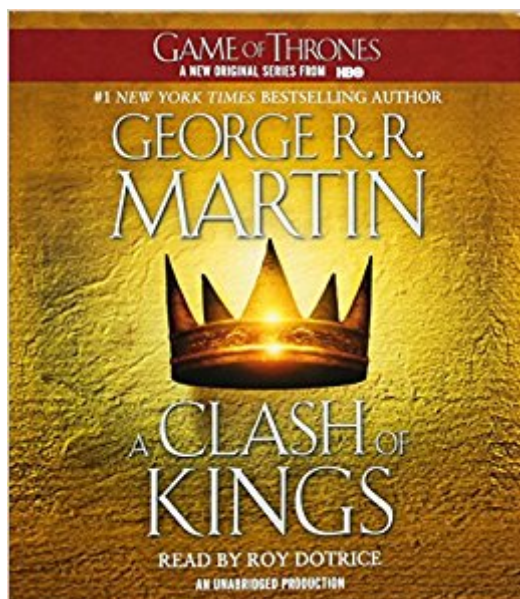


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A Clash Of Kings: A Song Of Ice And Fire: Book Two (Game Of Thrones)



Synopsis

THE BOOK BEHIND THE SECOND SEASON OF GAME OF THRONES, Æ AN ORIGINAL SERIES NOW ON HBO. Here is the second volume in George R.R. Martin magnificent cycle of novels that includes A Game of Thrones 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 stunning series is destined to stand as one of the great achievements of imaginative fiction. A CLASH OF KINGSA comet the color of blood and flame cuts across the sky. Two great leaders Æ Æ Æ Lord Eddard Stark and Robert Baratheon Æ Æ Æ who hold 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. Six factions struggle for control of a divided land and the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, preparing to stake their claims through tempest, turmoil, and war. It is a tale in which brother plots against brother and the dead rise to walk in the night. Here a princess masquerades as an orphan boy; a knight of the mind prepares a poison for a treacherous sorceress; and wild men descend from the Mountains of the Moon to ravage the countryside. Against a backdrop of incest and fratricide, alchemy and murder, victory may go to the men and women possessed of the coldest steel...and the coldest hearts. For when kings clash, the whole land trembles. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

How does he do it? George R.R. Martin's high fantasy weaves a spell sufficient to seduce even those who vowed never to start a doorstopper fantasy series again (the first book--A Game of Thrones--runs over 700 pages). A Clash of Kings is longer and even more grim, but Martin continues to provide compelling characters in a vividly real world. The Seven Kingdoms have come apart. Joffrey, Queen Cersei's sadistic son, ascends the Iron Throne following the death of Robert Baratheon, the Usurper, who won it in battle. Queen Cersei's family, the Lannisters, fight to hold it for him. Both the dour Stannis and the charismatic Renly Baratheon, Robert's brothers, also seek the throne. Robb Stark, declared King in the North, battles to avenge his father's execution and retrieve his sister from Joffrey's court. Daenerys, the exiled last heir of the former ruling family, nurtures three dragons and seeks a way home. Meanwhile the Night's Watch, sworn to protect the realm from dangers north of the Wall, dwindle in numbers, even as barbarian forces gather and beings out of legend stalk the Haunted Forest. Sound complicated? It is, but fine writing makes this a thoroughly satisfying stew of dark magic, complex political intrigue, and horrific bloodshed. --Nona Vero --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

The second novel of Martin's titanic Song of Ice and Fire saga (A Game of Thrones, 1996) begins with Princess Arya Stark fleeing her dead father's capital of King's Landing, disguised as a boy. [...] In between [the beginning and the end], her actions map the further course of a truly epic fantasy set in a world bedecked with 8000 years of history, beset by an imminent winter that will last 10 years and bedazzled by swords and spells wielded to devastating effect by the scrupulous and unscrupulous alike. Standout characters besides Arya include Queen Cersei, so lacking in morals that she becomes almost pitiable; the queen's brother, the relentlessly ingenious dwarf Tyrion Lannister; and Arya's brother, Prince Brandon, crippled except when he runs with the wolves in his dreams. The novel is notable particularly for the lived-in quality of its world, created through abundant detail that dramatically increases narrative length even as it aids suspension of disbelief; for the comparatively modest role of magic (although with one ambitious young woman raising a trio of dragons, that may change in future volumes)... Martin may not rival Tolkien or Robert Jordan, but he ranks with such accomplished medievalists of fantasy as Poul Anderson and Gordon Dickson. Here, he provides a banquet for fantasy lovers with large appetites--and this is only the second course of a repast with no end in sight. Author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Great book, couldn't recommend it enough. Probably driving my friends crazy, its just such a great book and i feel every one should be reading them. It definitely didn't disappoint, after how wonderful the first book was, and how much i loved it, i wasnt sure if it could complete. But its just as amazing, if not better.

I admit I am hooked now. And the world needs to wait until I finish all the books in these series. A Clash of Kings begins dramatically just as the first book did. With Robb Stark declared as the King of North, the late king Robert's brothers, Stannis and Renly have become as well. With one too many contender for the Iron Throne, the plot thickens. Catelyn Stark wants to trade the Kingslayer, Jaime Lannister for her daughters, Sansa and Arya but Robb is not too enthusiastic about it. In the King's Landing, Joffrey proves himself foolish, arrogant and the worst kind of king that the realm can have. Tyrion arrives as the hand of the king and has to match wits with his cunning sister who wants to undermine him at any cost. At Winterfell, Bran Stark is having his wolf dreams at increasing frequency and unexpectedly he gets friends who believe his dreams, Jojen and Meera Reed. He also discovers that he could inhabit his wolf's body and hunt at night - a prospect that is exciting and also equally dangerous for him. Robb sends Catelyn to parley with Stannis and Renly and to join forces with him to overthrow Joffrey and avenge his father's death. The talks fail and a shadow kills Renly - a black magic killer created by Melisandre, a priestess who accompanies Stannis. Fleeing from the murder scene, Catelyn takes away Brienne Tarth, a lady knight along with her, who swears fealty to Starks. Theon Greyjoy who was introduced in the first book has individual chapters in this one, indicating that he has a bigger role to play in the later series. Sansa Stark is stuck between hell and high water in the King's Landing. She has no illusions about Joffrey's character now yet she is forced to act innocent and loving towards him. Surprisingly it is the imp, Tyrion Lannister who is kind to her. A world apart, Daenerys is in search of an army to take over the Iron Throne. She gets welcomed everywhere because of her exotic dragons but is largely unsuccessful in procuring an army. The house of undying beckons her with a promise and there she sees many visions of what the future might bring forth to her. Stannis attacks King's Landing and is defeated thanks to Tyrion's wildfire idea. He also arranges alliance for Joffrey with Margery Tyrell, who was wedded to Renly Baratheon, thereby securing their wealth and military help. But sadly he is cast aside despite his efforts as his father takes over the role of Hand. Jon Snow in the meanwhile has marched with his band of Brothers to fight with the wildlings. His progress is slow and full of surprises. The wildlings are fleeing

and many are rallying in the army of Mance Rayder, a self proclaimed king, who was once a brother of the night. I liked Arya's journey in this plot. She starts out as a boy, gets captured by the Tyron Lannister's army and brought to Hallenhell where she changes her identity to a girl. Adapting to rapidly changing circumstances, she is one smart girl. It is through her eyes, we see the devastation that the country is going through thanks to the game of thrones. She meets an intriguing assassin whose life she saves. He promises her three lives and she names of her tormenters and later realizes that she could have named Joffery or the queen as well! I loved the multi-dimensional characters that Martin builds here and he gives access to even the most vilest of characters in the book. The conversation between Jaimie Lannister and Catelyn Stark is most revealing and interesting, promising a deeper mystery. And Jaimie Lannister's revelations about the mad king (whom he killed) brings forth a different angle to the story. Plus Points: Addictive, Addictive and Addictive. Please don't read this when you are cooking. You might just burn that curry to hell! Minus Points: I was bored during the narrative of onion knight. But the author brings his perspective in to describe the war and I wonder whether he would play a bigger role in the series to come. Verdict: Get ready for a long haul. You are not going to rest until you find answers to the following - Who was Jon Snow's mother? Why did Jaimie Lannister slay the old king? Who is the baby that Daenerys sees in her vision? Will Arya Stark ever meet her family again? Will Sansa ever get back home?

The King is dead and chaos reigns. Sitting on the Iron Throne is the vicious boy-king Joffrey, ruled over by his ambitious, ruthless, amoral and disquietingly beautiful mother Queen Cersei. But many do not accept the boy-kings rule, and six other rulers rise to claim their place, including the Stark heir Robb. This volume opens with the flight of Princess Arya Stark, pretending to be the boy 'Arry, and ends with...but that would spoil the suspense, so I won't tell you that. As I mentioned in my last review, there are echoes of the Wars of the Roses in these volumes. Joffrey is as vicious as Edouard of Lancaster, the heir to the Lancaster cause and son of the ruthless and arrogant Queen Marguerite of Anjou. Who his father was, was something that no-one was really sure of (as in Joffrey's case), but the betting was that it was Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset rather than King Henry VI. What is so wonderful about this book is the accrual of detail that makes the lives of these characters so real, and by extension the world of that long-vanished past of the 15th-century real as well. Most second novels are extremely disappointing. This is just as wonderful as the first. Five stars.

The Good: The characters in this series continue to amaze me. They are so wonderful. Or horrible, depending. So many secrets, lies, hidden pasts waiting to be uncovered. I never know what was going to be revealed next. The political intrigue plays out in often scandalous fashion. The more I read these books, the more I see the series as primarily historical fiction with a hint of magic thrown in now and again rather than straight high fantasy and that really works for me. A little easier to put down than the last one, but still a very quick read considering the length of the book. Can't stop, have to keep going, have to know what happens next.

The Bad: Thing dragged a little more here than in the first book. There seemed to be a decent amount of unnecessary filler and not as much plot progression as I would have liked for a book of this size.

Started this series after watching the tv show on hbo. The book are by far more alluring, enticing, suspenseful, and exciting than the show is.. I urge fans to read the series as well because the books immerse you with much more than just an outside "picture" of what's going on emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.. the lack of emphasis on all of the gods alone, in the series is peculiar because they have such a large part to play in how these characters interact, and motivate others and themselves.. I can go on, but read it! More than worth your time!!

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