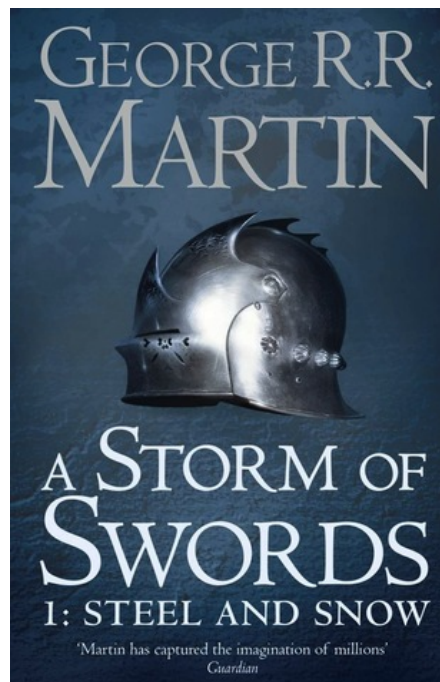




A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow

George R.R. Martin

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A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow

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A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow George R.R. Martin

Winter approaches Westeros like an angry beast.

The Seven Kingdoms are divided by revolt and blood feud. In the northern wastes, a horde of hungry, savage people steeped in the dark magic of the wilderness is poised to invade the Kingdom of the North where Robb Stark wears his new-forged crown. And Robb's defences are ranged against the South, the land of the cunning and cruel Lannisters, who have his young sisters in their power.

Throughout Westeros, the war for the Iron Throne rages more fiercely than ever, but if the wall is breached, no king will live to claim it.

A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow Details

Date : Published April 7th 2001 by HarperVoyager (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780006479901

Author : George R.R. Martin

Format : Paperback 663 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow for online ebook

Kristin says

Better than the last book, not as good as the first. Altogether an interesting story, but the pace of the series is very slow and if GRRM mentions one more banner/sigil, I'm gonna lose it...

Josh says

George R R Martin had fun with this instalment – the evidence is in the dialogue and actions of the characters who manage to find moments of jocularly amidst the chaos of war. Tyrion Lannister is his usual swashbuckling self with a sharper sense of violence honed through bloody battle and everyday dealing with his treacherous domesticated life. Robb Stark breaks an oath and gains comfort of the flesh – a choice sure to have ramifications on the war effort. While King Joffrey continues to echo the sentiments of a mad King – perhaps his fate will mirror that of Arrys (one can but hope)? Fan favourites continue to evolve (Arya, Jon, Robb Stark, Sansa, Cersei. Davos the Onion Knight etc.) while newer faces begin their slow rise to prominence (such as The Red Viper, Lady in Red, Stannis, Samwell etc.) through an intrinsically finely weaved web of violence, betrayal, magic, love, and duty.

Continuing the series evolution, the fantastical elements are becoming paramount to the core plot with a heavy emphasis on the unnatural and the mythic tales of wet nurses springing true from storybook to reality. There is a subtle beauty to the way Martin sneaks in these creatures of man and monster alike. So gentle is the hand that caresses their introduction that I had to reread certain passages as to ensure I didn't misinterpret or skim over what was happening (this was not a chore and further enhanced Martins storytelling ability – this book is loaded with worthwhile double-takes). A particular interest of mine is the mysterious landscape over the Wall. Thankfully, the Brothers of the Black, Wildlings, and Others feature relatively frequently in this instalment.

Martin did have a tendency to exhaust the readers' ability to follow the detailed and elaborate history of his well defined world and complex cast of characters by devoting generous passages to the multitude of back-stories. That said; I did enjoy reading the Kingslayers tale of how his moniker was attained and retained and the perception of his honour that both curses and praises him.

Dubbed as more a companion piece to 'A Clash of Kings' rather than a true sequel (as per the author intro) with chapters detailing events amidst the feverish battles of the previous book, I felt 'A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow' actually worked well as a sequel as many of its entries were a direct result of the preceding books outcomes. Much like the previous instalments, if not more so, 'A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow' has left me craving more of this world and its deep and violent history – 4 stars.

Charlotte May says

"The world grows a little darker each day."

Still plowing my way through A Song of Ice and Fire! Book 3 part 1 completed! The plots thicken and

intermix, a rising host of new characters to cause a stir are introduced and the battles between kings rages on!

Catelyn: with Robb - the King in the North fighting battle after battle. Reeling from the knowledge concerning Winterfell and her two youngest sons, she makes a reckless decision that she hopes will protect her two daughters.

"It was different when there was a Stark in Winterfell. But the old wolf's dead and young ones gone south to play the game of thrones, and all that's left us is the ghosts."

Sansa: No longer betrothed to King Joffrey but imprisoned in Kings Landing all the same. Another marriage is arranged for her that none are happy about.

Arya: Still on the run with Hot Pie and Gendry, they come across a band of outlaws following the Lord of Light who have sworn to return her to Robb.

Bran: Heading North with Meera and Jojen, his Warg powers growing ever stronger.

Jon: After his ranging mission gone wrong, he hides out with Ygritte planning his next move. While the Wildlings plot their attack on the wall.

"The north is hard and cold, and has no mercy."

Samwell: I was so pleased Sam got a POV in this book. I love him! He remains with the Nights Watch and the Lord Commander. Awaiting any further news concerning the Wildlings, while fear of the Others grows more and more palpable.

Tyrion: Still one of my faves! Living in the nest of vipers that is Kings Landing. Keeping his secrets and plots.

Jaime: Another one who gets his own POV in this book! Thrown together with Brienne of Tarth to cross the country with Kings Landing as the ultimate goal. But of course things don't go according to plan.

Davos: My other favourite! I love Davos, the underdog that he is! Still loyal to Stannis Baratheon, and recovering from the battle of the black water. He helps Stannis plan his next move, keeping his hatred of the red priestess Melisandre to himself.

Daenerys: Last but absolutely not least! Dany is growing in her power and becoming more Queen-like every day! Her army is growing and she is as ruthless as ever.

Still absolutely captivated by this world and it's characters! Let's keep going!

"Old stories are like old friends...you have to visit them from time to time."

DramaQueen says

After finishing A Clash Of Kings I couldn't contain myself: I had to pick up the first part in The Song of Ice and Fire-series immediately. And... I finished this bad boy in seven days. I loved A Clash Of Kings, but o my god. I can't even begin to explain how much shit goes down in this first volume of the third book (A Storm of Swords is split in two books (in most editions at least), namely: Steel and Snow and Blood and Gold).

"The night is dark and full of terrors, the day bright and beautiful and full of hope. One is black, the other white. There is ice and there is fire. Hate and love. Bitter and sweet. Male and female. Pain and pleasure. Winter and summer. Evil and good. Death and life."

A Storm Of Swords continues right where A Clash Of Kings ended. The war between the Five Kings continues (well, at this moment four, to be honest; Robb Stark, Stannis Baratheon, Joffrey Baratheon and Balon Greyjoy; Renly sadly didn't make it through a dark night full of terrors...). Stannis tried to take King's Landing, but failed miserably. It was an intense fight and I must admit that I was kind of team-Stannis, although I would have hated it if Sansa didn't make it. Speaking of Sansa, her life is changing for the better. Although, so it seemed. The Small Council decided that an alliance with House Tyrell would be good, so King Joffrey is to be married to Margaery Tyrell, widow of Renly Baratheon. Sansa is free of the cruel boy and Margaery and her grandmother Olenna, "The Queen of Thorns", treat her very well. Yet, her luck changes too quickly: she is to be married to Tyrion Lannister, who she sees as an ugly dwarf.

"Love's not always wise, I've learned. It can lead us to great folly, but we follow our hearts ... wherever they take us."

I might have been team-Stannis in the fight for Kings Landing; in the ultimate war for the throne I am team-Stark. In A Storm Of Swords we read about Robb's fight through his mother's eyes. And Robb is not making the best decisions. He might be winning a lot of battles, he is not making friends: while being engaged to one of the daughters of Walder Frey, he marries another girl he fell in love with. All very sweet, but incredibly dumb. His younger sister Arya is on an adventure of her own and becomes quite tough on the way.

"Old stories are like old friends. You have to visit them from time to time."

The Night's Watch have a confrontation with the White Walkers on the Fist of the First Men. The person who seems most unlikely to shine on a moment like this, actually does: Sam Tarly kills a White Walker, using a blade of dragonglass. Jon Snow is on his own expedition without The Night's Watch, joining the wildings north of the Wall. He is constantly in a fight with himself; to which camp does he belong? Definitely since he seems to be falling in love with the wildling Ygritte (loved her in the tv-series, but love her even more in the book) You know nothing, Jon Snow. Jon's "brother" Bran is also on his way to the other side of the Wall. He is able to live through his wolf's eyes and his companion Jojen can see certain aspects of the future. I am definitely very curious where this story line is heading. I can feel Bran will become extremely important in later books.

Tyrion: "You hide behind courtesy as if it were a castle wall." Sansa: "Courtesy is a lady's armor."

Finally, let's talk about Daenerys. If you've seen the tv-series, there are several epic parts you just want to read about, one being the one with the Unsullied, her dragons and Daenerys saying "Dracarys". All I can say is that that scene is extremely awesome. When I finished the chapter I had to reread it right away. Which was the same when I saw the episode for the first time; I just re-watched that bit over and over. Daenerys is one extremely bad-ass lady.

Olenna: "Margaery, you're clever, be a dear and tell your poor old half-daft grandmother the name of that queer fish from the Summer Isles that puffs up to ten times its own size when you poke it." Margaery: "They call them puff fish, Grandmother." Olenna: "Of course they do, Summer Islanders have no imagination."

I loved this book. I think this is my favorite so far. Just so much things happen. So much even, that sometimes I returned to a character after several chapters and completely forgot about that epic cliffhanger which connected to him or her. I would like to say I will take my time again and that I will not pick up the next book too soon, but who am kidding; I don't have that kind of power over myself.

N?ρα says

Εξαιρετικ? πλοκ?,μοναδικο? χαρακτ?ρες,υπ?ροχες εικ?νες,π?ρα πολ? δρ?ση και δι?σπαρτες ανατροπ?ς που κρατο?ν το ενδιαφ?ρον αμε?ωτο και την αδρεναλ?νη συνεχ?ς σε ψηλ? επ?πεδα.Ζοφερ? και πιο σκοτειν? απ? τα προηγούμενα.Σε αυτ? τον τ?μο κυριαρχε? αυτ? η α?σθηση του πεπρωμ?νου που κρ?μεται απ? μια κλωστ?,ακ?μα και η πιο μικροσκοπικ? αλλαγ? που μπορε? να κατακτ?σει θρ?νους και να συντρ?ψει στρατο?ς.Μιλ?με ?σως για το καλ?τερο βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς μ?χρι στιγμ?ς.Δεν ξ?ρω τι ?λλο να γρ?ψω.Νομ?ζω πως ?χω επεκταθε? πολ? στα προηγούμενα βιβλ?α που νι?θω ?τι επαναλαμβ?νομαι.
Ελπ?ζω το δε?τερο μ?ρος του τρ?του βιβλ?ου να ε?ναι ακ?μα καλ?τερο.

Ashton Gibbs ♥ BB&B says

A Storm of Sword: Steel and Snow (Part One) – George R.R. Martin

“Martin has captured the imagination of millions.” - *Guardian*

The above quote which is featured on the front of the book holds so so true. George R.R. Martin is sheer brilliance when it comes to creating an exciting world for readers. Even now, after reading over 2,000 pages of A Song of Ice and Fire, George R.R. Martin is adding details that deepen our knowledge of the land, the history and the people of this spectacular world, and he does so without overwhelming us. He clearly puts an immense amount of work into his art, allowing us to really construct Westeros in our mind and form connections with the characters we love whilst being utterly repulsed by the characters we loathe. **cough** Joffrey **cough** Cersei.

Yet again, character development in this book is just magnificent. Arya Stark is slowly becoming one of my favourite fictional characters, and I love reading scenes with her and Gendry. (I totally want them to get together and grow old and have little warrior babies together). Tyrion is another favourite of mine, as from the start. He’s witty, amusing and exciting and it’s a joy to read his chapters, even just for his dialogue.

So far I have enjoyed the addition of the Tyrells, and they’re pretty high in my estimation for now simply because they try to help Sansa. My feelings towards Sansa Stark have changed the most out of anyone. I’ve gone from considering her a bratty, little snob of a girl, to feeling for her as a victim, and finally to admiring the clever, young woman she is becoming.

My favourite addition to this book, however, are the chapters involving Brienne and Jaime. I need not say much for Brienne, simply that she’s awesome. She’s loyal, kind, innocent and brave. I want a friend like Brienne. Now, on to Jaime. Previously, Jaime wasn’t exactly a strong contender for “Top Character I Feel

For” in ASOIAF. What he did to Bran, how he helped Ned’s downfall, and his relationship with Cersei (*that s**t seriously just makes my skin crawl, ew.*) are a strong recipe for dislike. We are, however, beginning to see the better side and the true depth of this character in A Storm of Swords Part One, and I can’t wait to see more. And I want him and Brienne to fall in love at some point... (*Does anyone else agree?*)

Finally, I want to discuss one more person – Daenerys. I haven’t exactly been shy in the past about how I think she’s a whiny, moaning bitch. This still stands, and I’m gonna add cruel bitch to the list too because I think she’s a meanie moo to Jorah, but... ***I actually really enjoyed reading her chapters in this book, woooo!*** Of everything that has been included in her chapters, the Unsullied have been the best. I love how she handled the whole affair, and I can’t wait to see how things unfold with them in the future.

I’ve seen people comment on how this book drags, or is uninteresting in comparison to the first two. People need to remember that this began as a hell of a long book and it’s been chopped in half for the ease of some readers. Treated as a lone book it could be pretty disappointing, but as the first half of a larger book, it’s a great run up to bigger and better things. Predictability is currently standing at zero, and I’m expecting lots of drama in the next book, and have been foretold by my brother that the next one is amazing...

Gregory says

New favorite character: Queen of Thorns. Other than that, I thought this book was the worst entry so far. It was so full of characters complaining (I’m giving a hard side-eye to Sam & Davos, especially) & chapters that didn’t really go anywhere, plot-wise. Plus, Martin’s sex scenes have gone beyond tiresome & have become completely laughable. Dude, where’s my male gaze? Oh, it’s lingering on Ygritte’s/Brienne’s/Shae’s “teats.”

I will say, however, that I’m liking what Martin is doing with ability & injury. If masculinity in Westeros hinges around power, & power is only recognized when it flows through a capable, muscled-up warrior’s body, what happens when that soldier is brutally injured? We’ve seen Bran coming to terms with his disability all along, but what about men like Jaime, a man who has been at the peak of his game until -- boom -- he up & loses his sword hand? How will this impact his role as the legendary Kingslayer? I’m sensing that as more & more of our male characters get injured in battle, we will see the food chains start to get shaken up. Soon, I’m guessing, Bran & Tyrion, will no longer be the only two characters who don’t measure up to what it means to be a man in the Seven Kingdoms.

We’re also seeing a rise in the number of female warrior-types (Ygritte, Brienne). Their introduction to the story offers additional ways of being in Westeros. Girls can fight (well, that idea has been around in the novels since we first met Arya, but these women are showing it in action) but perhaps more importantly, boys can be attracted to girls who can fight. You don’t just need to be into simpering maids drenched in jewels & silk -- you can **also** fall in love with Amazonian bad asses armored in animal hides & bones.

Of course, this leads into what I’ve been observing since book 1: that there is little interest given (by the characters or the narrator) to the strength of femininity. Sansa & Cersei are good examples of this strength, although Martin repeatedly robs them of it. He makes Sansa into a foolish girl who keeps making stupid mistakes, while Cersei is the venomous femme fatale, the kind of soap opera diva you love to hate, but who lacks the human qualities of a fully realized character. I **loved** the scene in the novel where Sansa is

invited to dine with Margaery Tyrell -- it was a glimpse of a female-only space that Martin rarely allows room for in his books. I want more of those kinds of moments. Hopefully in the following novels, Martin's non-masculine characters will grow & improve. Also Daenerys needs more magic. I want her to be the powerful dragon goddess Martin keeps hinting at!

Ylenia says

4.5 stars

EPIC AS FUCK.
Can't wait to read part two!

Ahmad Sharabiani says

A Storm of Swords: Steel and Snow (A Song of Ice and Fire #3, Part 1 of 2), George R.R. Martin
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Samuel Bowden says

This series is amazing. There are still some character's chapters that I dread every time I flip the page. Catelyn and Bran especially. It is still great to see the writing style change between different points of view but knowing how long the chapters are, it is an effort to start every chapter with one of their character names at the beginning. But Jamie, Tyrion, Arya, Samwell and Jon were all constantly exciting. The introduction of two of my favourite characters from the show which is Bad-ass Dany after she frees the slaves of Astapor and Prince Oberyn made for epic moments. Reading the subtle changes between the show and the books is always fun. I really struggled to read this book because of the sheer size. 10 pages of Game of Thrones equals over 50 of another book. There is so much stuff onto every page, it really takes it out of the reader. AND THAT WAS ONLY HALF. But it's all worth it in the end.

P.S whoever read this book all at once is a God!

C.G. Drews says

OKAY SO I'M DONE PART 1!! I feel a little intimidated since this is, um, a 600-page *part one*. Oh gosh. What have I done by getting so embroiled in this series?! THERE IS NO ESCAPE. But I'm supposed to be reviewing this. Right. Let's get on with it.

A Storm of Swords (so far) has been waaaay better than A Clash of Kings. It's faster! More action! More character development! There haven't been many surprising or awful deaths (at least of the main characters). And some of the barely-introduced-characters of the last book have been fleshed out more now. (I particularly love Brienne.) Samwell and Jaime Lannister both got turns at narrating (!) and the characters *did* more, instead of just sitting around talking about it.

I won't talk about ALL the characters, just the narrators. **SO HERE WE GO:**

+ **Jaime:** We start the book in his POV and, omg, did I used to hate Jaime? HOW COULD I HATE JAIME?!! He's absolutely snarky, witty, and fabulous and I suddenly have a very soft spot for him. I, um, accidentally ship him and Cersei? HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN??? But, to be honest, Jaime is devoted, never cheats, and seriously actually truly loves her. Unlike 99% of the other dudes in this series. But, nnnnngh. I feel so conflicted about this ship. OBVIOUSLY. But I absolutely looked forward to Jaime's chapters. Plus I loved his interaction and development with Brienne. Omg, their friendship is precious...um, friendship? Hateship? I LOVE IT ANYWAY. Brienne is an adorable little darling who, in real life, I would probably come up to her elbow. So there's that. Omg and Jaime lost (view spoiler)

+ **Tyrion:** Omg, I felt SO SORRY for Tyrion. He's basically been fired as being Hand of the King, he's being bullied around by his father, and totally manipulated. No one appreciates him. None caaaares. OMG POOR DARLING TYRION. (view spoiler)

+ **Sansa:** I've slowly grown to love Sansa. Mostly I think of her as a tiny kicked kitten that just needs a cuddle, but her chapters are always fascinating because she's such a flower on the wall. Everyone thinks she's stupid, so she hears ALL THE THINGS. I just feel so sorry for her because even when someone's horrible to her, she assumes they're out to be evil. Poor little mite. I can't believe she's only 13...

+ **Catelyn:** AH. CATELYN. She's not doing anything stupid (like, um, starting a war) in this book, thank goodness. But, I never really enjoy her chapters because I have to suffer Robb. OH ROBB YOU CURLY HEADED FOOL. He's forever making stupid decisions...like how he abandons his oath (view spoiler). And how he usually abandons Catelyn's totally wise counsel. Idiot.

+ **Jon Snow:** OMG MA BABY JON. I LOVE JON. JON IS LIKE MY LITTLE CURLY HAIRE ADORABLE ICICLE. He's with the Wildlings now and, omg, I ship him and Ygritte so so hard. Unfortunately, Jon spends most of his time having existential crises and smooching Ygritte. But it's probably the "happiest" he's been all book. But he still doesn't belong anywhere and he keeps nearly dying and an eagle ate his face at one point. I still love Jon. He's an IDIOT for splitting up with Ghost though.

+ **Samwell:** Since Jon isn't with the main host to narrate what's happening with the Black Brothers, we get Sam. YAAAY!! I LOVE SAM. He's pathetic, but he's also endearing at the same time. Plus he's honest. He's like the most honest person around. But, omg, I cried when (view spoiler) died in his arms!! THAT WAS SO CRUEL. The dude got through a battle with the Undead, and then died in a squabble over food?!! I hope Sam lives a long time, but ya know, I love him so he might die. Boo.

+ **Arya:** Again her part was more interesting than in ACoK, but she still spent most of the time going around in circles and not getting anywhere. She basically gets kidnapped by the Westeros version of Robin Hood and his gang. So that's interesting if not entirely not moving the plot along.

+ **Bran:** Same as above. LIKE I LOVE BRAN. But I don't like nine pages of what it's like to be a dire wolf and eat deer and smell all the things. Yeah, nope. Don't care. BUT BRAN IS ADORABLE. And I love his friendship with Jojen and Mira.

+ **Davos:** NOBODY CARES, DAVOS. He's like a poor little limpet serving a sucky king who doesn't really

like him. BUT YEAH. I don't care. Stannis could be dancing in a tutu on top of King's Landing and I still would rather skip past Davos' chapters.

+ **Danaerys:** OKAY SHE'S DOWNRIGHT AWESOME. She's becoming more queenly now, which means taking less crap from stupid men. YAY. Although with Jorrah being "in love" with her? Ew. I'm glad she's telling him no. He probably could be her FATHER. Ahem. And there was that part where she nearly "sold" her (view spoiler) I think Dani has a cruel streak, but daaaang, if she doesn't sit the Iron Throne I'm going to cry, to be honest.

So basically I loved it. I'm shipping the wrong ships (CERSEI AND JAIME THO) and I'm absolutely rooting for the mountainous Brienne and I want someone to appreciate Tyrion and I want Jon to be happy and I want someone to rescue Sansa. I'M REALLY EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED AND I KNOW THAT'S BAD. I figure part 2 is going to be horrific, but we'll see, shall we? Onwards! Onwards!

By the way, I'm still listening to this on audio and I think it's the best way to go. The accents are GREAT, although I feel like the narrator lost it a few times and gave the wrong people the wrong voices. It really messed me up. BUT. He fixed himself. Still, the audios help me remember *all the things* and stay really involved with the story.

BUT I LOVE THIS SERIES AND I DON'T WANT TO BECAUSE IT'S GONNA MELT MY MIND LIKE A MARSHMALLOW WHEN ALL THE BAD STUFF GOES DOWN. SAAAVE ME. *sobs in preparation*

Janani says

Thanks to my friends. I need to appreciate their works for trying to spoil me. They watched the series and I'm planning to watch it after reading the books. So you know now, how they threatened to fire the spoilers at me. Sometimes I would be so shocked that I need to know what will happen next immediately as the characters have alternate POVs we won't know until their next. In that case, I will ask them, they will explain so nicely and when I tried to relieve my breath in sigh they would drop the spoiler too. And then I was like "Screw me for asking". So after a lot of battling with them, I finished it finally.

- One part down. One more to go.
 - I like the book sure, but I just couldn't understand the hype about it.
 - The plot was not enough fast-paced when compared to the first two books.
 - As always, the writing was appealing.
 - For God's sake, I'm having A LOT OF trouble with remembering their names.
 - The world is quite complex.
 - I definitely had some moments with this book.
-

Zoe Targaryen says

There is no way I would ever not love any of A Song of Ice and Fire 's book. Once I got obsessed with the first book and love the characters with all my heart, it will goes the same for all its successor. But I have to admit that Part 1 of A Storm of Swords is a bit of slow paced even for a High Fantasy. There are a lot of

unnecessary chapters in which the POV dragged in pointless story line, and encounter all these bunch of insignificant characters. Apart from that, this book is fantastic, those characters we love are going through great development and growth in their lives, and the possibilities of twist and turn of this series drive me crazy. I hope the second part will be more fast paced and I expect it will be more blood curling.

Elena says

Yes yes yes! Oh how I love this series!

Paul says

Westeros is still in the grip of the War. Joffrey Baratheon holds the Iron Throne, but Robb Stark, Balon Greyjoy and Stannis Baratheon, jostle for their claim with blood and steel. Catelyn Stark has released Jaime Lannister as an exchange for her daughters, Sansa and Arya, who she still believes are at King's Landing. Having been victorious until now, Robb Stark suffers setbacks, and learns that Winterfell has been taken, and his other brothers are now presumed dead.

In the North the Wildlings are marching on the wall, with a pitiful small force of Night's Watch to counteract them. With the wights also attacking them, they realise the odds are so far stacked against until they realise that there is a possible way to defeat these creatures of the night. In the east Daenerys Targaryen is trying to raising forces to retake the Iron throne, which she sees as her divine right. She encounters slave trading, and makes plans to release these people from they captors.

As the players in the game of thrones move their pieces, the stakes are raised higher and higher. In this world you win; or you die.

Martin has managed to continue this epic tale of the land of Westeros in the same vain as before. There is not so much action in this one, but you get a full realisation that he is setting the scenes for the next books as the characters develop and grow, rise and fall, win and die. He is not afraid to eliminate characters as you get to know them, and occasionally even like them. This world that he has created is tough and brutal, and I like that way that the underlying magic, adds a little zing to all that is happening.

But what makes this series so good is the political manoeuvring and intrigue that he has infused into this land. As alliances are forged and broken, loyalties are tested beyond all measure.

Kai says

"Night falls for all of us in the end, and too soon for some."

Part 1 of *A Storm of Swords* was less exciting than it's companions. I grew tired of most of the character's plot lines and couldn't get enough of others. I especially love that we finally get introduced to the Tyrells and the Dornish people. They definitely belong to my favourite characters and make all the events in King's Landing even more exciting.

While I really like Brienne I don't care much for yet another long journey with unexpected (parts annoying) turns through Westeros. They stumble and get dragged through places and by characters that I do not have any interest in - same goes for Arya. And I don't like Jaime very much. Catelyn's story is pretty much the same every time, a lot of mourning and sorrow. While I like her and Robb very much, it's still unnerving. Davos and Stannis would be extremely boring as well if it weren't for the Red Lady.

So here are the many POVs, starting with the chapters I liked the most down to the ones I didn't:

Daenerys
Tyrion
Sansa
Jon
Bran
Samwell
Arya
Davos
Catelyn
Jaime

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Evripidis Gousiaris says

Δεν ξέρω αν είναι ντως τόσο ωραίο ? αν οφέλεται στο ?τι ε?μαι λ?γο "nerd" αλλ? ανυπομον? για την συν?χεια :)

Hasham Rasool says

I enjoy this book. What an awesome book! Alhamdulillah.

I don't really like the scenes especially sex scenes because I feel there are quite lots of sex scenes in this book. I think I might be unexpected to see these scenes are happening in the first part of A Storm of Swords.

This book grabs my attention from the start to the end. I am hooked in A Song of Ice and Fire series.

Kirstine says

It is a good book.

Rationally I know this. And I did enjoy it. There are some great characters, great stories and great writing. It's a very imaginative and epic tale. And it has tons of things I love, like dragons and sword fighting and magic and a huge wall of ice AND WILDLINGS. *Rationally* I know this.

But.. My emotional response?
Too many characters.
Too many storylines.

Too many things happening in different places.
AHHH. My poor head.

The thing is, I care about too few of the PoV characters in these books to make any of them a quick read. I'm sorry, but the individual chapters are simply too short for me to properly bond with anyone who doesn't possess a personality that naturally resonates with me.

And it's so frustrating, because I find most of the storylines (and characters) exciting and compelling, I'm just not getting enough of any of them to really get into it. They're like sub-stories, with some a vague (or not so vague) relation to a main story that's hinted at (ALL THE TIME), but won't be revealed till the final book AND IT IS SO ANNOYING.

Because am I supposed to read each chapter, because I care about said character and want to know what happens to them? Because I don't. You can't give me 10 pages for every 100 I read and expect me to emotionally bond with ALL (or any) of them. I'll hand it to Martin that he writes all of the characters well, despite them all being so different. They all have their own voices, and that is the mark of a great writer. It's not that the chapters are bad (although some are more exciting than others) it's that they're too short.

It's a matter of personal taste, of course. I'd simply prefer fewer PoV characters and longer PoV chapters, and if that lessens the epic scale of the series, then I'm okay with it.

I'll keep reading though, because Martin is an incredible writer, and I know hanging on will pay off a hundred times in the end, but right now I am very frustrated.

I have hopes that things change with A Feast For Crows and A Dance With Dragons, what with having to split the PoV's up - so more time for each character! - but perhaps things will already get better in the second half. Let's see!

Col says

I'm seeing a lot of negative reviews about this book: people complaining about a slow story line and a ridiculously cruel world where anyone can be killed off without a second thought. My response is: if you want a quick, happy clappy mushy book, you need to get yourself to the romance section. Or even better, the young adult section.

My biggest pet peeve in books is feeling that characters are safe. I want people to die. I want people to be miserable. It tells me that the author is serious and that shit is going to get real. Sure, a happy moment every now and then would be nice, but the harsh realities in the world George Martin has created is a breath of fresh air. The character development is fantastic and I almost feel as if I've known these characters all my life. The story line can be slow at times, but that is what fantasy authors just tend to do, so get over it (LOTR, anyone?). Climactic events have me sitting on the proverbial edge of my seat because I know that it can go either way. Predictability has gone out the window, and although I like to believe I know where the story is going, George Martin proves time and time again that I just don't.

Now let me stop waffling and get on with the next book!
