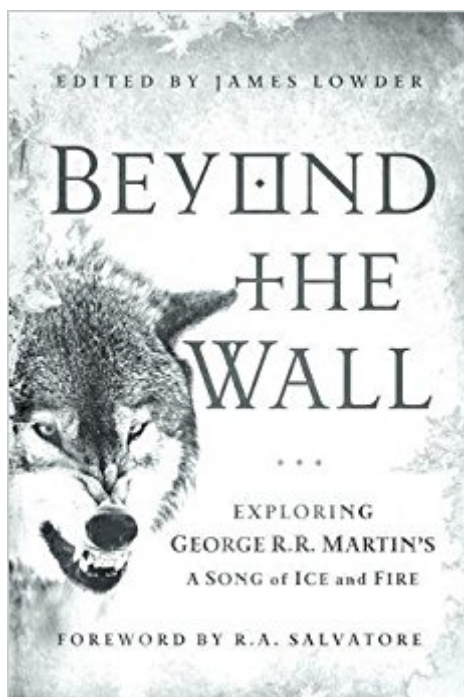


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# Beyond The Wall: Exploring George R. R. Martin's A Song Of Ice And Fire, From A Game Of Thrones To A Dance With Dragons



## Synopsis

"There were a number of books about A Game of Thrones (the HBO series) and A Song of Ice and Fire (the books) published last year . . . the one that impressed me most was James Lowder's Beyond the Wall." —George R.R. Martin Foreword by New York Times bestselling author R.A. Salvatore Go beyond the Wall and across the narrow sea with this collection about George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire, from A Game of Thrones to A Dance with Dragons. The epic game of thrones chronicled in George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series has captured the imaginations of millions of readers. In Beyond the Wall, bestselling authors and acclaimed critics offer up thought-provoking essays and compelling insights: Daniel Abraham reveals the unique challenges of adapting the original books into graphic novels. Westeros.org founders Linda Antonsson and Elio M. García, Jr., explore the series' complex heroes and villains, and their roots in the Romantic movement. Wild Cards contributor Caroline Spector delves into the books' controversial depictions of power and gender. Plus much more, from military science fiction writer Myke Cole on the way Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder shapes many of the leading characters to author and television writer Ned Vizzini on the biases against genre fiction that color critical reactions to the series. Contributors: R.A. Salvatore (foreword) Daniel Abraham Linda Antonsson Myke Cole Elio M. García, Jr. Brent Hartinger John Jos. Miller Alyssa Rosenberg Jesse Scoble Caroline Spector Matt Staggs Susan Vaught Ned Vizzini Gary Westfahl Adam Whitehead Andrew Zimmerman Jones

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## Customer Reviews

"Beyond the Wall is a compelling read and provides plenty of food for thought when considering Martin's writing . . . If you're a fan of the Song of Ice and Fire series, give Beyond the Wall a look. It's well worth the time."&#151;GeekDad, Wired.com "Beyond the Wall offers bracing takes on the ingrained sexism, brutal violence, and expectations for female characters in Westeros, while reminding readers that critical thinking is key . . . If you feel like some more insight into this crew of flawed, feral, fascinating characters will inform your [Game of Thrones] Season Three viewing, read on&#151;and good luck putting it down."&#151;BiblioBitch, BitchMagazine.org "A stunning array of talented creators and critics have been gathered into this scintillating essay collection of analysis/reactions to the world created by George R. R. Martin in A Song of Ice and Fire, and Game of Thrones."&#151;The Midwest Book Review "The essays are fascinating and insightful, thoughtful and thought-provoking, and as a whole the collection presents the complexity, depth and richness of Martin's creation . . . Highly recommended."&#151;ScienceFictionWorld.com "A must-have for any A Song of Ice and Fire diehard . . . Whether you be Stark or Lannister, Dornish or Dothraki, Beyond the Wall: Exploring George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire is one book you can trust to feed your Thrones addiction until winter finally arrives."&#151;FanboyComics.net "If anything, this book itself proves that the series has turned academicians on their heads. Geeks, we are finally being legitimized . . . Anyone who is a fan of [A Song of Ice and Fire] should absolutely own this book."&#151;Geekadelphia.com "A great read for anyone who loves the books."&#151;TVOvermind.com "Beyond the Wall leav[es] you with plenty of food for thought but also leav[es] you thirsting for more. It's a great temporary antidote to the long wait Game of Thrones fans are undergoing, both for the third season and for the sixth book in the series."&#151;TVRage.com

James Lowder has worked extensively on both sides of the editorial blotter. His bestselling, widely translated dark fantasy novels include Knight of the Black Rose and Prince of Lies, and his short fiction has appeared in such anthologies as Shadows Over Baker Street and The Repentant. As an editor he's helmed over a dozen anthologies, including Curse of the Full Moon and the recent Smart Pop collection Triumph of the Walking Dead, and has directed book lines or series with subjects ranging from Arthurian Britain to zombies. His nonfiction writing on film and comics has seen print in Amazing Stories, Sci-Fi Universe, and the Smart Pop collections King Kong Is Back! and The Unauthorized X-Men.

Fantastic and professionally done companion piece to the growing multitude of Game of Thrones supplemental works. Very insightful. I was pleased to find that many of the contributing authors explored and analyzed theories and themes I myself have pondered. A warning though, this book is definitely only for those who have thoroughly read the Ice and Fire novels; it is too esoteric and erudite for the casual fan who had only watched the HBO series.

For anyone looking at other reviews I've done on , you'll notice that I either like something in the EXTREME, or really hate an item in the EXTREME. I rate items one star (\*) or five stars (\*\*\*\*\*) (usually) -- not much in between. Ahh, the spoilers. I call spoilers "look forward to's." The fact that this book IS spoilers is a definite plus for me. Why be read such a book series and not peek? I REALLY love (formerly like) this book. I couldn't do without it. I recommend. Five stars (\*\*\*\*\*). Three chapters are must-reads: Petyr Baelish and the Mask of Sanity by Matt Staggs; A Different Kind of Other: The Role of Freaks and Outcasts by Brent Hartinger; Power and Feminism in Westeros by Caroline Spector. Two of my favorites are: Game of Thrones Season One Essays, Game of Thrones Season Two Essays, Illustrated Edition by Pearson Moore, in paper or Kindle.

In the first place, this is not a work of fiction; it is a series of essays that explore some aspects of the fantasy series A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin. Some of the essays are well thought out and offer insight into the characters, their aspirations and possible motives. Others are concerned with the genre of Fantasy and its place in the literature field. Those that deal with the characters are excellent; the others, not so much unless you are a literary critic. If your interest lies in understanding some of the characters, then this book is for you. Otherwise, stick with the novels.

"Beyond the Wall" presents a collection of essays/articles focusing on different aspects of G. R. R. Martin's work, offering insight on the setting, the psychology of characters, and the literary qualities of the books. Reading "Beyond the Wall" helps the reader understand and experience the books much more fully, and is a blessing for a reader interested in the "sources" from which the author derives inspiration - history, anthropology and folklore.

Great book about a great series. I have watched all of the shows on HBO as well as read the books and this series is right up my alley. It is about war, love, passion, politics etc. This book just gives you some insight on some of the outlying characters and the world that they live in.

I've read a lot of reviews about this anthology, and most people say that you can find better material online in the discussion groups for free. While there is a plethora of material online, a lot of it isn't structured or supported by research which was what I was looking for something a little more organized. This novel had a broad selection of essays about A Song of Ice and Fire and Westeros. Some were interesting and thought provoking while others left me wanting. Some of the essays I could have done without were Adapting A Game of Thrones as a Graphic Novel and Collecting Ice and Fire in the Age of Nook and Kindle. What was unclear to me was if this collection of essays was meant to be more academic driven or more personal opinion and speculation. Some of the essays had supporting evidence from outside sources while others were more conjecture or the only support evidence were from the text alone. At the end of the day I tried not to be too hard on the essayists and took what I was reading at face value. Some of my favorite essays were Of Direwolves and Gods, A Sword Without a Hilt, and Power and Feminism in Westeros. I was hoping for more essays on these topics..magic and feminism. I had hoped the essays would be longer with more support evidence from the texts however, I think that could easily gotten out of hand and exceptionally long. So all in all I thought the length of the essays were appropriate..long enough to present and support thesis statements but not so long as to put the reader to sleep. If you haven't read the books I would highly recommend that you avoid this until you do as it contains spoilers and lots of material that could ruin the series if you haven't read it before. I think my biggest issue with this book, was I wanted more essays! I wanted to read more about what academics or professionals in the genre thought about the series and theories they might have. See my full review here: [...]

I like that this collection of essays takes A Song of Ice and Fire seriously. George RR has achieved a magnificent imaginary world with dozens of interesting characters, not in black and white, but in all the colors of the rainbow. It is a profound look at the nature of government, political power; and most especially, gender relationships. The essays particularly elevate the fantasy genre to a serious level. Tom Feagin, Readfield, Maine

Some of these essays have some really insightful literary analysis. Others do little more than summarize aspects of the plot, or fail even at that, making inaccurate statements. I particularly liked the essays on religion, PTSD, feminism, book collecting, and the "genre ghetto". Overall I'm glad I

bought it.

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