

a song of ice and fire short stories

****Exploring the Rich World of A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories****

a song of ice and fire short stories have captivated fans of George R.R. Martin's sprawling fantasy universe beyond the main novels. While the core series—starting with **A Game of Thrones**—is renowned for its intricate plots and unforgettable characters, these shorter tales offer a unique window into the lore, history, and lesser-known corners of Westeros and beyond. If you're a fan eager to dive deeper or a newcomer curious about the world's backstory, these stories provide an enriching supplement to the epic saga.

What Are A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories?

Before we delve into why these narratives are so beloved, it helps to understand what exactly constitutes these short stories. Unlike the lengthy novels in the main series, these are standalone or loosely connected tales set within the same universe. They often explore side characters, historical events, or perspectives not covered in the main books. Many were originally published in anthologies or as bonus content, later compiled into collections like **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**.

These stories enrich the tapestry of Westeros by filling in gaps, offering fresh viewpoints, and expanding on the mythos that fans cherish. For instance, tales about legendary figures from the past or minor characters who only get brief mentions in the novels come to life in these shorter works.

Why Fans Love A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

Getting to Know the Lesser-Known Characters

One of the biggest appeals of these short stories is the chance to explore characters who play smaller roles in the main saga but have fascinating stories of their own. Through these narratives, readers meet brave knights, cunning outlaws, and influential historical figures whose actions shaped the world George R.R. Martin created.

For example, the **Dunk and Egg** novellas follow Ser Duncan the Tall and his squire Egg (later King Aegon V Targaryen) on their adventures decades before the events of **A Game of Thrones**. This series offers a blend of humor, chivalry, and political intrigue, capturing the spirit of knighthood in Westeros while hinting at the brewing tensions that will later explode in the main series.

Expanding the Lore and History

Beyond character-driven tales, many short stories delve into Westeros's rich history and mythology. Some recount ancient wars, legendary battles, or the origins of mythical creatures like the direwolves or dragons. This historical context deepens the reader's understanding and enhances appreciation for the main novels' complex political and social dynamics.

If you've ever wondered about the Targaryen dynasty's early days or the mysteries of the Night's Watch's founding, these stories provide fascinating insights. They serve as a mini-history lesson wrapped in compelling storytelling.

Popular Collections Featuring A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

For those looking to explore these tales without hunting for scattered publications, several well-curated collections compile the best short stories from the world of Westeros.

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms

This collection is the definitive place to start. It gathers the three **Dunk and Egg** novellas: **The Hedge Knight**, **The Sworn Sword**, and **The Mystery Knight**. Each story follows the evolving friendship between the towering but humble Ser Duncan and the clever young Egg. These novellas are celebrated for their lighter tone compared to the main series, blending adventure, humor, and heartfelt moments.

Other Anthologies and Appearances

Some short stories appear in broader fantasy anthologies or as exclusive releases in magazines and special editions. George R.R. Martin has contributed tales such as **The Princess and the Queen** and **The Rogue Prince**, which focus on the Targaryen civil wars known as the Dance of the Dragons. These stories provide crucial background on the power struggles that reverberate through the main series.

Tips for Reading A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

Consider Reading Chronologically

If you want a chronological experience, start with the **Dunk and Egg** novellas since they take place about 90 years before **A Game of Thrones**. This approach helps you witness the political atmosphere and societal norms that shaped the later conflicts.

Don't Expect the Same Tone as the Main Series

While the novels often feature a gritty, dark tone with complex moral ambiguity, many short stories have a more straightforward or even whimsical feel. This tonal variety offers a refreshing break and showcases Martin's versatility as a writer.

Use the Stories to Fill in Gaps

If you find yourself puzzled by certain references or intrigued by mentions of past events in the main saga, look to these short stories for clarity. They're like puzzle pieces that complete the bigger picture of Westeros's history.

How These Stories Influence the Main Series and Adaptations

Interestingly, some short stories have had a visible impact on the broader **A Song of Ice and Fire** franchise, including the HBO adaptation **Game of Thrones** and the upcoming spin-offs.

For example, the **Dunk and Egg** novellas inspired a planned television prequel series aiming to explore the Targaryen era and the knights' adventures. This adaptation promises to bring fans even closer to the world's rich past beyond the main show's timeline.

Moreover, Martin often uses these stories as a creative playground where he experiments with new ideas or fleshes out characters who might later appear in the novels. This synergy makes the short stories an essential part of the overall **A Song of Ice and Fire** experience.

Where to Find A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

For readers eager to dive in, here are some practical pointers on where to find these intriguing tales:

- **Official Collections:** Books like *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* are widely available in bookstores and online retailers.
- **Fantasy Anthologies:** Some stories appear in multi-author anthologies such as *Dangerous Women* or *Rogues*, which you can find in libraries or digital stores.
- **Magazines and Online Sources:** Certain tales were initially published in magazines like *Asimov's Science Fiction* or on George R.R. Martin's official website.
- **Audiobooks:** If you prefer listening, many short stories are available in audio format, often narrated by talented voice actors who bring Westeros's characters to life.

Exploring these options can help you tailor your reading experience to your preferences, whether you want a quick story or a deep dive into Westerosi history.

Final Thoughts on Diving into A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

For anyone enamored with the world of Westeros, *a song of ice and fire short stories* offer a treasure trove of additional content that enriches the main narrative. They invite readers to explore hidden tales, forgotten heroes, and the legendary past that shaped the turbulent present of the novels. Whether you're after thrilling adventures, historical insights, or simply want to spend more time in Martin's masterful world, these stories are a fantastic gateway.

So next time you finish a novel or crave a quick escape to the Seven Kingdoms, consider picking up one of these short stories. They promise not just entertainment, but a deeper connection to the epic saga beloved by millions worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories?

The 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories are a collection of novellas and tales set in George R.R. Martin's expansive fantasy world, including works like 'The Hedge Knight,' 'The Sworn Sword,' and 'The Mystery Knight,' which explore the history and lesser-known characters of Westeros.

Where can I find the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories?

Many of the short stories are compiled in the 'Dunk and Egg' novellas, available as individual books and in collected editions such as 'A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms.' Some stories have also been published in anthologies and magazines.

Who are Dunk and Egg in the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories?

Dunk (Ser Duncan the Tall) and Egg (Aegon V Targaryen) are the main characters in the 'Dunk and Egg' novellas. Dunk is a hedge knight, and Egg is a young prince; their adventures occur about 90 years before the events of the main series.

Are the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories canon to the main series?

Yes, the short stories, especially the 'Dunk and Egg' novellas, are considered canon and provide valuable background and historical context to the main 'A Song of Ice and Fire' novels.

Will there be more 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories in the future?

George R.R. Martin has indicated plans to write more 'Dunk and Egg' stories, but no specific release dates have been announced. Fans eagerly await new installments that will further enrich the world of Westeros.

Do the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories connect directly to the main novels?

While the short stories are set decades before the main series, they provide important historical insights and feature characters and events that shape the political and social landscape seen in the novels.

Is it necessary to read the short stories to understand the main 'A Song of Ice and Fire' novels?

No, the main novels stand on their own, but reading the short stories enhances understanding of Westeros's history and adds depth to the world-building and character backgrounds.

Have the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' short stories been adapted into any other media?

Yes, HBO is developing a prequel series titled 'House of the Dragon' based on Targaryen history, and there have been talks about adapting the 'Dunk and Egg' novellas into television or other media, but no official adaptations have been released yet.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Depths of A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories****

a song of ice and fire short stories represent a fascinating extension of George R.R. Martin's expansive fantasy universe, offering readers a chance to delve deeper into the lore, characters, and untold tales of

Westeros and beyond. While the main series—starting with **A Game of Thrones**—has captivated millions worldwide through its intricate plots and complex characters, the accompanying short stories provide enriching side narratives that enhance the overall understanding of the saga. This article undertakes a comprehensive review and analysis of these short stories, examining their significance within the franchise, their narrative qualities, and their appeal to both casual readers and hardcore fans.

An Overview of A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories

The short stories tied to **A Song of Ice and Fire** are scattered across anthologies and standalone works, primarily penned by George R.R. Martin himself. These narratives often explore peripheral characters or historical events that the main series references only briefly, thus adding layers of context and depth to the overarching narrative. Unlike the sprawling novels, these stories tend to be more focused, providing snapshots of the world's rich history or spotlighting individual characters' backstories.

Among the most prominent collections are **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**, which compiles three novellas centered on Ser Duncan the Tall and his squire, Egg. These stories, set nearly a century before the events of **A Game of Thrones**, offer readers a glimpse into the chivalric culture of Westeros and the political intrigues of the Targaryen dynasty's decline. Additionally, anthologies such as **Dangerous Women** and **Rogues** feature short stories set in the **A Song of Ice and Fire** universe, expanding the narrative beyond the main books.

Key Features of the Short Stories

- **Historical Context:** Many short stories function as historical flashbacks, detailing critical events like the Blackfyre Rebellions or the Dance of the Dragons, providing background that enriches the main plot.
- **Character Exploration:** These tales often focus on lesser-known or secondary characters, granting them narrative space to develop beyond their brief mentions in the novels.
- **Tonal Variation:** While Martin's novels are known for their grim and gritty realism, some short stories explore different tones, ranging from adventurous and heroic to tragic and introspective.

Narrative Significance within the A Song of Ice and Fire Universe

The short stories serve a dual purpose: they enhance world-building and cater to fans' appetite for more content. For instance, **The Hedge Knight**, the first novella in **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**, introduces Ser Duncan the Tall, a figure whose legacy echoes through the main series via mention and lore. By fleshing out his adventures, Martin adds a dimension of historical depth that resonates with readers interested in the evolution of Westerosi knighthood and chivalry.

Moreover, these short stories often contain Easter eggs and subtle references that foreshadow events or themes in the novels. This intertextuality encourages attentive readers to piece together a more comprehensive understanding of the series' intricate political and social dynamics.

Comparative Analysis: Novels vs. Short Stories

While the main novels of **A Song of Ice and Fire** are renowned for their broad scope and multiple POV characters, the short stories are more concentrated, often told from a singular perspective. This focus allows for a more intimate and detailed character study, which sometimes gets lost amid the sprawling epic of the main series.

The pacing also differs significantly; short stories typically have a tighter narrative arc, making them accessible to readers who may find the length and complexity of the novels daunting. However, this brevity can be a double-edged sword, as some stories may feel underdeveloped compared to the richly layered novels.

Popular Short Stories and Their Impact

Among the noteworthy short stories, several have garnered significant attention for their quality and contribution to the lore:

The Hedge Knight

Set about 90 years before the events of **A Game of Thrones**, this novella follows Dunk, a humble hedge knight, and his squire Egg. The story explores themes of honor, social class, and the ideals of knighthood. Its success led to two subsequent novellas, **The Sworn Sword** and **The Mystery Knight**, collectively published as **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**. These stories have been praised for their engaging

storytelling and have even been adapted into a graphic novel series, broadening their reach.

The Princess and the Queen / The Rogue Prince

These tales delve into the Targaryen civil wars known as the Dance of the Dragons, a brutal conflict that shaped the fate of the realm. Their inclusion in anthologies like **Dangerous Women** and **Rogues** offers readers a more detailed look at the complex political machinations and dragon battles that underpin the series' mythology.

The Role of A Song of Ice and Fire Short Stories in Fan Engagement

The existence of these short stories has been instrumental in maintaining fan engagement during the long gaps between novel releases. By providing fresh content, they keep the audience invested and offer new material for discussion and analysis within the fan community. The short stories also serve as an accessible entry point for new readers who might be intimidated by the dense and lengthy novels.

From an SEO perspective, the niche interest in **a song of ice and fire short stories** generates consistent search traffic. Fans often seek summaries, analyses, and reading order guides, making in-depth articles on these works valuable for content creators and publishers alike.

Pros and Cons of the Short Story Format in This Universe

- **Pros:**

- Concise storytelling that complements the main series
- Exploration of underdeveloped characters and events
- Opportunity to experiment with different narrative styles and tones

- **Cons:**

- Limited character development compared to novels

- Some stories may feel disconnected or non-essential to the main plot
- Availability scattered across various anthologies, complicating accessibility

Accessibility and Future Prospects

For readers eager to explore **a song of ice and fire short stories**, it is important to note their distribution across multiple platforms. Collections like **A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms** consolidate related novellas, while others appear in themed anthologies curated by Martin. Digital formats and graphic novel adaptations have also made these stories more accessible.

Looking forward, George R.R. Martin has expressed a continued interest in expanding these shorter works, suggesting that fans can anticipate further explorations of Westeros' rich tapestry. This ongoing development not only sustains interest in the franchise but also enriches the literary landscape of fantasy fiction.

In summary, **a song of ice and fire short stories** play a pivotal role in enhancing the depth and breadth of one of contemporary fantasy's most celebrated universes. Through historical insights, character-focused narratives, and thematic diversity, these stories complement the main novels and provide a rewarding experience for readers seeking to immerse themselves more fully in the world of Westeros.

[A Song Of Ice And Fire Short Stories](#)

a song of ice and fire short stories: 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.

a song of ice and fire short stories: *A Game of Thrones (A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 1)* George R.R. Martin, 2010-12-23 HBO's hit series A GAME OF THRONES is based on George R. R. Martin's internationally bestselling series A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE, the greatest fantasy epic of the modern age. A GAME OF THRONES is the first volume in the series.

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a song of ice and fire short stories: *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* George R. R. Martin, 2020-02-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Taking place nearly a century before the events of A Game of Thrones, A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms compiles the first three official prequel novellas to George R. R. Martin's ongoing masterwork, A Song of Ice and Fire. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY LOS ANGELES TIMES AND BUZZFEED These never-before-collected adventures recount an age when the Targaryen line still holds the Iron Throne, and the memory of the last dragon has not yet passed from living consciousness. Before Tyrion Lannister and Podrick Payne, there was Dunk and Egg. A young, naïve but ultimately courageous hedge knight, Ser Duncan the Tall towers above his rivals—in stature if not experience. Tagging along is his diminutive squire, a boy called Egg—whose true name is hidden from all he and Dunk encounter. Though more improbable heroes may not be found in all of Westeros, great destinies lay ahead for these two . . . as do powerful foes, royal intrigue, and outrageous exploits. Featuring more than 160 all-new illustrations by Gary Gianni, A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms is a must-have collection that proves chivalry isn't dead—yet. Praise for A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms “Readers who already love Martin and his ability to bring visceral human drama out of any story will be thrilled to find this trilogy brought together and injected with extra life.”—Booklist “The real reason to check out this collection is that it's simply great storytelling. Martin crafts a living, breathing world in a way few authors can. . . . [Gianni's illustrations] really bring the events of the novellas to life in beautiful fashion.”—Tech Times “Stirring . . . As Tolkien has his Silmarillion, so [George R. R.] Martin has this trilogy of foundational tales. They succeed on their own, but in addition, they succeed in making fans want more.”—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “Pure fantasy adventure, with two of the most likable protagonists George R. R. Martin has ever penned.”—Bustle “A must-read for Martin's legion of fans . . . a rousing prelude to [his] bestselling Song of Ice and Fire saga . . . rich in human drama and the colorful worldbuilding that distinguishes other books in the series.”—Publishers Weekly

a song of ice and fire short stories: *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.

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

a song of ice and fire short stories: 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.

a song of ice and fire short stories: The Hedge Knight George R. R. Martin, Ben Avery, Mike S. Miller, 2004-06-22 Contains an all new exclusive short story by George R. R. Martin! An adaptation of Martin's hit novel, bringing the world of A Song of Ice and Fire to life in comic book form. Night falls over the life of one noble knight and brings the dawn of his squire's knighthood. Dubbing himself Ser Duncan the Tall, The Hedge Knight sets forth to the tourney at Ashford Meadow in search of fame and glory and the honor of upholding his oath as a knight of the Seven Kingdoms. Unfortunately for him, the world isn't ready for a knight who keeps his oaths, and his chivalrous methods could be the very cause of his demise.

a song of ice and fire short stories: 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

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a song of ice and fire short stories: A Storm of Swords George R. R. Martin, 2013 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 younger 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.

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a song of ice and fire short stories: A Clash of Kings: The Illustrated Edition George R. R. Martin, 2019-11-05 A stunning illustrated edition of the second book in the beloved A Song of Ice and Fire series, for fans of HBO's Game of Thrones Continuing the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of George R. R. Martin's landmark series, this gorgeously illustrated special edition of A Clash of Kings features over twenty all-new illustrations from Lauren K. Cannon, bringing glorious new life to this modern classic. A CLASH OF KINGS A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE: BOOK TWO With a special foreword by Bernard Cornwell Time is out of joint. The summer of peace and plenty, ten years long, is drawing to a close, and the harsh, chill winter approaches like an angry beast. Two great leaders—Lord Eddard Stark and Robert Baratheon—who held sway over an age of enforced peace are dead . . . victims of royal treachery. Now, from the ancient citadel of Dragonstone to the forbidding shores of Winterfell, chaos reigns, as pretenders to the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms prepare to stake their claims through tempest, turmoil, and war. As a prophecy of doom cuts across the sky—a comet the color of blood and flame—six factions struggle for control of a divided land. Eddard's son Robb has declared himself King in the North. In the south, Joffrey, the heir apparent, rules in name only, victim of the scheming courtiers who teem over King's Landing. Robert's two brothers each seek their own dominion, while a disfavored house turns once more to conquest. And a continent away, an exiled queen, the Mother of Dragons, risks everything to lead

her precious brood across a hard hot desert to win back the crown that is rightfully hers. Against a backdrop of incest and fratricide, alchemy and murder, the price of glory may be measured in blood. And the spoils of victory may just go to the men and women possessed of the coldest steel . . . and the coldest hearts. For when rulers clash, all of the land feels the tremors.

a song of ice and fire short stories: A Game of Thrones: The Illustrated Edition George R. R. Martin, 2016-10-18 A dazzling illustrated edition of the book that started it all—for readers of A Song of Ice and Fire and fans of HBO's Game of Thrones. Published in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of George R. R. Martin's landmark series, this lavishly illustrated special edition of A Game of Thrones—featuring gorgeous full-page artwork as well as black-and-white illustrations in every chapter—revitalizes the fantasy masterpiece that became a cultural phenomenon. And now the mystery, intrigue, romance, and adventure of this magnificent saga come to life as never before. A GAME OF THRONES A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE: BOOK ONE With a special foreword by John Hodgman 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.

a song of ice and fire short stories: Nightflyers: The Illustrated Edition George R. R. Martin, 2018-03-27 A gorgeous illustrated edition of a classic novella from the #1 bestselling author of A Game of Thrones—a chilling mystery set on a seemingly haunted spaceship, now an original series on SYFY. Featuring fifteen original illustrations, this is the definitive edition of an electrifying tale that combines the deep-space thrills of Alien, the psychological horror of The Shining, and, of course, the inimitable vision of George R. R. Martin. When a scientific expedition is launched to study a mysterious alien race, the only ship available is the Nightflyer, a fully autonomous vessel manned by a single human. But Captain Royd Eris remains locked away, interacting with his passengers only as a disembodied voice—or a projected hologram no more substantial than a ghost. Yet that's not the only reason the ship seems haunted. The team's telepath, Thale Lasamer, senses another presence aboard the Nightflyer—something dangerous, volatile, and alien. Captain Eris claims to know nothing about the elusive intruder, and when someone, or something, begins killing off the expedition's members, he's unable—or unwilling—to stem the bloody tide. Only Melantha Jhirl, a genetically enhanced outcast with greater strength, stamina, and intelligence than other humans, has a chance of solving the mystery—and stopping the malevolent being that's wiping out her shipmates. But first she has to keep herself alive.

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a song of ice and fire short stories: Windhaven (Graphic Novel) George R. R. Martin, Lisa Tuttle, 2018-08-21 A full-color graphic novel adaptation of the first fantasy novel from the bestselling author of *A Game of Thrones*, co-written with Lisa Tuttle. FOR SOME DREAMS, THE SKY IS NO LIMIT. Among the scattered islands of the ocean-bound world called Windhaven, no one holds more prestige than the silver-winged flyers—humans borne on handcrafted wings who cross treacherous seas, braving shifting winds and sudden storms, to bring news, gossip, songs, and stories to Windhaven's far-flung communities. Maris of Lesser Amberly is only a fisherman's daughter, but as much a descendant of the star sailors who founded her world as the flyer family who adopted her. She yearns to soar high above the water on the sky's buffeting currents. But it is Maris's stepbrother who stands to inherit the irreplaceable wings when he comes of age—though he dreams of pursuing a very different path. So Maris dares to challenge tradition and the law by demanding that flyers be chosen by merit rather than inheritance. Determined to establish flying competitions and training academies for those not of the flyer-born classes, she wages a bitter battle for change. But even as she triumphs, a host of new troubles confronts her. For a brewing revolution now threatens to destroy the world she fought so hard to join, and crush her proud, rebellious spirit—unless she is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. From the united imaginations of two award-winning authors, #1 New York Times bestseller George R. R. Martin (*Game of Thrones*) and Lisa Tuttle (*Lost Futures*), *Windhaven* is now a spectacular full-color graphic novel—adapted by Lisa Tuttle, illustrated by Marvel Comics artist Elsa Charretier, and a must-have for fans of classic fantasy fiction and artwork.

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