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This is nonfiction commentary. Purchase includes a free trial membership in the publisher's book club where you can select from more than a million books without charge. Chapters: A Storm of Swords, a Game of Thrones, a Feast for Crows, a Clash of Kings, Tales of Dunk and Egg, a Dance With Dragons, the Mystery Knight, the Hedge Knight, the Sworn Sword. Source: Wikipedia. Free updates online. Not illustrated. Excerpt: A Storm of Swords is the third of seven planned novels in A Song of Ice and Fire, an epic fantasy series by American author George R. R. Martin. It was first published on 8 August 2000 in the United Kingdom, with a United States edition following in November 2000. Its publication was preceded by a novella called Path of the Dragon, which collects some of the Daenerys Targaryen chapters from the novel into a single book. To date, A Storm of Swords is the longest novel in the series. It was so long that in the UK its paperback edition was split in half, Part 1 being published as Steel and Snow in June 2001 (with the one-volume cover) and Part 2 as Blood and Gold in August 2001 (with a specially-commissioned new cover). In France, the decision was made to cut the novel into four separate editions. A Storm of Swords won the 2001 Locus Award, the 2002 Geffen Award for Best Novel and was nominated for the 2001 Nebula Award for Best Novel. Significantly, it was the first novel in the series to be nominated for the Hugo Award, one of the two most prestigious awards in science fiction and fantasy publishing, although it lost to J. K. Rowling's novel Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Meisha Merlin, who had previously issued limited, illustrated editions of both A Game of Thrones and A Clash of Kings, were planning to release a similar version for A Storm of Swords in two volumes. However, lengthy delays on the release of A Clash of Kings caused Meisha Merlin to lose the printing rights for the book, which were picked up...More: <http://booksllc.net/?id=71362>

A Song of Ice and Fire Books Details

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From Reader Review A Song of Ice and Fire Books for online ebook

Nene La Beet says

Now through all of them, as audiobooks. If I hadn't listened rather than read, I'd never have gotten this far. Not that they aren't a thrill, because they are, but because using the audio option allows for much more "reading" time, not least in the night when I can't sleep. However, I really don't like the narrator, Roy Dotrice. One reason is that he doesn't use the same tone of voice for the same character through all the books. The only character that speaks in a consistent tone of voice throughout the books is Varys. Another reason is that almost all the women gets squeaky, annoying voices, including Arya and Daenerys, neither of whom are particularly weak or squeaky types.

Anyway, back to the books. Much to my surprise, I love them. I'm not much of a fantasy reader, in fact, the only fantasy I've ever read before is Terry Pratchett. So, why do I like them. I like them because the characters have such depth and develop so much throughout the series and because good and evil is mixed in such surprising ways. Also, I like the way he describes the various religions in Westeros and elsewhere... They are all praying away at crucial moments - and then they die or some other dreadful thing happens to them.

His description of politics is also right on the mark. How the powerful often choose to do things only to keep themselves in power, even if it is paid for dearly by people close and loyal to them.

So I'm already longing for the next installment of the series - both the Game of Thrones tv-series and the books.

Jody says

Listening to this series in audio books allowed me to get through it, finding the time to actually sit and read that much would have been almost impossible at this time of my life. The characters were well developed even though some of them were only in the story for a short period of time. The plot was captivating but only if you enjoy the constant turmoil of ever changing rulers and don't mind fantasy. I am really hoping we get one more book to tie up some of the loose ends but this doesn't seem like a story that can ever end - it is a life time.

Parry says

Great interesting story started but now he is just dragging it...

Simon says

I stopped after 'A Feast For Crows' as by then I was no longer merely just disappointed but beginning to feel duped.

Never have I read such an epic body of work in which so much comes to so little, nor one in which so many main characters are killed off in the most pointless, unworthy and often unconvincing ways. Many times the

reader isn't even there, you only find out several chapters further on, as if the author just couldn't be bothered with that character any more.

Of all the myriad challenges and tragedies which beset the innumerable protagonists not a single one ever reaches any kind of conclusion. Relationships skate round and round each other never coming to anything, plotlines the same (or they just fizzle out), issues are ALWAYS unresolved and almost every question I had (many!) remained unanswered.

I started reading this saga as a George Martin fan but now, far from having any interest in reading the latest volumes, I honestly don't want to read anything else by him ever. Why? Because I was more than merely frustrated and disappointed by these books, I actually felt cheated, with the unpleasant feeling that the author is laughing up his sleeve at the reader. That may be an overreaction, but there isn't the slightest doubt that he was paid per word.

It would be crass of me not to mention one or two plus points. Firstly, considering the unbelievable amount of irrelevant padding, the fact that I was able to keep reading at all has to be some sort of credit to the author. Likewise the breadth, scope and sheer imaginativeness of these novels has to be admired and if Martin and/or his publishers had been more disciplined and less greedy, there was no doubt an excellent trilogy buried within this self-indulgent morass. It's a real shame they couldn't find it.

Robert says

This was the Kindle edition, and I missed having easy reference to maps, but at one of my daughter's suggestion, I used some of the websites on my iPad to accompany my reading on the Kindle. I found that there were many things that I had forgotten or that were glossed over in the mini-series on tv., but covered more thoroughly in the book.

I had read the first three books well before the tv. film came to pass and then became frustrated waiting for the next book to come out, as the story had clearly not finished after three books. I did not realize that a tv series was based on these books was in the works, and it was only after the first season had aired that I discovered in conversation with my daughter that the tv series had been based on the books. I caught up with the first season and watched the second as well, and then decided that too much time had passed since my initial reading of the books. As a result, I am presently working my way back through the first five volumes.
