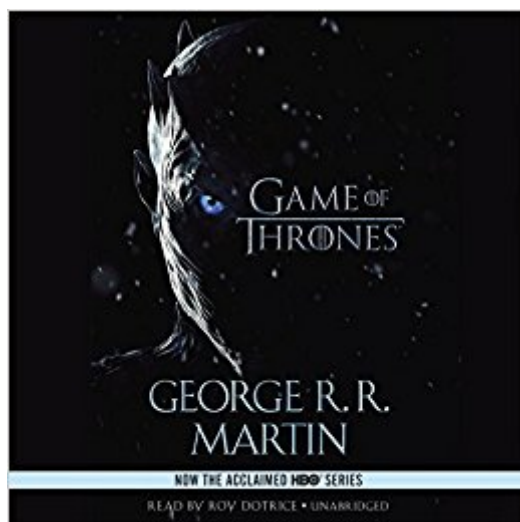


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A Game Of Thrones: A Song Of Ice And Fire: Book One



Synopsis

NOW THE ACCLAIMED HBO SERIES GAME OF THRONES 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.

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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 text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 looong 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 have read this several times. I read this and book 2 back to back when the second came out. 3 came shortly after. Since then it's been far too long between books. Still waiting on 6. Each time through, I love it more. If you are reading this review wondering if you should purchase it, the answer is a resounding yes with 1 caution. Martin is very slowly turning out the latest books. At this pace it will be 2025 when finished. Robert Jordan died before completing *The Wheel of Time*. That could be a very real piss if Martin doesn't at least maintain the current glacial pace. The world he has built is tremendous. His storytelling is very real and feels more grounded than anything else I have encountered in the fantasy genre. It reads almost like a journal of real people that lived long ago in our world. I'm trying not to review the series, only book 1. It is an excellent beginning to an amazing ride. It is the excitement of the ride up the hill before the big drop off the coaster. Buy it, love it and the other four as well and then sit in line waiting for the next one with the rest of us. You won't regret it.

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 SolaF 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.

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