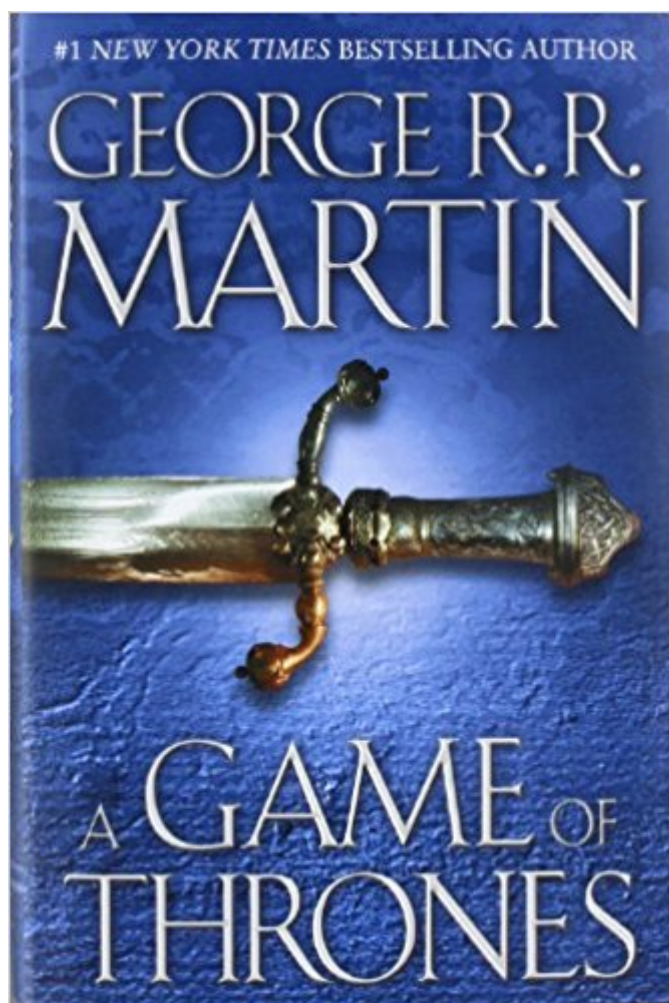


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A Game Of Thrones (Song Of Ice And Fire)



Synopsis

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 forces are massing beyond the kingdom's protective Wall. To the south, the king's powers are failing • his most trusted adviser dead under mysterious circumstances and his enemies emerging from the shadows of the throne. At the center of the conflict lie the Starks of Winterfell, a family as harsh and unyielding as the frozen land they were born to. Now Lord Eddard Stark is reluctantly summoned to serve as the king's new Hand, an appointment that threatens to sunder not only his family but the kingdom itself. Sweeping from a harsh land of cold to a summertime kingdom of epicurean plenty, *A Game of Thrones* tells 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; a child is lost in the twilight between life and death; and a determined woman undertakes a treacherous journey to protect all she holds dear. Amid plots and counter-plots, tragedy and betrayal, victory and terror, allies and enemies, the fate of the Starks hangs perilously in the balance, as each side endeavors to win that deadliest of conflicts: the game of thrones. Unparalleled in scope and execution, *A Game of Thrones* is one of those rare reading experiences that catch you up from the opening pages, won't let you go until the end, and leave you yearning for more. From a master of contemporary fantasy comes the first novel of a landmark series unlike any you've ever read before. With *A Game of Thrones*, George R. R. Martin has launched a genuine masterpiece, bringing together the best the genre has to offer. Mystery, intrigue, romance, and adventure fill the pages of this magnificent saga, the first volume in an epic series sure to delight fantasy fans everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Readers of epic fantasy series are: (1) patient--they are left in suspense between each volume, (2) persistent--they reread or at least review the previous book(s) when a new installment comes out, (3) strong--these 700-page doorstoppers are heavy, and (4) mentally agile--they follow a host of characters through a myriad of subplots. In *A Game of Thrones*, the first book of a projected six, George R.R. Martin rewards readers with a vividly real world, well-drawn characters, complex but coherent plotting, and beautifully constructed prose, which *Locus* called "well above the norms of the genre." Martin's Seven Kingdoms resemble England during the Wars of the Roses, with the Stark and Lannister families standing in for the Yorks and Lancasters. The story of these two families and their struggle to control the Iron Throne dominates the foreground; in the background is a huge, ancient wall marking the northern border, beyond which barbarians, ice vampires, and direwolves menace the south as years-long winter advances. Abroad, a dragon princess lives among horse nomads and dreams of fiery reconquest. There is much bloodshed, cruelty, and death, but *A Game of Thrones* is nevertheless compelling; it garnered a Nebula nomination and won the 1996 *Locus* Award for Best Fantasy Novel. So, on to *A Clash of Kings*! --Nona Vero --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a world where the approaching winter will last four decades, kings and queens, knights and renegades struggle for control of a throne. Some fight with sword and mace, others with magic and poison. Beyond the Wall to the north, meanwhile, the Others are preparing their army of the dead to march south as the warmth of summer drains from the land. After more than a decade devoted primarily to TV and screen work, Martin (*The Armageddon Rag*, 1983) makes a triumphant return to high fantasy with this extraordinarily rich new novel, the first of a trilogy. Although conventional in form, the book stands out from similar work by Eddings, Brooks and others by virtue of its superbly developed characters, accomplished prose and sheer bloody-mindedness. Although the romance of chivalry is central to the culture of the Seven Kingdoms, and tournaments, derring-do and

handsome knights abound, these trappings merely give cover to dangerous men and women who will stop at nothing to achieve their goals. When Lord Stark of Winterfell, an honest man, comes south to act as the King's chief councilor, no amount of heroism or good intentions can keep the realm under control. It is fascinating to watch Martin's characters mature and grow, particularly Stark's children, who stand at the center of the book. Martin's trophy case is already stuffed with major prizes, including Hugos, Nebulas, Locus Awards and a Bram Stoker. He's probably going to have to add another shelf, at least. Major ad/promo. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This review is primarily to give a feedback on the sizes of leather bound and paperback printed books. I initially bought leather bound books. They were really pretty and paper quality was very good. But the down side is they are really small books. So I got the paperback edition books. These books are bigger than leather bound and easy to read. So it totally depends on the customer what size book you would like to buy. I attached a photo to compare. Hope this helps

Extremely pleased with this leather edition. Absolutely stunning. Ten times more gorgeous in person.

What could be said about Game of Thrones, the first of George R.R. Martin's epic series, that hasn't been said a million times? It's absolutely brilliant. Going into these books (I read them after the show began but before I'd seen the show...), I enjoyed my share of sci-fi/fantasy along the lines of Harry Potter, Buffy the Vampire Slayer... fairly light-hearted stuff (in comparison, at least) that always felt grounded in the same world I live in. The one genre I really disliked was "Middle Ages Fantasy" as I called it. Lord of the Rings, for instance, while the films were visually appealing, was not my cup of tea... too detached from reality. So when I first saw articles and clips from the HBO Game of Thrones series, I thought it looked like the one type of fantasy series that I would never enjoy. I held out for a loong time, until 3 different friends of mine with similar tastes in books/shows/films promised me that, while they too disliked this sub-genre of fantasy, this series was different, and I HAD to read the books or start the show. Grudgingly, I picked up the first book, figuring that I'd push myself half-way through it and let me friends know I tried and they were totally wrong. Of course they weren't wrong. What George R.R. Martin has done here defies genre, period. It doesn't matter if you're like me and don't care for this sub-genre of fantasy... it doesn't matter if your like my spouse, and don't like fantasy at all. If you enjoy brilliant, incredibly-developed, thought-provoking stories...

those with a strongly developed cast of characters who blissfully lack being "good vs. evil" and instead all display their shades of grey, good traits, evil traits, unique traits, all sorts of traits... then this book is for you. Buy it. Open it up. Start reading. You won't regret it.

To be clear, I'm not writing a review of a plot. I love the books and I was happy when I got them. However, my issue is with the books themselves. When I got to the second book I noticed that approximately 70 pages are missing. I can't tell if this is the case for the rest of the books, but I'm certainly dissatisfied with the product.

I'm a big fan of the show and what I have previously read of the books. Bought these as they were similar priced to the mass market paperback but looked a lot nicer. While I am pleased with the look of the set, I wish the books were somewhat larger. Having them so compact makes the book harder to read and keep open, especially when you are in the middle without damaging the binding over time. The text is also a bit smaller than I would have liked, but still big enough to read without too much difficulty. No missing pages or strange smells to the books like some other review have said, though the pages are thin enough that you can see outlines of the next page. It is somewhat reminiscent of a pocket bible, in make, but larger in size. Overall, a decent investment

The Song of Ice and Fire (Game of Thrones) books are something of a mixed bag. They're all very well written -- which was/is a great pleasure after checking out a number of e-books (and print books) that aren't. And the characters are as interesting and compelling as anything in literature. The real rival the SoIaF books have is... Themselves. Compared to other books, each of these probably deserves five stars, but compared to themselves: Books 1 and 3 are brilliant, top notch. Fantasy (and literature) doesn't get better than these. Book 2 is good, but less memorable because it's sandwiched between greatness. Books 4 and 5 contain a lot of great stuff, but for me they lack focus and drive. (I'm not surprised that the TV show may be condensing them, as opposed to making them longer; book 3 is taking 2 TV seasons, deservedly.) I also feel it was a mistake to split the characters between the two books, making readers wait a long time to see some of their favorites again. Because of those issues, I can't rate the last 2 books (so far) as anything more than good, with some very good stuff in them. Overall, this is still a great series, and I'm eagerly awaiting book 6 -- along with what seems like half the world. If you've seen the TV show, chances are you'll like the books, and the other way around. If you like fantasy, you owe it to yourself to read this series.

Really enjoyed the 9 months I spent reading all the books. Keeping track of the timeline was the only real challenge. There's so much happening & it isn't all told at the same time. The only part I didn't like were all the extremely detailed descriptions of what everyone is wearing all the time.

Ok, I've finished all 5 books and I've been left hanging. I can't find out if the story continues or not. If not, then this was a dirty trick...there has GOT to be more! Don't do this to me!! I have tons of questions that need answered! Loved the books - I read them all straight through...I don't think I would recommend that to anyone because there is so much going on that you need to be able to take a break from it, but you can't because you'll forget where you left them all. Rich characters...great narrative...I could smell the smells, choke on the dust, feel the heat and the cold. Truly a world invented but so real. Someone tell me what the next book is so I can continue with the story!!

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