depth explorations of the history and culture of Westeros • 100% all-new material, more than half of which Martin wrote specifically for this book The definitive companion piece to George R. R. Martin's dazzlingly conceived universe, *The World of Ice & Fire* is indeed proof that the pen is mightier than a storm of swords.

grr martin song of ice and fire: George R. R. Martin Song of Ice and Fire Audiobook Bundle George R. R. Martin, 2012-03-27 As the Seven Kingdoms face a generation-long winter, the royal Stark family confronts the poisonous plots of the rival Lannisters, the emergence of the Neverborn demons, the arrival of barbarian hordes, and other threats.

grr martin song of ice and fire: *A Storm of Swords (Enhanced Edition): Parts 1 & 2 (A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 3)* George R.R. Martin, 2016-12-15 Available only on iBooks, this enhanced edition containing parts one and two of A Storm of Swords, is an amazing way to explore the rich world of George R.R. Martin's series.

grr martin song of ice and fire: *Fire and Blood* George R. R. Martin, 2018-11-20 The thrilling history of the Targaryens comes to life in this masterly work by the author of A Song of Ice and Fire, the inspiration for HBO's Game of Thrones. With all the fire and fury fans have come to expect from internationally bestselling author George R. R. Martin, this is the first volume of the definitive two-part history of the Targaryens in Westeros. Centuries before the events of A Game of Thrones, House Targaryen--the only family of dragonlords to survive the Doom of Valyria--took up residence on Dragonstone. *Fire and Blood* begins their tale with the legendary Aegon the Conqueror, creator of the Iron Throne, and goes on to recount the generations of Targaryens who fought to hold that iconic seat, all the way up to the civil war that nearly tore their dynasty apart. What really happened during the Dance of the Dragons? Why did it become so deadly to visit Valyria after the Doom? What is the origin of Daenerys's three dragon eggs? These are but a few of the questions answered in this essential chronicle, as related by a learned maester of the Citadel and featuring more than eighty all-new black-and-white illustrations by artist Doug Wheatley. Readers have glimpsed small parts of this narrative in such volumes as *The World of Ice & Fire*, but now, for the first time, the full tapestry of Targaryen history is revealed. With all the scope and grandeur of Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, *Fire and Blood* is the ultimate game of thrones, giving readers a whole new appreciation for the dynamic, often bloody, and always fascinating history of Westeros.

grr martin song of ice and fire: *A Feast for Crows* George R. R. Martin, 2007-10-30 THE BOOK BEHIND THE FOURTH SEASON OF GAME OF THRONES, AN ORIGINAL SERIES NOW ON HBO. Here is the fourth book in the landmark series that has redefined imaginative fiction and become a modern masterpiece. A FEAST FOR CROWS After centuries of bitter strife, the seven powers dividing the land have beaten one another into an uneasy truce. But it's not long before the survivors, outlaws, renegades, and carrion eaters of the Seven Kingdoms gather. Now, as the human crows assemble over a banquet of ashes, daring new plots and dangerous new alliances are formed

while surprising faces—some familiar, others only just appearing—emerge from an ominous twilight of past struggles and chaos to take up the challenges of the terrible times ahead. Nobles and commoners, soldiers and sorcerers, assassins and sages, are coming together to stake their fortunes . . . and their lives. For at a feast for crows, many are the guests—but only a few are the survivors. A
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DANCE WITH DRAGONS

grr martin song of ice and fire: A Song of Ice and Fire Boxed Set George R. R. Martin, Martin, George R R, 2011-09-27 George R.R. Martin's A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE -- the story so far. The greatest epic work of the modern age is now available in a collectible box set. Now a major Sky Atlantic TV series from HBO, featuring a stellar cast.

grr martin song of ice and fire: A Storm of Swords George R. R. Martin, 2002-05-28 THE BOOK BEHIND THE THIRD SEASON OF GAME OF THRONES, AN ORIGINAL SERIES NOW ON HBO. Here is the third book in the landmark series that has redefined imaginative fiction and become a modern masterpiece. A STORM OF SWORDS Of the five contenders for power, one is dead, another in disfavor, and still the wars rage. Joffrey sits on the Iron Throne, the uneasy ruler of the Seven Kingdoms. His most bitter rival, Lord Stannis, stands defeated and disgraced, victim of the sorceress who holds him in her thrall. Young Robb still rules the North from the fortress of Riverrun. Meanwhile, making her way across a blood-drenched continent is the exiled queen, Daenerys, mistress of the only three dragons left in the world. As opposing forces maneuver for the final showdown, an army of barbaric wildlings arrives from the outermost limits of civilization, accompanied by a supernatural army of the living dead. As the future of the land hangs in the balance, no one will rest until the Seven Kingdoms have exploded in a veritable storm of swords. . . .
A GAME OF THRONES • A CLASH OF KINGS • A STORM OF SWORDS • A FEAST FOR CROWS • A
DANCE WITH DRAGONS

grr martin song of ice and fire: A Dance with Dragons (HBO Tie-in Edition): A Song of Ice and Fire: Book Five George R. R. Martin, 2015-03-31 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • THE BOOK BEHIND THE FIFTH SEASON OF THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES Don't miss the thrilling sneak peek of George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire: Book Six, The Winds of Winter Dubbed "the American Tolkien" by Time magazine, George R. R. Martin has earned international acclaim for his monumental cycle of epic fantasy. Now the #1 New York Times bestselling author delivers the fifth book in his landmark series—as both familiar faces and surprising new forces vie for a foothold in a fragmented empire. A DANCE WITH DRAGONS In the aftermath of a colossal battle, the future of the Seven Kingdoms hangs in the balance—beset by newly emerging threats from every direction. In the east, Daenerys Targaryen, the last scion of House Targaryen, rules with her three dragons as queen of a city built on dust and death. But Daenerys has thousands of enemies, and many have set out to find her. As they gather, one young man embarks upon his own quest for the queen, with an entirely different goal in mind. Fleeing from Westeros with a price on his head, Tyrion Lannister, too, is making his way to Daenerys. But his newest allies in this quest are not the rag-tag band they seem, and at their heart lies one who could undo Daenerys's claim to Westeros forever. Meanwhile, to the north lies the mammoth Wall of ice and stone—a structure only as strong as those guarding it. There, Jon Snow, 998th Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, will face his greatest challenge. For he has powerful foes not only within the Watch but also beyond, in the land of the creatures of ice. From all corners, bitter conflicts reignite, intimate betrayals are perpetrated, and a grand cast of outlaws and priests, soldiers and skinchangers, nobles and slaves, will face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Some will fail, others will grow in the strength of darkness. But in a time of rising restlessness, the tides of destiny and politics will lead inevitably to the greatest dance of all. Praise for A Dance with Dragons "Filled with vividly rendered set pieces, unexpected turnings, assorted cliffhangers and moments of appalling cruelty, A Dance with Dragons is epic fantasy as it should be written: passionate, compelling, convincingly detailed and thoroughly imagined."—The Washington Post "Long live George Martin . . . a literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the

wild vision of the very best tale tellers.”—The New York Times

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