

first game of thrones

First Game of Thrones is a phrase that often evokes a sense of anticipation and curiosity among fans and newcomers alike. The series, based on George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire novels, has become a cultural phenomenon, captivating audiences worldwide with its complex characters, intricate plots, and breathtaking visuals. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the origins, plot, characters, and impact of the very first game of Thrones — the HBO television series that launched a global franchise.

Introduction to the First Game of Thrones

The first game of Thrones, officially titled Game of Thrones, debuted on HBO on April 17, 2011. Created by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, the series is an adaptation of George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire novels, primarily the first book, A Game of Thrones. The show's debut marked the beginning of a highly acclaimed and influential series that spanned eight seasons, concluding in 2019.

Origins and Development

From Page to Screen

George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire novels, published starting in 1996, gained a loyal following due to their rich storytelling, complex characters, and detailed world-building. The adaptation process began in the early 2000s, with HBO acquiring the rights in 2007. The goal was to faithfully translate the intricate political intrigue, epic battles, and moral ambiguities of the novels into a compelling visual format.

Creative Team and Production

The series was developed by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, who aimed to bring the expansive universe of Westeros to life. Filming took place across multiple locations, including Northern Ireland, Croatia, Malta, and Spain, to authentically portray the diverse landscapes of Westeros and Essos. The production budget increased with each season, reflecting the series' growing popularity.

Plot Summary of the First Game of Thrones

The first season introduces viewers to the continent of Westeros and the power struggles among noble families vying for control of the Iron Throne. It weaves together several storylines, each rich with political intrigue, betrayal, and alliances.

Key House and Characters

- **House Stark:** Led by Eddard (Ned) Stark, the honorable lord of Winterfell.
- **House Lannister:** Wealthy and cunning, headed by Tywin Lannister, with his children Jaime, Cersei, and Tyrion.
- **House Targaryen:** The last surviving members of the deposed royal family, including Daenerys Targaryen.

Main Plotlines

1. **The Stark-Lannister Conflict:** When King Robert Baratheon visits Winterfell, Ned Stark is appointed as the Hand of the King, unveiling a web of political intrigue, treachery, and betrayal that leads him into dangerous territory.
2. **Daenerys Targaryen's Journey:** Across the Narrow Sea, Daenerys begins her quest to reclaim her family's throne, gaining followers and forming her own destiny.
3. **The Night's Watch:** The brothers of the Night's Watch defend the realm from threats beyond the Wall, including mysterious creatures known as the White Walkers.

Characters and Their Development

The first game of Thrones introduces a vast array of characters, many of whom evolve dramatically over the series.

Main Characters

- **Eddard Stark:** The moral compass of the series, whose sense of honor leads to unforeseen consequences.
- **Cersei Lannister:** The ambitious queen and sister to Jaime and Tyrion, willing to manipulate her way to power.
- **Jon Snow:** Ned Stark's illegitimate son, who joins the Night's Watch and faces questions about his identity and loyalty.
- **Daenerys Targaryen:** An exiled princess who begins her journey as a pawn and evolves into a formidable leader.
- **Tyrion Lannister:** The witty and resourceful youngest Lannister, often considered the

series' moral center.

Visuals, Music, and Production Design

The first game of Thrones is renowned for its high production values, from detailed costumes to elaborate sets.

Visual Effects and Locations

The series employed groundbreaking CGI to bring fantastical elements to life, including dragons and White Walkers. Iconic filming locations added authenticity, such as Castle Ward in Northern Ireland for Winterfell and the city of Dubrovnik for King's Landing.

Music and Score

Ramin Djawadi's musical score became instantly recognizable, with themes that evoke the grandeur and peril of Westeros. The opening theme, in particular, set the tone for the series' epic scope.

Reception and Impact

Critical Acclaim

The first season received widespread praise for its storytelling, acting, and production quality. Critics highlighted its complex characters and willingness to embrace mature themes.

Audience Response

Viewers were captivated by the series' unpredictable plot twists, including shocking character deaths and political machinations. The show quickly gained a massive fanbase, becoming one of HBO's most-watched series.

Influence on Pop Culture

Game of Thrones influenced fashion, merchandise, memes, and even academic discussions. Its success paved the way for adaptations, spin-offs, and a dedicated community of fans.

Legacy and Future Developments

While the original series concluded in 2019, its legacy endures through upcoming spin-offs

and prequels.

Prequel Series

HBO announced multiple prequels exploring different eras of Westeros' history, with House of the Dragon being the first to premiere in 2022.

Continued Popularity

The first game of Thrones remains a benchmark for fantasy television, inspiring future productions and fan engagement worldwide.

Conclusion

The first game of Thrones set the stage for a groundbreaking television epic that redefined the fantasy genre. Its compelling characters, intricate plots, and stunning visuals have left an indelible mark on popular culture. Whether you are a long-time fan or new to Westeros, understanding the origins and significance of the first season enriches the appreciation of this epic saga's enduring appeal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the first episode of Game of Thrones called?

The first episode is titled 'Winter Is Coming' and it introduces viewers to the Seven Kingdoms and key characters.

When did the first season of Game of Thrones premiere?

The first season premiered on April 17, 2011.

Who are the main families introduced in the first Game of Thrones episode?

The main families introduced are House Stark, House Lannister, and House Baratheon.

Where is the setting of the first Game of Thrones episode?

The episode is set primarily in Westeros, specifically in Winterfell, King's Landing, and the Wall.

What significant event occurs at the end of the first episode?

Ned Stark is asked to become the Hand of the King, setting the stage for political intrigue.

Who plays the character of Eddard 'Ned' Stark in the first season?

Sean Bean portrays Ned Stark in the series.

What is the significance of the White Walkers introduced in the first episode?

The White Walkers symbolize the looming supernatural threat beyond the Wall, foreshadowing future conflicts.

How was the reception of the first Game of Thrones episode?

It was critically acclaimed, praised for its complex characters, storytelling, and production quality.

Are there any major differences between the book and the first episode of Game of Thrones?

While generally faithful, some minor plot details and character portrayals differ from George R.R. Martin's 'A Game of Thrones' novel.

Additional Resources

Game of Thrones: An Epic Fantasy Series That Changed Television Forever

Introduction to Game of Thrones

Game of Thrones, based on George R.R. Martin's best-selling A Song of Ice and Fire series, premiered on HBO in April 2011 and quickly became a cultural phenomenon. Known for its complex characters, intricate political machinations, stunning visuals, and unpredictable plot twists, the series redefined what television storytelling could achieve. Its debut season set the stage for an epic saga that would span eight seasons, capturing audiences worldwide and sparking conversations about morality, power, and loyalty.

The Origins and Source Material

George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire novels served as the rich source material for Game of Thrones. The series adapts the first book, A Game of Thrones, which introduces the continent of Westeros and its noble houses. Martin's background in fantasy literature and his penchant for detailed world-building provided a strong foundation for the series. The showrunners, David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, aimed to bring this complex universe to life, balancing fidelity to the books with the demands of television storytelling.

Plot Overview of Season 1

The inaugural season introduces viewers to multiple key characters and storylines across Westeros and beyond. Its primary focus is on the struggle for power among noble families, notably the Stark, Lannister, and Baratheon houses. The season unfolds through several intertwined plots:

- The Stark Family: Eddard "Ned" Stark, the honorable lord of Winterfell, is drawn into political intrigue when asked to become the Hand of the King.
- The Lannisters: Cersei, Jaime, and Tyrion Lannister navigate treacherous political waters and personal ambitions.
- The Targaryen Exiles: Daenerys Targaryen begins her journey as a pawn in her brother Viserys's quest to reclaim the Iron Throne.
- The Night's Watch: A group of outcasts guarding the realm from threats beyond the Wall, including the mysterious and dangerous White Walkers.

The season culminates with shocking moments such as Ned Stark's execution, which defied traditional storytelling tropes and left viewers in stunned silence.

Key Characters and Their Introductions

- Eddard Stark: The moral compass of the series, known for his unwavering honor and sense of duty.
- Cersei Lannister: Queen and political schemer, whose rivalry with other houses drives much of the intrigue.
- Jaime Lannister: Known as the "Kingslayer," a complex character embroiled in family loyalty and personal conflict.
- Tyrion Lannister: The witty and sharp-tongued dwarf, whose intelligence and resilience make him stand out.
- Daenerys Targaryen: The last surviving Targaryen princess, starting her journey as an exiled exile.
- Jon Snow: Ned Stark's illegitimate son, whose storyline explores themes of identity and duty.
- The White Walkers: Mythical creatures that symbolize an existential threat to all of Westeros.

Visuals and Production Value

One of Game of Thrones's most praised aspects in its first season was its high production quality:

- Set Design: Impressive recreations of Westeros' castles and towns, such as Winterfell and King's Landing.
- Costume Design: Detailed costumes that reflect each house's identity and culture.
- Cinematography: Beautiful shots of landscapes, battles, and intimate character moments.
- Special Effects: Notably, the creation of the dragons and White Walkers, which blended CGI seamlessly into live-action scenes.
- Music Score: Ramin Djawadi's evocative soundtrack enhanced the emotional depth and tension throughout the series.

Thematic Depth and Complexity

Game of Thrones excels not only in storytelling but also in exploring profound themes:

- Power and Corruption: The pursuit of power often leads characters to moral decay.
- Honor vs. Pragmatism: Characters like Ned Stark embody honor, while others prioritize cunning and survival.
- Loyalty and Betrayal: Trust is fragile; betrayals shape the course of events.
- Fate and Free Will: The series questions whether characters are bound by destiny or can forge their own paths.
- War and Peace: The destructive nature of conflict is a recurring motif, echoed in brutal battles and political machinations.

Reception and Impact

The first season received critical acclaim for its production values, acting, and storytelling. It garnered numerous awards, including Emmys for Outstanding Drama Series and acting categories. Its popularity was bolstered by:

- Strong Viewership: Breaking records for HBO and becoming a cultural staple.
- Fan Engagement: Online forums, fan theories, and widespread discussions.
- Critical Analysis: Praised for its complex characters and willingness to subvert traditional fantasy tropes.

However, some critics pointed out pacing issues, especially in the middle episodes, and the initial adaptation's divergence from certain plotlines in the books.

Legacy and Influence

Game of Thrones's debut season set a precedent for television storytelling, demonstrating that serialized fantasy dramas could achieve both critical and commercial success. It influenced:

- Production Standards: Larger budgets for TV series, more cinematic visuals.
- Storytelling Approaches: Emphasis on morally gray characters and unpredictable plots.
- Genre Popularity: Boosted interest in fantasy genres beyond Game of Thrones.
- Cultural Conversations: Topics like power dynamics, gender roles, and political corruption gained prominence through the series.

Criticisms and Controversies

Despite its success, the first season was not without criticism:

- Violence and Sexual Content: Some viewers and critics argued that certain scenes were gratuitous.
- Representation: Early criticism about diversity and portrayal of certain characters.
- Pacing: Some found the season slow, especially in the middle episodes.
- Adaptation Choices: Fans of the books debated the series' deviations from source material.

Conclusion: The Significance of Game of Thrones Season 1

The first season of Game of Thrones was a groundbreaking television event that combined high production values with complex storytelling. It introduced a sprawling universe filled with morally ambiguous characters, political intrigue, and epic battles. The season's bold narrative choices, such as Ned Stark's shocking death, set the tone for a series unafraid to challenge conventions and push boundaries.

While subsequent seasons would face criticism and controversy, the foundation laid by Season 1 remains a testament to the series' ambition and influence. It remains a landmark in television history, inspiring countless other fantasy dramas and proving that serialized storytelling could captivate a global audience in unprecedented ways.

In summary, Game of Thrones's debut season is a masterclass in world-building, character development, and narrative complexity. Its impact continues to resonate, reminding viewers of the power of storytelling to transport, challenge, and entertain on an epic scale.

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first game of thrones: 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

first game of thrones: *Inside HBO's Game of Thrones* Bryan Cogman, 2012-09-21 The official companion to HBO's blockbuster fantasy series features 100s of photos, storyboards, costume designs, insider stories, and much more. One of the highest-rated cable series of all time, HBO's Game of Thrones was a major cultural phenomenon. In this official companion book, executive story editor Bryan Cogman gives fans new ways to enter this expansive fantasy world and discover more about the characters and electrifying plotlines. Inside HBO's Game of Thrones: Seasons 1 & 2 reveal how the show's creators translated George R. R. Martin's best-selling fantasy series into the unforgettable land of Westeros. Featuring interviews with key actors and crew members that capture the best scripted and unscripted moments from the first two seasons, as well as a preface by George R. R. Martin, this special volume offers exclusive access to this beloved television series.

first game of thrones: A Game of Thrones George R. R. Martin, 2011-03-01 A NEW ORIGINAL SERIES, NOW ON HBO. Here is the first volume in George R. R. Martin's magnificent cycle of novels that includes A Clash of Kings and A Storm of Swords. As a whole, this series comprises a genuine masterpiece of modern fantasy, bringing together the best the genre has to offer. Magic, mystery, intrigue, romance, and adventure fill these pages and transport us to a world unlike any we have ever experienced. Already hailed as a classic, George R. R. Martin's stunning series is destined to stand as one of the great achievements of imaginative fiction. A GAME OF THRONES Long ago, in a time forgotten, a preternatural event threw the seasons out of balance. 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. Here an enigmatic band of warriors bear swords of no human metal; a tribe of fierce wildlings carry men off into madness; a cruel young dragon prince barter his sister to win back his throne; and a determined woman undertakes the most treacherous of journeys. 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. From the Paperback edition.

first game of thrones: The Unofficial Guide to Game of Thrones Kim Renfro, 2019-10-08 The everything-you-missed, wanted-to-know-more-about, and can't-get-enough guide to the Game of Thrones television series—from the first episode to the epic finale. Valar morghulis! Spanning every episode across all eight seasons, INSIDER's entertainment correspondent Kim Renfro goes deep into how the show was made, why it became such a phenomenon and explores every detail you want to know. It's the perfect book to look back at all you may have missed or to jump-start you on a second viewing of the whole series. As an entertainment correspondent, Renfro has covered the show's premieres, broken down key details in scenes, explored characters' histories, and interviewed the cast, directors, and crew. In this book, she sheds new light on the themes, storylines, character

development, the meaning of the finale, and what you can expect next. Some of the questions answered here include: What was the Night King's ultimate purpose? How did the show effect George R.R. Martin's ability to finish the book series? Why were the final seasons shorter? Why did the direwolves get shortchanged? How were the fates of Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen foretold from the start? Was that really a bittersweet ending? Winter may have come and gone, but there is still plenty to discover and obsess over in this behind-the-scenes fan guide to the Game of Thrones HBO series.

first game of thrones: 1000 Game of Thrones Facts Scott Ambrose, 2024-06-25 Delve deep into the intricate world of Westeros with this comprehensive fact book about the hit series. From the noble houses and their sigils to the blood-soaked battles and historical allusions, this book covers everything fans need to know about the epic fantasy saga. Actors, characters, behind the scenes, episodes, influences, differences from the books and so on. All this and much more awaits in 1000 Game of Thrones facts.

first game of thrones: Mastering the Game of Thrones Jes Battis, Susan Johnston, 2015-01-22 George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series is a worldwide phenomenon, and the world of Westeros has seen multiple adaptations, from HBO's acclaimed television series to graphic novels, console games and orchestral soundtracks. This collection of new essays investigates what makes this world so popular, and why the novels and television series are being taught in university classrooms as genre-defining works within the American fantasy tradition. This volume represents the first sustained scholarly treatment of George R.R. Martin's groundbreaking work, and includes writing by experts involved in the production of the HBO show. The contributors investigate a number of compelling areas, including the mystery of the shape-shifting wargs, the conflict between religions, the origins of the Dothraki language and the sex lives of knights. The significance of fan cultures and their adaptations is also discussed.

first game of thrones: 100 Things Game of Thrones Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die Rowan Kaiser, 2017-08-01 Every Game of Thrones fan remembers where they were for Ned Stark's untimely demise, can hum the tune of The Rains of Castamere, and can't wait to find out Daenerys Targaryen's next move. But do you know the real inspiration for the Red Wedding? Or how to book a trip to visit Winterfell? 100 Things Game of Thrones Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die is the ultimate resource for true fans. Whether you've read all of George R.R. Martin's original novels or just recently devoured every season of the hit show, these are the 100 things all Game of Thrones fans need to know and do in their lifetime. Pop culture critic Rowan Kaiser has collected every essential piece of Game of Thrones knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom!

first game of thrones: Fan Phenomena: Game of Thrones Kavita Mudan Finn, 2017-05-01 Winter is coming. Every Sunday night, millions of fans gather around their televisions to take in the spectacle that is a new episode of Game of Thrones. Much is made of who will be gruesomely murdered each week on the hit show, though sometimes the question really is who won't die a fiery death. The show, based on the Song of Ice and Fire series written by George R. R. Martin, is a truly global phenomenon. With the seventh season of the HBO series in production, Game of Thrones has been nominated for multiple awards, its cast has been catapulted to celebrity and references to it proliferate throughout popular culture. Often positioned as the grittier antithesis to J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, Martin's narrative focuses on the darker side of chivalry and heroism, stripping away these higher ideals to reveal the greed, amorality and lust for power underpinning them. Fan Phenomena: Game of Thrones is an exciting new addition to the Intellect series, bringing together academics and fans of Martin's universe to consider not just the content of the books and HBO series, but fan responses to both. From trivia nights dedicated to minutiae to forums speculating on plot twists to academics trying to make sense of the bizarre climate of Westeros, everyone is talking about Game of Thrones. Edited by Kavita Mudan Finn, the book focuses on the communities created by the books and television series and how these communities envision themselves as consumers,

critics, and even creators of fanworks in a wide variety of media, including fiction, art, fancasting and cosplay.

first game of thrones: e-Pedia: Game of Thrones (season 6) Wikipedia Contributors, 2017-02-22 This carefully crafted ebook is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. The sixth season of the fantasy drama television series Game of Thrones premiered on HBO on April 24, 2016, and concluded on June 26, 2016. It consists of ten episodes, each of approximately 50-60 minutes, largely of original content not found in George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series. Some material is adapted from the upcoming sixth novel The Winds of Winter and the fourth and fifth novels, A Feast for Crows and A Dance with Dragons. The series was adapted for television by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss. HBO ordered the season on April 8, 2014, together with the fifth season, which began filming in July 2015 primarily in Northern Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Iceland and Canada. Each episode cost over \$10 million. This book has been derived from Wikipedia: it contains the entire text of the title Wikipedia article + the entire text of all the 593 related (linked) Wikipedia articles to the title article. This book does not contain illustrations. e-Pedia (an imprint of e-artnow) charges for the convenience service of formatting these e-books for your eReader. We donate a part of our net income after taxes to the Wikimedia Foundation from the sales of all books based on Wikipedia content.

first game of thrones: Film Marketing into the Twenty-First Century Nolwenn Mingant, Cecilia Tirtaine, Joël Augros, 2019-07-25 How do you sell British humour to a French audience? Could piracy actually be good for the film business? Why are The Hobbit's revolutionary technologies not mentioned in some adverts? Exploring these questions and many more, Film Marketing into the Twenty-First Century draws on insights from renowned film academics and leading industry professionals to chart the evolution of modern film marketing. The first part of the book focuses on geographical considerations, showing how marketers have to adapt their strategies locally as films travel across borders. The second covers new marketing possibilities offered by the Internet, as Vine, Facebook and other participative websites open new venues for big distributors and independents alike. Straddling practical and theoretical concerns and including case studies that take us from Nollywood to Peru, this book provides an accessible introduction to the key issues at stake for film marketing in a global era.

first game of thrones: The Art of Game of Thrones, the Official Book of Design from Season 1 to Season 8 Deborah Riley, Jody Revenson, 2019-11-05 Filled with gorgeous illustrations and artwork from HBO's hit series, The Art of Game of Thrones is the definitive collection. Beautifully crafted and presented in a deluxe, large format, these pages present a visual chronicle of the meticulous work done by artists to bring the world of Westeros to life on-screen.

first game of thrones: Game of Thrones: House of the Dragon [Season 2] Gina McIntyre, 2024-12-03 Return to Westeros with this deluxe book that explores the creation of season two of HBO's hit series House of the Dragon. Following the huge international success of House of the Dragon season one, HBO's acclaimed series returns for a second season. Author Gina McIntyre, who wrote Insight's best-selling book on season one, Game of Thrones: House of the Dragon: Inside the Creation of a Targaryen Dynasty, has returned to the set at Leavesden Studios near London to chronicle the making of season two, receiving unprecedented access to the production. Season two promises even more intrigue and action, with remarkable performances and unforgettable set pieces, all explored in-depth within this must-have volume that makes the perfect companion to McIntyre's original book. Filled with concept art, on-set photography, and other dazzling visuals, this will be the ultimate exploration of a highly anticipated TV event. EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: Go behind the scenes of season two of House of the Dragon and discover exclusive insights and secrets from the show's set. REVEALING INTERVIEWS: Go behind the scenes of House of the Dragon through in-depth interviews with showrunner Ryan Condal and the incredible cast and crew. STUNNING IMAGERY: Explore a treasure trove of never-before-seen images, including concept designs for the show's dragons, locations, and costumes, plus candid on-set photos. OFFICIALLY LICENSED: The only officially licensed making-of book for season two of HBO's House of the Dragon. COMPLETE

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first game of thrones: Game of Thrones: House of the Dragon Gina McIntyre, 2023-01-31 Based on visionary author George R. R. Martin's book *Fire & Blood*, *House of the Dragon* charts the earth-shattering events that led to the fall of Westeros's most powerful family, House Targaryen. Brought to the screen by showrunners Ryan Condal and Miguel Sapochnik, the ambitious prequel series required a striking new vision that would transport viewers back in time, two centuries before the events of *Game of Thrones*. With unparalleled access to the show's cast and crew, including Condal, Sapochnik, and Martin, this book tells the incredible story of their creative journey, from the initial script-writing process to the epic international shoot. Illustrated with a remarkable wealth of concept art, on-set photography, and other key visuals, this is the ultimate companion to *House of the Dragon*.

first game of thrones: Game of Thrones versus History Brian A. Pavlac, 2017-04-17 Since it first aired in 2011, *Game of Thrones* galloped up the ratings to become the most watched show in HBO's history. It is no secret that creator George R.R. Martin was inspired by late 15th century Europe when writing *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the sprawling saga on which the show is based. Aside from the fantastical elements, *Game of Thrones* really does mirror historic events and bloody battles of medieval times—but how closely? *Game of Thrones versus History: Written in Blood* is a collection of thought-provoking essays by medieval historians who explore how the enormously popular HBO series and fantasy literature of George R. R. Martin are both informed by and differ significantly from real historical figures, events, beliefs, and practices of the medieval world. From a variety of perspectives, the authors delve into Martin's plots, characterizations, and settings, offering insights into whether his creations are historical possibilities or pure flights of fantasy. Topics include the Wars of the Roses, barbarian colonizers, sieges and the nature of medieval warfare, women and agency, slavery, celibate societies in Westeros, myths and legends of medieval Europe, and many more. While life was certainly not a game during the Middle Ages, *Game of Thrones versus History: Written in Blood* reveals how a surprising number of otherworldly elements of George R. R. Martin's fantasy are rooted deeply in the all-too-real world of medieval Europe. Find suggested readings, recommended links, and more from editor Brian Pavlac at gameofthronesversushistory.com.

first game of thrones: 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*

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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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