

got song of ice and fire

got song of ice and fire is a critically acclaimed epic fantasy series penned by American author George R.R. Martin. Known for its intricate plotlines, complex characters, and richly detailed world-building, the series has captivated readers worldwide and inspired a hugely popular television adaptation, "Game of Thrones." This article delves into the depths of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series, exploring its origins, key themes, characters, and its influence on modern fantasy literature and pop culture.

Introduction to A Song of Ice and Fire

A Song of Ice and Fire is a series of fantasy novels set in the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos. The story weaves political intrigue, war, magic, and myth, creating a multifaceted narrative that appeals to a diverse audience. The series began with the publication of "A Game of Thrones" in 1996, and as of 2023, it remains incomplete with fans eagerly awaiting the next installments.

Origins and Development of the Series

George R.R. Martin started working on the series in the early 1990s, drawing inspiration from historical events such as the Wars of the Roses—a series of dynastic conflicts in medieval England. His goal was to craft a realistic, complex fantasy world that defies traditional tropes.

Key milestones in the development of the series:

1. Initial Publication of "A Game of Thrones" (1996): The novel introduced readers to Westeros and its noble houses.
2. Subsequent Books:
 - "A Clash of Kings" (1998)
 - "A Storm of Swords" (2000)
 - "A Feast for Crows" (2005)
 - "A Dance with Dragons" (2011)
3. Upcoming Titles: "The Winds of Winter" and "A Dream of Spring" are highly anticipated.

The series is known for its complex narrative structure, multiple point-of-view characters, and unpredictable plot twists.

Major Themes in A Song of Ice and Fire

The series explores numerous themes that resonate with readers and make it a compelling saga:

1. Power and Its Corrupting Influence

- The relentless pursuit of power drives much of the series' conflict.
- Characters like Cersei Lannister exemplify the corrupting nature of ambition.

2. Loyalty and Betrayal

- Alliances are fragile; betrayal is common.
- The betrayal of Ned Stark is a pivotal moment that sets the tone for the series.

3. The Complexity of Morality

- Characters often operate in morally grey areas.
- The series challenges traditional notions of good and evil.

4. The Role of Magic and Myth

- Magic is gradually resurging, influencing political and personal destinies.
- Mythical creatures like dragons symbolize power and rebirth.

5. The Cycle of History

- The series emphasizes how history repeats itself through cycles of war and peace.

Key Characters and Houses

The series boasts a vast cast of characters, each with their own motives, alliances, and story arcs. Below are some of the most prominent:

Main Houses and Their Significance

- House Stark: Known for their honor, they rule the North. Key characters include Eddard (Ned) Stark and his children.
- House Lannister: Wealthy and cunning, they are central to political machinations.
- House Targaryen: Once rulers of Westeros, seeking to reclaim their throne.
- House Baratheon: Kings by conquest, involved in the struggle for the Iron Throne.

Notable Characters

- Eddard Stark: The honorable lord of Winterfell.
- Daenerys Targaryen: The last surviving Targaryen, aspiring to reclaim her birthright.
- Jon Snow: The supposed illegitimate son of Ned Stark, who becomes a key player in the battle against the White Walkers.
- Tyrion Lannister: The witty and resourceful youngest Lannister.

The Setting: Westeros and Essos

The series' world is divided into two main continents:

Westeros

- The primary setting for most of the political drama.
- Divided into several regions governed by noble houses.
- Features iconic locations such as King's Landing, Winterfell, and The Wall.

Essos

- Located east of Westeros.
- Known for its diverse cultures, cities, and the presence of magic.
- Key locations include Braavos, Meereen, and Slaver's Bay.

The contrasting settings allow for a rich tapestry of stories, from court politics to nomadic cultures and mystical phenomena.

The TV Adaptation: Game of Thrones

The adaptation of "A Song of Ice and Fire" into the HBO series "Game of

Thrones" significantly increased the series' popularity worldwide.

Impact of the TV series:

- Became one of the most-watched series globally.
- Brought fantasy into mainstream entertainment.
- Sparked a renewed interest in the books and the genre.

Controversies and Legacy:

- The final seasons received mixed reviews, prompting discussions about adaptations and storytelling.
- Despite criticisms, the series cemented "A Song of Ice and Fire" as a cultural phenomenon.

Why "A Song of Ice and Fire" Is a Must-Read Series

There are several reasons why fans and newcomers alike should explore the series:

Key reasons include:

- Its complex characters and morally ambiguous decisions.
- The detailed and immersive world-building.
- Its unpredictable plot twists.
- The exploration of timeless themes like power, loyalty, and survival.
- Its influence on modern fantasy literature and media.

Upcoming and Future Developments

Fans eagerly anticipate the release of the remaining books:

- "The Winds of Winter": The much-awaited sixth book.
- "A Dream of Spring": The concluding volume of the series.

Additionally, HBO is developing spin-off series to expand the universe, such as "House of the Dragon," which explores the history of House Targaryen.

Conclusion

"got song of ice and fire" remains a landmark in fantasy literature, renowned for its intricate storytelling, memorable characters, and layered themes. Its influence extends beyond books, shaping television, gaming, and popular culture. Whether you're a seasoned reader or new to the series, understanding its depth offers a richer appreciation of the epic saga. As the story continues to evolve through upcoming books and adaptations, the legacy of "A Song of Ice and Fire" is poised to endure for generations to come.

Meta Description: Discover the epic world of "A Song of Ice and Fire," the bestselling fantasy series by George R.R. Martin. Explore its characters, themes, setting, and impact on modern culture in this comprehensive guide.

Keywords: got song of ice and fire, George R.R. Martin, Game of Thrones, Westeros, fantasy series, medieval fantasy, Targaryen, Stark, Lannister, fantasy books, epic fantasy, TV adaptation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Game of Thrones' TV series based on?

The 'Game of Thrones' TV series is based on the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' book series by George R.R. Martin.

Who are the main authors of the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' book series?

The main author of the series is George R.R. Martin.

How many books are planned in the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' series?

As of now, five books are planned, with five 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, including 'The Winds of Winter' and 'A Dream of Spring', are forthcoming.

What are some of the major themes explored in 'A Song of Ice and Fire'?

Major themes include power and its corrupting influence, political intrigue, loyalty and betrayal, the struggle for survival, and the conflict between different cultures and ideologies.

Why has 'A Song of Ice and Fire' gained such a large international following?

Its complex characters, intricate political plots, rich world-building, and unpredictable twists have captivated readers worldwide, making it one of the most acclaimed fantasy series in modern literature.

Additional Resources

Game of Thrones Song of Ice and Fire: An In-Depth Exploration of a Literary and Cultural Phenomenon

Introduction

Since its inception, the Game of Thrones series, based on George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire, has captivated millions worldwide, transforming from a niche fantasy saga into a sprawling cultural phenomenon. This long-form analysis aims to explore the origins, narrative complexity, thematic depth, and cultural impact of Game of Thrones and its source material. By examining its literary roots, television adaptation, and enduring influence, we seek to understand why this saga remains so compelling in contemporary popular culture.

The Origins of A Song of Ice and Fire

Literary Foundations and Development

George R.R. Martin began crafting A Song of Ice and Fire in the early 1990s, initially envisioning a trilogy that would explore the intricate politics of Westeros. Over time, the series expanded into a multi-volume epic, with five volumes published as of 2023, and more anticipated. The narrative draws heavily from medieval history, particularly the Wars of the

Roses, which informs the complex rivalries among noble houses.

Martin's writing is characterized by its detailed world-building, morally ambiguous characters, and a willingness to subvert traditional fantasy tropes. Unlike many of his predecessors, Martin refuses to offer clear-cut heroes or villains, instead presenting a morally gray universe where human flaws and motivations drive the story forward.

Structural Complexity and Narrative Style

The series employs multiple point-of-view characters, each offering a unique perspective on Westeros and beyond. This narrative approach creates a layered storytelling experience, requiring readers to piece together political machinations, character arcs, and historical context:

- Multiple POV Characters: Every chapter is told from the perspective of a different character, such as Tyrion Lannister, Jon Snow, Arya Stark, and Daenerys Targaryen.
- Unreliable Narration: Some characters' perspectives are limited or biased, adding

layers of ambiguity.

- **Nonlinear Timeline:** The story weaves between different timelines, emphasizing the interconnectedness of events.

This structure, combined with Martin's detailed descriptions and political intrigue, creates a rich tapestry that invites sustained engagement.

The Television Adaptation: Game of Thrones

From Page to Screen

HBO's adaptation of *A Song of Ice and Fire* under the title *Game of Thrones* debuted in 2011, quickly becoming a cultural juggernaut. Developed by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, the series condensed and reinterpreted the sprawling novels to fit episodic storytelling, with significant deviations and creative liberties.

While the show initially garnered praise for its production values, complex characters, and unpredictable plot twists, its later seasons received mixed reviews, especially concerning

pacing, character arcs, and narrative coherence.

Impact and Cultural Significance

Game of Thrones revolutionized television storytelling:

- High Production Values:** Cinematic quality, elaborate set designs, and extensive use of CGI set new standards.
- Global Audience:** The series amassed millions of viewers worldwide, becoming a social and cultural phenomenon.
- Influence on Genre TV:** Its success led to increased investment in fantasy and genre series, encouraging more ambitious storytelling on television.

The series also sparked widespread discourse on themes such as power, morality, gender dynamics, and political corruption, resonating with contemporary societal issues.

Thematic Analysis and Literary Significance

Power, Morality, and Human Nature

At its core, A Song of Ice and Fire explores the corrupting influence of power and the moral ambiguities faced by its characters. Themes include:

- The Pursuit and Abuse of Power: Characters like Cersei Lannister and Daenerys Targaryen embody different facets of power—its allure, corruption, and consequences.**
- Moral Ambiguity: Heroes often display flaws; villains sometimes evoke sympathy.**
- The Cost of War and Conflict: The series vividly depicts the brutality and chaos of war, emphasizing its toll on civilians and soldiers alike.**

Identity, Loyalty, and Fate

Other recurring themes include:

- Identity and Transformation: Characters such as Arya Stark undergo significant growth, challenging notions of self.**
- Loyalty and Betrayal: Alliances shift, and trust is fragile, reflecting the unpredictable nature of politics.**
- Fate and Free Will: Prophecies, such as those surrounding the 'Prince That Was Promised,'**

influence characters' decisions, questioning determinism versus agency.

Characterization and Moral Complexity

One of the defining features of A Song of Ice and Fire is its complex characterizations:

- Antiheroes and Villains: Characters like Tyrion Lannister and Sandor Clegane defy traditional hero archetypes.**
- Women in Power: Daenerys Targaryen, Cersei Lannister, and Sansa Stark challenge gender norms within a patriarchal society.**
- Moral Dilemmas: Characters often face choices where right and wrong are blurred, making their development unpredictable and engaging.**

This nuanced portrayal invites readers to empathize with flawed individuals and ponder the nature of morality.

World-Building and Mythology

George R.R. Martin's universe is meticulously constructed, with a history, languages,

religions, and cultures that add authenticity:

- The Seven Kingdoms and their regional distinctions.**
- The Faceless Men and the mystical aspects of the series.**
- Dragons, White Walkers, and Magic: These elements blend traditional fantasy motifs with original mythology, enriching the setting.**

This depth of world-building contributes significantly to the series' immersive quality and enduring appeal.

Controversies and Criticisms

Despite its acclaim, Game of Thrones and A Song of Ice and Fire have faced criticism:

- Representation and Gender Politics: Critics have pointed out issues related to sexual violence and gender portrayals, sparking debates about realism versus sensationalism.**
- Pacing and Plot Choices: Especially in later seasons, some fans expressed disappointment with narrative developments and character arcs.**
- Unfinished Series: As of 2023, the series remains incomplete, with fans eagerly awaiting**

the final books and season.

Understanding these criticisms is essential for a balanced view of the series' cultural footprint.

Legacy and Future Prospects

The influence of Game of Thrones extends beyond its immediate fandom:

- **Influence on Genre Fiction and Media:** Encouraged a new wave of complex, morally ambiguous storytelling.
- **Spin-offs and Prequels:** HBO and other producers are developing new projects set in Westeros, such as House of the Dragon, exploring the history of Targaryen rulers.
- **Academic and Cultural Discourse:** The series' themes have been analyzed in academic circles, examining its political allegories and societal commentary.

The A Song of Ice and Fire universe continues to evolve, promising new narratives that build upon its complex legacy.

Conclusion: An Enduring Cultural Landmark

Game of Thrones and A Song of Ice and Fire have left an indelible mark on literature, television, and popular culture. Their blend of intricate storytelling, morally complex characters, and detailed world-building has set new standards for fantasy narratives. While controversies and unfinished storylines have tempered some of its acclaim, the series' impact endures, inspiring scholarly analysis, fan engagement, and future adaptations.

As a literary saga and cultural phenomenon, Game of Thrones exemplifies the power of storytelling to explore human nature's darkest and most aspirational aspects. Its legacy will undoubtedly influence genre fiction and television for decades to come, cementing its place as a modern epic for the ages.

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got 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

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got 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.

got 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*

got song of ice and fire: Medievalism in A Song of Ice and Fire and Game of Thrones Shiloh Carroll, 2018 *Game of Thrones* is famously inspired by the Middle Ages - but how authentic is the world it presents? This volume offers different angles to the question. One of the biggest attractions of George R.R. Martin's high fantasy series *A Song of Ice and Fire*, and by extension its HBO television adaptation, *Game of Thrones*, is its claim to historical realism. The author, the directors and producers of the adaptation, and indeed the fans of the books and show, all lay claim to Westeros, its setting, as representative of an authentic medieval world. But how true are these claims? Is it possible to faithfully represent a time so far removed from our own in time and culture? And what does an authentic medieval fantasy world look like? This book explores Martin's and HBO's approaches to and beliefs about the Middle Ages and how those beliefs fall into traditional medievalist and fantastic literary patterns. Examining both books and programme from a range of critical approaches - medievalism theory, gender theory, queer theory, postcolonial theory, and race theory - Dr Carroll analyzes how the drive for historical realism affects the books' and show's treatment of men, women, people of colour, sexuality, and imperialism, as well as how the author and showrunners discuss these effects outside the texts themselves. SHILOH CARROLL teaches in the writing center at Tennessee State University.

got 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

got song of ice and fire: A Game of Thrones George R. R. Martin, 2015-03-01 Saat memainkan perebutan takhta, pilihannya adalah menang atau mati... Inilah negeri tempat matahari terbenam. Negeri Tujuh Kerajaan, tempat kau akan takjub pada Klan Baratheon, dengan rusa jantan bermahkota dengan warna hitam berlatar emas yang menjadi simbol. Semboyan mereka berbunyi Yang Kami Miliki adalah Amarah. Klan Stark dengan direwolf abu-abu berlatar putih es sebagai simbol dan semboyan Musim Dingin Akan Datang. Klan Lannister dengan singa emas berlatar merah tua yang angkuh dan semboyan Dengar Raunganku! Klan Tully yang memilih lambang ikan trout melompat, warna perak berlatar biru dan merah serta semboyan Keluarga, Kewajiban, Kehormatan yang dijunjung tinggi. Atau Klan Targaryen yang namanya diucap rakyat Tujuh Kerajaan dengan tangan gemetar, berpanji naga berkepala tiga, merah berlatar hitam, dengan semboyan Api dan Darah. Apa yang benar tak selalu menang. Apa yang salah, tak selamanya musnah. Ketika setiap klan memainkan strategi dan tipu dayanya, siapa yang akan tampil sebagai penguasa? Si cerdik, si licik, si cerdas, si kuat, atau si bijaksana? Jaga jantungmu, agar tak berhenti berdetak di tengah cerita. Karya George RR Martin yang sudah diadaptasi menjadi TV Series oleh HBO. Volume pertama dari seri A Song of Fire and Ice. Sebuah novel terjemahan berbahasa Indonesia persembahkan Fantasioes Buku persembahkan penerbit UfukPublishingGroup #Fantasioes

got song of ice and fire: A Feast of Ice and Fire: The Official Game of Thrones Companion Cookbook Chelsea Monroe-Cassel, Sariann Lehrer, 2012-05-29 The mouthwatering dishes from George R. R. Martin's bestselling saga A Song of Ice and Fire and the hit HBO series Game of Thrones come to dazzling life with more than 100 recipes from across Westeros. Includes a Foreword by George R. R. Martin Ever wonder what it's like to attend a feast at Winterfell? Wish you could split a lemon cake with Sansa Stark, scarf down a pork pie with the Night's Watch, or indulge in honeyfingers with Daenerys Targaryen? Now, fresh out of the series that redefined fantasy, comes the cookbook that may just redefine dinner . . . and lunch, and breakfast. A passion project from superfans and amateur chefs Chelsea Monroe-Cassel and Sariann Lehrer—and endorsed by George R. R. Martin himself—A Feast of Ice and Fire lovingly replicates a stunning range of cuisines from across the Seven Kingdoms and beyond, with more than 100 recipes divided by region: • The Wall: Rack of Lamb and Herbs; Pork Pie; Mutton in Onion-Ale Broth; Mulled Wine; Pease Porridge • The North: Beef and Bacon Pie; Honeyed Chicken; Aurochs with Roasted Leeks; Baked Apples • The South: Cream Swans; Trout Wrapped in Bacon; Stewed Rabbit; Sister's Stew; Blueberry Tarts • King's Landing: Lemon Cakes; Quails Drowned in Butter; Almond Crusted Trout; Bowls of Brown; Iced Milk with Honey • Dorne: Stuffed Grape Leaves; Duck with Lemons; Chickpea Paste • Across the Narrow Sea: Biscuits and Bacon; Tyroshi Honeyfingers; Wintercakes; Honey-Spiced Locusts These easy-to-follow recipes have been refined for modern cooking techniques, but adventurous eaters can also attempt the authentic medieval meals that inspired them. There are also suggested substitutions for some of the more fantastical ingredients, so you won't have to stock your kitchen with camel, live doves, or dragon eggs to create meals fit for a king (or a khaleesi). Exhaustively researched and reverently detailed, accompanied by passages from all five books in the series and photographs guaranteed to whet your appetite, A Feast of Ice and Fire is the companion to the blockbuster phenomenon that millions of stomachs have been growling for.

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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 septs, maegi and singers, including • 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.

got song of ice and fire: Women of Ice and Fire Anne Gjelsvik, Rikke Schubart, 2016-04-07
George R.R. Martin's acclaimed seven-book fantasy series *A Song of Ice and Fire* is unique for its strong and multi-faceted female protagonists, from teen queen Daenerys, scheming Queen Cersei, child avenger Arya, knight Brienne, Red Witch Melisandre, and many more. The *Game of Thrones* universe challenges, exploits, yet also changes how we think of women and gender, not only in fantasy, but in Western culture in general. Divided into three sections addressing questions of adaptation from novel to television, female characters, and politics and female audience engagement within the GoT universe, the interdisciplinary and international lineup of contributors analyze gender in relation to female characters and topics such as genre, sex, violence, adaptation, as well as fan reviews. The genre of fantasy was once considered a primarily male territory with male heroes. *Women of Ice and Fire* shows how the GoT universe challenges, exploits, and reimagines gender and why it holds strong appeal to female readers, audiences, and online participants.

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In 1996, George R.R. Martin electrified fantasy fans around the world when he published *A Game of Thrones*, the first book in his acclaimed *A Song of Ice and Fire* series. Since then, Martin has published three more books in the series. The engrossing tale Martin spun with these first novels in his saga has gained more and more fans across the world and has resulted in a number of spin-off products, such as including HBO's TV series, card and board games, computer games, sword replicas, comic books and calendars. Perhaps paradoxically, the number of years between each time Martin publishes a new book in the series has increased. Fans have been clamoring for the fifth volume, *A Dance with Dragons*, since 2005: A book that promises to pick up the storylines of fan-favorite characters left hanging since 1999. As Martin struggles to reach the finish line, or indeed even the halfway point in his epic, his fans wait for the next fix. One way to keep sane during the long waits is to re-read the already published novels. Journey to Westeros with Remy J. Verhoeve as he celebrates his tenth reading of *A Game of Thrones*. Chapter by chapter, the author, a Dutch-Norwegian English teacher and self-confessed fantasy geek, is both fellow traveler and tour guide as he shares his insightful reflections on Martin's writing techniques, major - and seemingly minor - plot points and characters, and much more. True to its origins as a blogging project undertaken while not-so-patiently waiting for *A Dance With Dragons*, the author does not hold back in this unauthorized companion book that is both an unabashed homage to the novel that started it all, as well as a candid - and at times controversial - commentary on the issues surrounding the delayed release of the fifth book. Whether or not they agree with everything the author has to say, all fans of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, from those who have loved the series since its inception in 1996 to those who have only just discovered it through the HBO series, will enjoy this thought-provoking and outspoken book.

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significantly shaped the way the Wars of the Roses are now remembered, including the modern histories and historical fictions George R.R. Martin drew upon. On the other, Game of Thrones also responds to Shakespeare's first tetralogy directly by adapting several of its literary strategies (such as shifting perspectives, mixed genres, and metatheater) and tropes (including the stigmatized protagonist and the prince who was promised). Presenting new interviews with the Game of Thrones cast, and comparing contextual circumstances of composition—such as collaborative authorship and political currents—this book also lodges a series of provocations about writing and acting for the stage in the Elizabethan age and for the screen in the twenty-first century. An essential read for fans of the franchise, as well as students and academics looking at Shakespeare and Renaissance literature in the context of modern media.

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