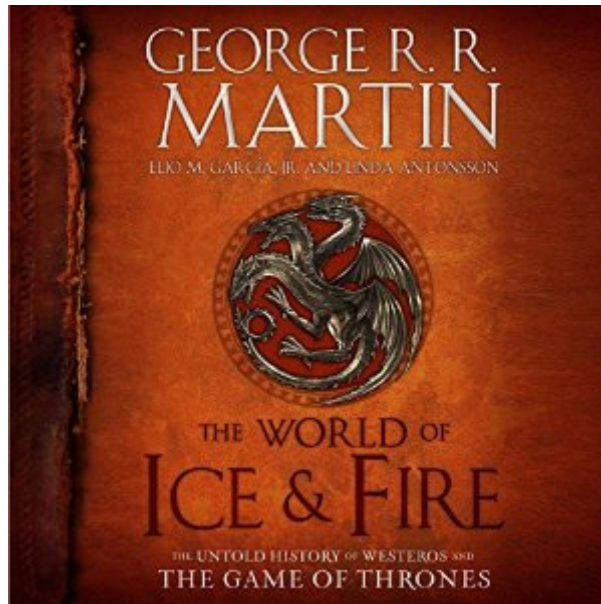


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The World Of Ice & Fire: The Untold History Of Westeros And The Game Of Thrones



Synopsis

The never-before-seen history of Westeros and The Lands Beyond with 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 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 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I pre-ordered a few months ago, not knowing what to expect. So unwrapping an oversized book of extensive production quality was a surprise, since I was expecting something that would line up on the shelf next to the five ASOIAF books. Note that you're getting an oversized book with very nice

cover, page, and print quality, which helps the artwork stand out. As far as the text, which many of the reviews here are quick to slam or to praise, I felt the truth was in the middle and uneven would be the best word to describe. Some of the narratives are very well done - the "short story" of the Conquest, the reign of King Jaehaerys, and the history of the Vale in particular stood out as well done; the narrative flowed well, and the characterizations were very satisfying, but most importantly gave itself identity and value. As far as a common identifier of the best pieces, the text is at its best and finds a nice rhythm when it becomes character-centric as opposed to purely event-centric. When Martin et. immerse you in the rich characterizations of Nymeria, Aegon, Robar Royce, and Tywin, and let the history flow around them is extremely enjoyable. Other portions were frustrating - several histories of reigns and a couple of the Kingdoms really felt like obligated filler as opposed to a seized opportunity to provide rich lore, and all too often the "Untold History" teased on the cover produced only empty text containing no more than "going through the motions" summations of previously known information, providing no additional lore or color. It is understandable in areas where it's obvious that Martin isn't ready to show his cards; others such as the War of the Ninepenny Kings from a 10,000 foot view and the Greyjoy Rebellion being reduced to a couple paragraphs and passing on the opportunity to add color and depth as opposed to regurgitation due to necessity were a letdown. The choice of the maester as a point of view was overall a sound decision. The additional layer adds richness: bias is introduced, sources are referenced, and the environment of the ASOIAF novels needs to be taken into account by the reader - a very Martin-esque move. The "cop outs", where the decision to use a maester as the writer leads to lack of expansion or evasion were an unfortunate consequence. As far as the artwork, I expected the illustrations to be filler, almost an annoyance beside the lore. It was the exact opposite - the illustrations are impressive, most absolutely stunning. The amount of artwork, fantastic detail, and affording a quality template for the production really stood out. I'm not sold that AWOIAF will be a frequent reread or that the table of contents and index reference enough consistency in the text for it to serve as a reference, but there will definitely be portions worth a bookmark and others worth perusing at times, and the art is worth a complete page through anytime.

I would really really recommended this book for anyone that loves game of thrones. The problem I have with the book is that I have had the book for a month and 6 days and the headband on the book is falling apart. Its a shame because the book and reading everything is amazing. I've kept really good care of the book and its a shame its falling apart in about a month.

I have no complaints about this book. 3 stars is the most I can give it, but, I knew what I was getting when I plunked down my money, so I hope that giving it 3/5 isn't seen as some sort of knock. I would, however, like to post this review for those who are thinking about buying it and might want some more information. This is not Book 6 in the series, nor should it be seen as a substitute for it. It's also not the Silmarillion. That is, it's not a detailed and exhaustive narrative on what has come before Books 1-5. It's a coffee table book with gorgeous artwork and some tidbits of information on the world of Westeros, most of which will be posted in various wiki entries for free within 60 days. I am enough of a die-hard fan of the series that, even knowing all of this, I was perfectly willing to pre-order it. If this label does not apply to you, however, you might want to think twice before paying \$30 (more or less) for it.

Know what you are buying. Is this a book written by George R. R. Martin? Sort of. Is this a book written by two of his friends? Sort of. Is it a well illustrated book? Yes. Is this a definitive history of Westeros? Not at all. In truth I am not really sure what to make of this book, it has very nice illustrations, but a lot the writing is clearly not Martin's work and left me finally understanding how a dog feels when you speak to it and it just kind of tilts his head looking at you with that wtf look on its face. It left me wondering what exactly is the purpose of this book? As a definitive history it falls short in every aspect. The book is written in the form of an unreliable narrator and from the first page it's clear much of the information is wrong. Martin himself has spoken of a book he will write in the future that will be called "Fire and blood." Which will be like this book but much larger, more accurate, and hopefully written by Martin himself. Now just to be clear both Elio and Linda have pointed out that they took liberties with the material Martin supplied them, filling in blanks with their own ideas and such. And that's ok because the book is not supposed to be reliable, that's the purpose of the unreliable narrator. Elio and Linda have also stated in a video on their own fan site that things are and can be wrong. The book itself is supposed to be written in-world but I have a hard time getting into the world because the writing is not really Martin's and does not feel like his, the in-character author of this book sort of jokingly points that out in the book. The style is different and the dialogue often becomes more modern in tone than Martin's work. At other times it feels like I am reading a comic and yet other times a Dungeon Masters guide to Westeros. There are some issues with the names of characters that seem a bit more childish than Martin's work such as Darkrobin, Talon, the Howling Mountain, and Druselka. It just did not feel like Martin to me and of course there is a reason for that. The original idea according to Martin on his web site Not a Blog was for this to be an illustrated book and Martin writing the sidebars. They probably should have stuck with that idea, and

it would have been a true coffee table book. Instead it's a sort of history, a sort of story, a sort of in world book, a sort of Martin book, a sort of fan book, a sort of illustrated coffee table book. It feels like it tries to be to many things and lacks a single focused idea of what it wants to be. That's another problem with the book is that the writers try to hard to be something they are not, they are trying to be Martin. I know they say they are not, but they are, they chose the unreliable narrator, they chose to write in character in his world and in truth he is the only one who should be doing that. Another problem is the price, 50 bucks at Barnes and Noble, 30 bucks on Amazon, Really? Give it some time, if you are a fan who must have it don't make the same mistake I did, wait and give the price a chance to drop. Also I know it's the internet age but you can always go into a Barnes and Noble and check it out for yourself, spend 45 minutes with it, if you must have it get it. If you feel like you are fine waiting till it gets cheaper or you just don't like it that's fine too. It's not really going to tell you much that is not already in the books or on wiki pages. My advice is to hit the book store and check it out for yourself, you may or may not like it, nothing wrong with test driving something you pay for. If you want to read Martin maybe try the Ice Dragon which was just rereleased not long ago and is only 11 bucks on Amazon. It's not a bad book I am just not sure what it is, It's a sort of history, in world unreliable POV story, illustrated guide to Westeros with pretty pictures, and little new information, that was sort of written by 3 different people. Most of what I am saying is not huge deal, it has it's good points, it really does, the biggest problem I have is that the book goes out of it's way to make it look like it was written by Martin. All you have to do is look at the cover, Martin's name in big giant letters. I see fans writing reviews and giving this book 5 stars and they say if you are expecting a story written by Martin this is not the book for you. Well of course people are expecting Martin to have written it, his name appears in big giant letters on the cover of the book which is about the world he created. Why wouldn't you have expected him to have written it, not all fans of his work hang out on Not a blog and A forum of ice and fire.

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