

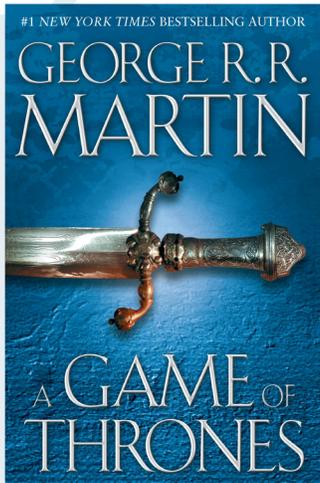
# THREE TO READ:

## A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE

How can an author make readers care for characters that live only to kill each other?

All fantasy books have some element of magic. The magic in these books, however, is not in the form of a crazy religion or fire-breathing dragons. The magic in these books is within the interactions between characters. Because each chapter is narrated by a different character, every single character feels like a real person with an individual personality. After watching the series on TV, I decided that I wanted to read the books in order to get my own idea of the series. After reading the first few books, I have a better understanding of the overarching story.

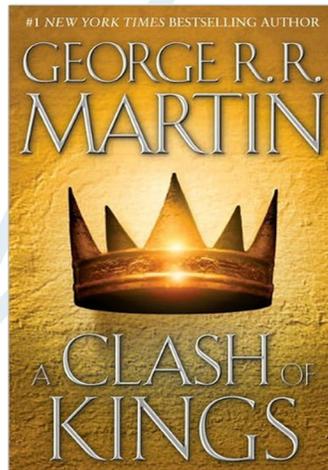
Recommended by Ben Dinklage from High Tech High International



**A Game of Thrones**  
by George R.R. Martin

This is the first book in Martin's seven-part series set in the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. The multitude of castles, lords, armies, and deaths is reminiscent of medieval age. The book is written from the point of view of many different characters. Each chapter is told from a different perspective. There are three main storylines. The first takes place in the Seven Kingdoms and involves a mother trying to find the person responsible for the hit on her son. The second story follows the bastard son of a lord who is training to become a guard on "The Wall" a massive superstructure built out of ice and stone that protects against those who live in the north. The third story revolves around Daenerys who fled Westeros with her brother after her entire house was murdered. She is traveling around this new land in an attempt to gather an army and take back the land she believes is rightfully hers. 835 pages

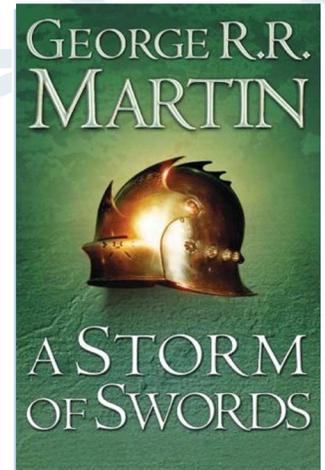
FIC MARTIN



**A Clash of Kings**  
by George R.R. Martin

The second book picks up where the first left off, but introduces a new character. Stannis is a disgruntled lord who believes he has a right to the king's throne. True to the book's title, this book is filled with battles, death, and kings. At one point, four people declare themselves kings of Westeros. The ensuing battles and bloodshed, while sad, are also highly entertaining. The book picks up when Stannis decides to forsake his religion for an evil new one. This draws in the reader and makes him really dislike Stannis because of how he breaks his morals and turns on his closest friends. At the same time, the reader still enjoys learning about Stannis because he is fighting against Joffrey, the evil king who is the main antagonist of the book. He is hated by almost every single character in the book and is one of George R.R. Martin's ways of making the reader care about characters who are fighting against each other. Martin uses Joffrey as a way to make it seem like the other characters are united against a common enemy even though they would surely kill each other if they were given the chance. 1009 pages

FIC MARTIN



**A Storm of Swords**  
by George R.R. Martin

The third book in Martin's series shows that there is no way of slowing these characters. This time, no new characters are introduced. Instead, Martin goes back to characters that were minor characters in the second book making them major players. The third book has one of the most gruesome and horrific scenes of any of the other books, a scene in which half of the main characters are brutally murdered. The scene is known as "The Red Wedding." This happens halfway through the book, and Martin uses the reader's sorrow to solidify the hatred toward the Lannisters and their king. The author continuously reminds the reader of this in order to make the reader care about the remaining characters. 2000 pages

FIC MARTIN