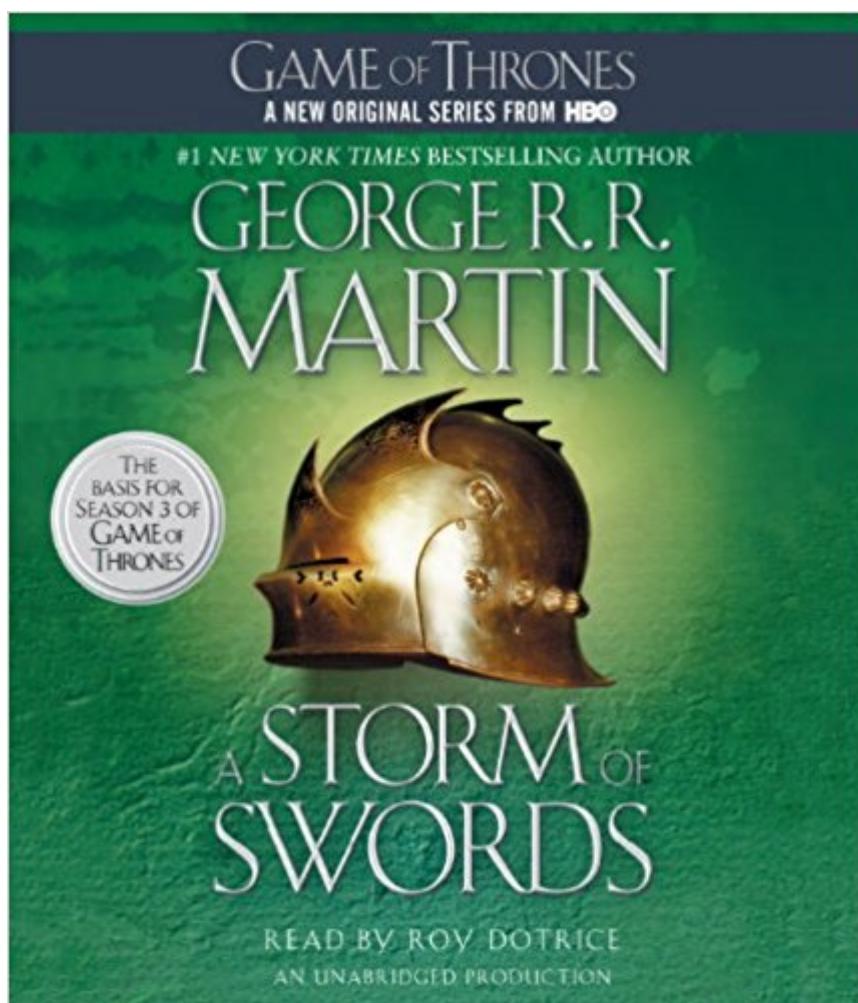


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A Storm Of Swords: A Song Of Ice And Fire: Book Three



Synopsis

THE BOOK BEHIND THE THIRD SEASON OF GAME OF THRONES, AN ORIGINAL SERIES NOW ON HBO. Here is the third volume in George R. R. Martin's magnificent cycle of novels that includes *A Game of Thrones* and *A Clash of Kings*. 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 STORM OF SWORDS Of the five contenders for power, one is dead, another in disfavor, and still the wars rage as violently as ever, as alliances are made and broken. Joffrey, of House Lannister, sits on the Iron Throne, the uneasy ruler of the land of the Seven Kingdoms. His most bitter rival, Lord Stannis, stands defeated and disgraced, the victim of the jealous sorceress who holds him in her evil thrall. But young Robb, of House Stark, still rules the North from the fortress of Riverrun. Robb plots against his despised Lannister enemies, even as they hold his sister hostage at King's Landing, the seat of the Iron Throne. Meanwhile, making her way across a blood-drenched continent is the exiled queen, Daenerys, mistress of the only three dragons still left in the world. . . . But as opposing forces maneuver for the final titanic showdown, an army of barbaric wildlings arrives from the outermost line of civilization. In their vanguard is a horde of mythical Others—a supernatural army of the living dead whose animated corpses are unstoppable. As the future of the land hangs in the balance, no one will rest until the Seven Kingdoms have exploded in a veritable storm of swords. . . . From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Is George R.R. Martin for real? Can a fantasy epic actually get better with each new installment? Fans of the genre have glumly come to expect go-nowhere sequels from other authors, so we're entitled to pinch ourselves over Martin's tightly crafted Song of Ice and Fire series. The reports are all true: this series is the real deal, and Martin deserves his crown as the rightful king of the epic. A Game of Thrones got things off to a rock-solid start, A Clash of Kings only exceeded expectations, but it's the Storm of Swords hat trick that cements Martin's rep as the most praiseworthy fantasy author to come along since that other R.R. Like the first two books, A Storm of Swords could coast on the fundamentals: deftly detailed characters, convincing voices and dialogue, a robust back-story, and a satisfyingly unpredictable plot. But it's Martin's consistently bold choices that set the series apart. Every character is fair game for the headman's axe (sometimes literally), and not only do the good guys regularly lose out to the bad guys, you're never exactly sure who you should be cheering for in the first place. Storm is full of admirable intricacies. Events that you thought Martin was setting up solidly for the first two books are exposed as complex feints; the field quickly narrows after the Battle of the Blackwater and once again, anything goes. Robb tries desperately to hold the North together, Jon returns from the wildling lands with a torn heart, Bran continues his quest for the three-eyed crow beyond the Wall, Catelyn struggles to save her fragile family, Arya becomes ever more wolflike in her wanderings, Daenerys comes into her own, and Joffrey's cruel rule from King's Landing continues, making even his fellow Lannisters uneasy. Martin tests all the major characters in A Storm of Swords: some fail the trial, while others--like Martin himself--seem to only get stronger. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

The third volume of the high fantasy saga that began with A Game of Thrones and continued in A Clash of Kings is one of the more rewarding examples of gigantism in contemporary fantasy. As Martin's richly imagined world slides closer to its 10-year winter, both the weather and the warfare worsen. In the north, King Joffrey of House Lannister sits uneasily on the Iron Throne. With the aid of a peasant wench, Jaime Lannister, the Kingslayer, escapes from jail in Riverrun. Jaime goes to the other youthful ruler, Robb Stark, to secure the release of Joffrey's prisoners, Robb's sisters Arya and Sansa Stark. Meanwhile, in the south, Queen Daenerys tries to assert her claim to the various thrones with an army of eunuchs, but discovers that she must choose between conquering more

and ruling well what she has already taken. The complexity of characters such as Daenerys, Arya and the Kingslayer will keep readers turning even the vast number of pages contained in this volume, for the author, like Tolkien or Jordan, makes us care about their fates. Those two fantasy greats are also evoked by Martin's ability to convey such sensual experiences as the heat of wildfire, the chill of ice, the smell of the sea and the sheer gargantuan indigestibility of the medieval banquet at its most excessive. Perhaps this saga doesn't go as far beyond the previous bounds of high fantasy as some claim, but for most readers it certainly goes far enough to command their attention. (Nov.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Before they get dispersed again in the next two novels. I fell in love with George RR Martin's epic A Song of Ice and Fire when I read Game of Thrones. The characters are explored with attention to moral choices and to emotional reactions to memories. Martin moves the story along at a slow pace (so it is amazing that only two years or so pass in the span of the first three books) but it really feels like you are living the action of the story along with the characters. A Storm of Swords is the third installment of the Song of Ice and Fire epic, so in some ways it brings to conclusion some of the major story lines that began in the first book. The third book focuses mostly on the fallout of the War of the Five Kings. We see little of Danaerys or the dragons in this book, because most of the storyline stays in Westeros and near the Wall. The novel is definitely a bit faster paced than the second book, and I love the POV chapters with Jaime Lannister...what a change of feeling towards a character I always thought was a spoiled and dishonorable prick. Great book, and I cannot wait to see how Martin brings all of the characters back together in the sixth novel. Winter is coming!

A wonderful 3rd edition of a great fantasy series. The saga of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros continues. Sam Tarley and Jon Snow continue to work beyond the wall with the Wildlings. Jamie has been set free by Catelyn Stark to be given back to the Lannisters in exchange for Sansa and Arya. Brienne of Tarth, the woman knight pledged to Catelyn is taken him back in chains in order to rescue the girls. Jeffrey, the teen king is now to wed Margery Tyrell, the former wife of Renly Baratheon in a large ceremony. Stannis and Davos lost a great battle and must figure out how to win and reconcile their beliefs of the Red Woman who controls who live and who dies. Of course things don't ever go as planned in Westeros and Storm of Swords is no different. Arya can't seem to get home even after escaping the House of Lannister but continues wandering after several setbacks. Sansa is the eternal maid looking for her handsome prince and judging people by their

looks more than their deeds. Danerys continues to learn more about the man Jonah was and raise her dragons. A running theme I find in the story is about how people are judged by their looks and dismissed for infirmities and lack of physical attractiveness. This book is a champion of the outsiders and different. Arya is a girl who enjoys things a boy is usually thought to enjoy. Jamie the handsome Lannister loses something that made him a fighter and becomes better for it. Brienne, thought of as ugly has beauty inside. Tyrion, the ultimate hero, suffers terribly under a family who hates him for being a dwarf and a society who believes him ugly. Cersei, beauty intact, contains an ugliness inside no one can match. Jeffrey, beautiful boy, is a monster. The surprises are many in this book and I loved the character development, unusual in most popular fiction, but this isn't an ordinary series.

Martin pens a novel full of adventure, betrayal, and greed with *Storm of Swords*, book 3 in the *Song of Ice and Fire* series. The novel is over 900 pages and not for the faint at heart and a bit daunting. It's taken me months to finish, and while it's been long for me, it's been an adventure. Martin uses several point of view characters to tell the story. There's Tyrion, smart and clever, yet a dwarf who is the butt of his nephew's cruel jabs. There's Robb, the King of the North, who must win the Freys' favor or lose all he has gained. Jon, on the Wall, must find out information on the Wildlings and the Others, using all of his cunning to survive. Jamie must not only use his sword, but his wits to make it back to King's Landing. Arya escapes the city only to find herself a captive and pawn to various outlaws who would use her as a hostage for their benefit. Stannis must prove himself a king, so he travels to the Wall, hoping to save it. Then there's Daenerys, who learns how to use her swords to conquer, but she must learn to rule before returning to Westros. Every story involves violence, sword play, and cunning. As the realm loses its tenuous grip on the various kingdoms, secrets are revealed, proving a precursor to the upcoming battle between ice (the others) and fire (the dragons). The characters are honest, real, and interesting. There's good and bad and even some in between like the Hound, Sandor Clegane. Everyone has a distinct motivation to do what they do, even if unknown to the reader. I'm always wondering what is driving a character. *Storm of Swords* grows the story, looks deeper into the players, and takes the reader on an adventure of a lifetime!

I thought we'd see some down time in the third book, but not so. Martin gives this story more intrigue, creates more questions, and every single word in every single conversation is important. Characters evolve and change in this book. There are more surprises and twists. I've begun to love some characters I use to hate, and there is some sweet justice. There is also disappointment, and small triumphs. Great book.

Generally, I like the Game of Thrones stories. I haven't watched the series except Episode 1, because they're too graphic. The books are pretty graphic, too, but you can read fast over those parts. Mostly, though, since everybody dies --even the ones you think are good people and interesting characters-- there's a lot of sadness for the reader.

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