

A Clash of Kings Study Guide

A Clash of Kings by George R. R. Martin

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Plot Summary

A Clash of Kings is a fantasy novel by George R.R. Martin, which concerns the struggle for the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. There are several claimants to the throne, including Joffrey Baratheon, the current king, Stannis Baratheon, Renly Baratheon, Robb Stark, Daenerys Targaryen, and Balon Greyjoy. At the beginning, a red comet has appeared in the sky, and no one knows quite what to make of it. Cressen is an advisor to Stannis, who has now been taking advice from Melisandre. She wants Stannis to kill his brother, Renly Baratheon, so Stannis can take the throne. Cressen is shocked at this and tries to poison her. They drink from the same cup, and Cressen dies while Melisandre's amulet protects her.

A man named Yoren helps Arya Stark escape from King's Landing after her father, Eddard Stark, is executed. He plans to take her home. Sansa Stark, Arya's sister, is still at King's Landing. Tyrion Lannister, King Joffrey Baratheon's uncle, comes in and produces a note from his father, Tywin Lannister, proclaiming Tyrion to be the adviser of the king until Tywin can be there. His sister, Cersei Lannister, is angry, but Tyrion says he will get Jaime Lannister, their brother and Cersei's lover, back from the Starks. Tyrion lets her know he knows her children were not Robert Baratheon's, but Jaime's. Bran Stark, Robb Stark's brother, is at Winterfell, out of harm's way, while Robb and their mother, Catelyn, are at Riverrun and are planning where to strike next. Several city watch members meet Arya's group and try to take her friend, Gendry, who is one of the bastards of Robert Baratheon. Yoren runs them off, but they have to flee quickly before the city watch comes back.

Jon Snow, Robb Stark's illegitimate brother, is a member of the Night's Watch, who guard the Wall to the north. Catelyn and Robb Stark are discussing terms of peace to be delivered to the Lannisters. Catelyn wants to get her daughters, Arya and Sansa, back. Robb sends Theon Greyjoy to Theon's father, Balon Greyjoy, to send a message asking him to ally with Robb. Tyrion Lannister sends Ser Jonas Slynt to the Night's Watch as punishment and appoints Ser Jacelyn Bywater in his place as commander of the city watch. Stannis Baratheon prepares a letter that will stake his claim as king and reveal Cersei's children as bastards. Melisandre proclaims Stannis a legendary hero reborn. Theon Greyjoy goes to see his father, Balon, with a message from Robb to declare peace. Balon is not happy his son is supporting Robb and rejects the message.

Daenerys Targaryen is leading her people through a desert on the continent. They have few supplies, and people are dying. They find the city of Quarth. Jon Snow and the other Night's Watch rangers find an empty wilding village and don't know what to make of it. The wildings are a free people who live north of the Wall which separates the Seven Kingdoms from the wild north. Arya Stark and her group come to a river, but they can't find a boat. They stop in a town. During the night, they are raided by Ser Amory Lorch. Arya helps the other children get away. She gives three prisoners an ax to get out of the wagon in which they are locked. Cersei Lannister gets the letter claiming her children as bastards, and she is furious. Tyrion has the armorers begin work on a large chain. Tyrion tells three men, Pycelle, Petyr, and Varys, differing stories about where he



plans to send Cersei's children in order to find out which of them is a spy for her. Sansa receives a note from Ser Dontos, who tells her he can help her escape King's Landing and get back to his family.

Arya Stark, Gendry, and the other orphans run into Gregory Clegane, an ally of the Lannisters. Tyrion receives the terms of peace that Robb Stark has sent. He won't agree to them, but says they are a good start. Cersei comes to him, mad that he wants to send her daughter Myrcella to Prince Doran Martell. Tyrion now knows Pycelle is a spy for Cersei. Bran Stark meets Meera and Jojen Reed, a brother and sister who know about his connection with a direwolf. Catelyn Stark goes to meet with Renly Baratheon. Renly wants Robb to swear loyalty to him and help him defeat the Lannisters. Stannis Baratheon begins to attack Storm's End, a holdfast of Renly's. Jon Snow and the other rangers find more deserted wilding villages. They stop at Craster's Keep to rest, and Craster tells them the wildings are gathering in the mountains to attack the wall.

Theon meets his sister, Asha, at the docks, and she mocks him for being out of touch with their way of life. Balon Greyjoy has Asha and Theon invade several forts that the Starks hold. Tyrion Lannister meets with Ser Cleos Frey to get Robb Stark's peace terms. He sends Ser Cleos back with terms of his own. Arya Stark is forced to work as a servant at Harrenhal by Ser Gregor Clegane. Daenerys Targaryen arrives in Qarth, where she debates how to get an army and ships. Jojen Stark tells Bran how he has prophetic dreams. He says Bran must seek out a three-eyed crow in the north. Meera tells Bran about one of Jojen's dreams, so when it comes true he will know Jojen is telling the truth. Tyrion blackmails Ser Lancel to spy on Cersei for him. At Harrenhal, Arya Stark meets Jaqen, one of the prisoners she freed. Jaqen tells her she may name three people to die in return for saving him and the other two prisoners. She has him kill Chiswyck.

Catelyn Stark is meeting with Renly and Stannis Baratheon. They plan to battle the next morning. King Joffrey beats Sansa, since her brother, Robb, won a battle against the Lannisters. Renly is getting prepared for the battle when a shadow enters the tent and slits his throat. Brienne is blamed, but Catelyn clears her and the two women flee. In the north, the Night's Watch group arrives at the Fist of the First Men. Bran learns that Jojen's dreams are real. Jojen says he sees Bran and his brother Rickon lying dead with skinned faces. Tyrion sends envoys to recruit Renly's followers. Theon Greyjoy plots to capture Winterfell. Arya has Jaqen kill a steward at Harrenhal. Catelyn returns to Riverrun with Brienne. Her brother, Edmure, is preparing to attack Tywin Lannister's army. Daenerys can't find assistance in Qarth, but plans to visit the warlocks, a group of magic workers, before she leaves.

Tyrion watches as his niece, Myrcella, is sent to Dorne on a ship. When the court returns to the castle, a riot breaks out. Ser Davos is at Storm's End, where Stannis is besieging the castle. Stannis sends Melisandre to create a shadow to kill the commander of the castle. Jon Snow is sent out with a small party to investigate what the wildings are doing. Catelyn goes to interrogate Ser Cleos and learns about Tyrion's peace terms. Bran Stark wakes up and learns Theon Greyjoy has captured Winterfell. At Harrenhal, a group of northmen loyal to Arya's brother Robb are brought in as



prisoners. Arya gets Jaqen to help her free them. When they free them, they learn the northmen are there as part of a plot to take the castle from Ser Gregor Clegane and the Lannister men. Daenerys visits the House of the Undying, where she sees many visions of past and future events. She takes one of her dragons, who helps her escape from the house by burning it down.

Tyrion has his alchemists prepare wildfire in case King's Landing is attacked. Bran, Rickon, Jojen, Osha and Meera escape from Winterfell. Theon tries to track them down. Jon Snow and his party capture a wildling woman, who tells them the wildlings are looking for something in the mountains to help them breach the Wall. They let her go, but soon their position is revealed and they flee back to the fort. Catelyn interrogates Jaime Lannister, Tyrion's brother. He admits he is the father of his sister Cersei's children. He mocks Catelyn, who asks Brienne for her sword. Theon Greyjoy shows the people of Winterfell the bodies of Bran and Rickon, although he actually killed two other boys. Stannis' army begins to attack King's Landing.

Ser Davos is commanding Stannis' fleet. The fleet is winning the battle when Davos notices a Lannister boat leaking wildfire. Another ship hits it and the wildfire explodes. Davos is thrown overboard and drifts out to sea while his fleet is destroyed. Tyrion is pleased his plan with the wildfire worked. Some of Stannis' army is preparing to break down the city gate. Tyrion leads the men out to stop them. The attack succeeds, but Tyrion is wounded when one of his men turns on him. The Lannister army successfully repels Stannis and his forces. Daenerys is trying to find a ship. She is met by two men sent from Pentos to bring her there, and she agrees to go. Arya Stark escapes from Harrenhal. She wants to get back to her family at Riverrun.

Joffrey meets with the court to reward the heroes of the war and punish the prisoners. He decides to marry Margaery Tyrell instead of Sansa, which makes Sansa very happy. Ser Dontos tells her she will be able to escape back to her home in Riverrun on Joffrey's wedding day. Theon is at Winterfell, but his castle is invaded by Ramsey Snow, who kill all his men and burn the castle. Jon Snow's party is caught by the wildlings. He pretends to join them in order to spy on them for the Night's Watch. Bran, Rickon, Meera, Jojen, and Osha emerge from the crypts at Winterfell and see everything is destroyed. Osha takes Rickon and Bran; Meera, and Jojen go north to search for the three-eyed crow.



Chapter 1, Prologue, Maester Cressen

Chapter 1, Prologue, Maester Cressen Summary

Maester Cressen is at Dragonstone, the home of the Targaryens. He watches a red comet in the sky, which he thinks may be a bad omen. Maester Pylos comes and tells him Shireen and her fool, Patchface, want to see the white raven, which has just arrived from the Citadel. The raven signals the decade-long summer is over. Shireen tells Cressen about her dreams of dragons that are coming to eat her, but Cressen says there aren't dragons living anymore. Shireen said she heard the servants saying the red woman, Melisandre, said the comet in the sky is Dragonbreath. Shireen thinks dragons are coming back to life. Pylos brings the white raven to them. Patchface sings a song about shadows coming, which disturbs Shireen. Pylos comes and tells Cressen that Ser Davos Seaworth has returned and has been talking with Stannis.

Cressen goes to see Stannis, who has declared himself King. He meets Ser Davos Seaworth on the way. Ser Davos has met with some of the lords, but none want to be loyal to Stannis, instead choosing to be loyal to Renly Baratheon. Cressen meets with Stannis, who is upset because the other lords don't want to join him. Cressen suggests he ally with Renly and Robb Stark, the other claimants, but Stannis refuses. Cressen also suggests Shireen could marry Robert Arryn. Stannis' wife, Selyse, overhears and tells Cressen that Stannis doesn't need his advice. Selyse also tells him Melisandre has had a vision of Renly dead. She says Stannis must make himself known as claimant to the throne and kill his brother. Cressen tells Stannis he shouldn't do this. When Stannis doesn't listen, Cressen plots to stop them by poisoning Melisandre. At the banquet that night, Cressen arrives late and sees Pylos in his spot. Stannis says that Pylos will replace Cressen. Cressen attempts to poison Melisandre, but when they both drink from the cup, Melisandre is unharmed and Cressen dies. Melisandre's amulet has protected her from the poison.

Chapter 1, Prologue, Maester Cressen Analysis

Maester Cressen is doubtful that Stannis Baratheon is trying to win the war through nefarious means. Cressen doesn't believe Stannis should want his brother, Renly Baratheon, to die to make it easier for Stannis to claim the throne. Cressen feels as though his advice is not valued, and he fears Stannis is too much under the influence of Melisandre. There is no love lost between Stannis and Renly, which Cressen knows, but he does not believe this is grounds for wanting Renly dead.

Melisandre has strange powers and visions, and Cressen does not believe her plans will help Stannis win the crown without losing his soul in the process. Cressen's uselessness is proved when Stannis appoints Maester Pylos to replace Cressen as his chief advisor. Cressen plots to kill Melisandre by giving her a poison cup at the banquet. When he arrives late and learns he is replaced by Pylos, Cressen is desperate to save



his king. He is willing to kill himself in order to take down Melisandre, as he feels she is more likely to drink from the suspicious cup if he does as well. Cressen always remains loyal to Stannis, and his death is a result of his attempts to protect Stannis from what Cressen feels are evil influences. However, Melisandre's amulet protects her, showing just how powerful she is.



Chapter 2, Arya and Chapter 3, Sansa

Chapter 2, Arya and Chapter 3, Sansa Summary

Yoren helps Arya escape from King's Landing after her father, Eddard Stark, is executed. Arya pretends to be an orphan boy traveling with Yoren's band of men he has recruited for the Night's Watch. Yoren plans to take her to her home at Winterfell. Arya is teased by two orphan boys, Lommy Greenhands and Hot Pie, who want her sword. Arya attacks them until Yoren stops her and admonishes her. Yoren tells Arya that her father was supposed to be joining the watch, but was killed instead by King Joffrey Baratheon. He said this is why Yoren was waiting at King's Landing.

Sansa Stark goes with Ser Arys to a tournament honoring King Joffrey. Sansa is engaged to Joffrey. Arys tells Sansa that Joffrey's grandfather, Lord Tywin Lannister, was ordered by Joffrey's mother, Cersei, to bring his army to King's Landing. However, Tywin has refused. At the tournament, there are only a few people there for security reasons. Joffrey's brother, Tommen, is happy because he gets to participate. Joffrey gets angry because the knights in the tournament aren't very good. One knight, Ser Dontos, is too drunk to participate. Joffrey wants to kill him, but Sansa suggests Joffrey make him a fool, and he agrees. Joffrey wants the tournament to end, but he lets Tommen ride. During Tommen's ride, Joffrey's uncle, Tyrion Lannister, rides in.

Chapter 2, Arya and Chapter 3, Sansa Analysis

Arya Stark was taken from King's Landing after her father, Eddard Stark's, execution. With her father dead, it is no longer safe for Arya to be in the city, as the Lannisters will use her as a hostage in the war against Robb Stark. Yoren, who was supposed to take Eddard to the Night's Watch before Eddard was killed, helps Arya get out of the city for her own protection. He says he will take her home to her mother, Catelyn Stark, at Riverrun. Yoren is not part of the war on either side; however, he seems to be noble and honest in his willingness to protect Arya. He helps her disguise herself as a boy, and admonishes her to stay in character if she doesn't want to be caught again.

Meanwhile, Sansa Stark is still held at King's Landing. She is engaged to King Joffrey, and while she may have loved him at one time, she does not anymore. Joffrey ordered her father to be killed, and he frequently orders his Kingsguard to beat her. She is well aware of Joffrey's cruelty now, and while she may have trusted the Lannisters in the past, she knows better now. Sansa wants to return to her family, but she does not have a way to escape. Tyrion Lannister, when he returns, promises not to hurt her, which she appreciates, but she has seen too much cruelty from the Lannisters to trust him.



Chapter 4, Tyrion

Chapter 4, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister goes to meet the small council. He is initially denied entrance by Ser Mandon, who finally lets him in. Tyrion gives his sister, Cersei, a letter from Lord Tywin which named Tyrion as the Hand, the king's chief adviser, until Tywin comes to assume the role. Cersei is angry at this, since she wanted her father to return with his army. The other council members leave the two alone. Lord Petyr asks Tyrion where he will stay, and Tyrion says the Tower of the Hand. Petyr thinks the Tower is cursed, since the last two hands who stayed there were killed. Tyrion says many of the past hands were also killed or fell on hard circumstances.

When Cersei and Tyrion are alone, Cersei threatens him by saying she will claim her father's letter is a forgery. Tyrion tells her he has a plan to get Jaime Lannister back from the Stark family. Cersei updates him on the state of things, including Eddard Stark's execution. She tells him Arya Stark managed to escape, and they only have Sansa Stark. Eddard was not supposed to be executed, but Joffrey made the decision to do it. Tyrion lets her know he knows her children were not Robert's, but instead born of incest with their brother, Jaime. Cersei also tells him she helped to orchestrate Robert Baratheon's hunting accident by giving him stronger wine than he was used to. Tyrion leaves his sister and returns to his inn. Varys, the head spy of the king, is at the inn, and tells Tyrion that he can't hide anything from Varys. Tyrion goes to his room and has sex with Shae, a whore. He tells her he will do justice in King's Landing, because that's what Cersei doesn't expect.

Chapter 4, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister returns to King's Landing as King Joffrey's adviser, in place of his father, Tywin Lannister. Tyrion knows that Cersei is not capable of leading a kingdom, as much as she wants to. He finds several blunders Cersei has made to worsen the Lannisters' position. Tyrion finds Cersei to be unnecessarily cruel at times. He plans to lead the people by doing them justice, for he knows the smallest moves have repercussions. Tyrion also wants to ferret out the spies and dishonest people who he feels are poison and will work for their own means, not for the good of all. He does not trust Lord Petyr Littlefinger or Varys, although he knows Varys is necessary to get things done. Mainly, Tyrion works with Varys to hide Shae, a whore who his father will kill if he learns Tyrion is with her.



Chapter 5, Bran and Chapter 6, Arya

Chapter 5, Bran and Chapter 6, Arya Summary

Bran Stark is in bed at Winterfell, listening to his direwolf, Summer, and another wolf howling outside. Bran has been dreaming of wolves lately. Osha, a woman who works there, tells him the wolves know the comet means blood and fire will come. A white raven arrives at Winterfell, who tells the inhabitants that a dragon is coming. Bran howls with the wolves until Maester Luwin comes. Bran tells him about his dreams of wolves. Luwin leaves to get a potion to make him sleep without dreams, and Osha tells him that the dreams may be the gods speaking to him. Bran also thinks about playing with his brother, Rickon, and Big Walder Frey and Little Walder Frey. Bran finally falls asleep.

Arya Stark and Yoren are traveling north. They meet several refugees who are fleeing south, and one of the men in the group dies. They stop at an inn, where they are warned about the danger to the north and a pack of wolves in the area. Arya thinks one of the wolves might be her direwolf, Nymeria. Yoren tells her the Night's Watch chooses no sides in the war. He sends her to check the horses. Jaqen H'ghar, one of three convicts traveling in a locked wagon with the group, talks to Arya and asks her for beer. The other convicts threaten her and she hits one of them with her sword. The Bull, who is called that because of his bull-shaped helmet, comes out and tells her to leave the prisoners alone.

The Bull and Arya begin to fight, but they hear someone coming and hide. It is the goldcloaks, members of the City Watch who police King's Landing. They demand one of the boys from Yoren, who refuses and says all his men are going to the Wall. Arya thinks they want her and comes out so no one is killed, but they don't want her. The Bull comes out, and the goldcloaks say they want him. Yoren threatens the goldcloak officer, and the goldcloaks leave. The Bull tells Arya his real name is Gendry, and the group prepares to leave. Yoren tells Gendry and Arya to go to the Wall if the goldcloaks catch up to them.

Chapter 5, Bran and Chapter 6, Arya Analysis

The Stark family is closely intertwined with wolves, and many members of the family have direwolves. Direwolves and their humans can communicate through their minds. Bran dreams of being with the wolves at night, and seeing through the eyes of his direwolf, Summer. He is unsure if these dreams are good or bad. Osha, a wilding woman who is working as a servant at the castle, tells him the dreams are important, and he should not ignore them. She says they are not something to hide from or be ashamed of; instead, they may be a gift from the gods.

Arya Stark also feels a connection to wolves. She also has a direwolf, Nymeria, but Arya had to abandon her direwolf some time ago so the direwolf wasn't hurt by the



Lannisters' allies. The party travels with three prisoners, one of whom, Jaquen H'ghar, is relatively kind to Arya. This may foreshadow a future friendship between them. Arya is much different from her sister, Sansa Stark. When Arya is threatened by the men, she fights back and does not just sit and take it. Arya is also noble. When the goldcloaks arrive, Arya thinks they are looking for her, and she is willing to give herself up so no one else is harmed. However, they are looking for Gendry, which indicates he is somehow important to the Lannisters.



Chapter 7, Jon and Chapter 8, Catelyn

Chapter 7, Jon and Chapter 8, Catelyn Summary

Jon Snow is in Castle Black, looking for his friend Samwell Tarly. Sam is looking for maps for an expedition into the north beyond the Wall. He finds books written about the history of the Night's Watch and shows them to Jon. Jon and Sam take the maps to the Lord Commander Mormont's chambers. Mormont is arguing with Thoren Smallwood, one of the company's rangers, because Thoren doesn't want Mormont to lead the expedition north. Mormont refuses to take Thoren's advice, so Thoren leaves. Sam is nervous in Mormont's presence and soon leaves. Mormont tells Jon about Maester Aemon and how Aemon could have been a king at one time. Aemon was next in line for the throne, but refused the crown. When his younger brother, Aegon, became king, Aemon joined the Night's Watch so no one could use him to usurp his brother. Jon says he will stick to his vows.

In Riverrun, Catelyn keeps after Robb to ensure Arya and Sansa Stark will be released. Robb is annoyed with his mother and wants to send her away; however, Catelyn will not leave while her father, Lord Hoster, is alive. Robb plans to send Theon Greyjoy to see his father, Balon Greyjoy, and discuss Balon's loyalty. Catelyn thinks Balon won't be as loyal to Robb once he has his son back. She goes to her see her father, who is getting weaker. Ser Bryden Tully, his younger brother, is there with him. He and Catelyn discuss the comet and what it could mean. There are differing opinions within the family, including that it could be a sign of either the Tully's or Lannister's victory. Brynden thinks it means blood. He tells Catelyn that fighting in the Riverlands isn't going well. He says the Lannisters want the Starks to attack Harrenhal since the Lannisters don't have the strength, and it's one of the strongest castles on the continent. Catelyn wants to get Tywin Lannister out in the open so they have a better chance to defeat him. Ser Brynden understands she is saying they should get Renly Baratheon to come north to draw Tywin out.

Chapter 7, Jon and Chapter 8, Catelyn Analysis

Lord Commander Mormont tells Jon Snow a story about Maester Aemon's reason for joining the watch. Jon is an illegitimate son of Eddard Stark and the brother to Robb Stark. Robb is a claimant to the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. Mormont uses the story to illustrate how Jon may be used to usurp his brother, although it is unlikely, since Jon is a bastard. Jon tells Mormont that he will not allow himself to be used in this way. Jon is very committed to his vows and the Night's Watch and will not break them to hurt Robb's chances at being king. Jon's feelings towards Robb seem to be favorable, and he does not have any reason to want to hurt him.

As for Robb Stark, he doesn't want to listen to his mother, Catelyn Stark. Catelyn is afraid Robb is not making the best decisions, and she tries to help him. However Robb,



while kind to his mother, does not want to listen to her suggestions. Robb wants her to go back to Winterfell, ostensibly for her safety, but actually to get her out of his way. It is clear he loves his mother, but he has his own noble ideas about how to deal with the Lannisters. Catelyn also doubts his decision to send Theon Greyjoy as an envoy to his father, Balon Greyjoy. She feels Balon won't want to be loyal to Robb once he has his son back and Robb has less leverage on him.



Chapter 9, Tyrion and Chapter 10, Arya

Chapter 9, Tyrion and Chapter 10, Arya Summary

Tyrion Lannister drinks with Lord Janos Slynt of the city watch. They discuss finding a successor to Janos as head of the watch when Janos leaves to rule Harrenhal, and Janos gives him a list of six men he thinks are best. Tyrion considers Ser Jacelyn Bywater, who was knighted after losing his hand in a battle, but Janos says he is too stolid and is also crippled. Janos wants Allar Deem, but Tyrion says no one likes Allar, who Janos sent to kill a baby in a tavern one time and he also killed the mother needlessly. The baby was King Robert's bastard, but Janos won't tell him who ordered it killed. They discuss Eddard's execution. Tyrion insults Janos, tells him his children will inherit his land and that Janos is going to join the Night's Watch. Janos leaves and meets Jacelyn, who already has been given the position as city watch commander.

Tyrion tells Jacelyn that Janos is to be sent north to the Wall, along with the six men Janos recommended for commander. He also tells him that Allar should be lost at sea. Varys enters and Tyrion is angry that Varys hadn't told him that Cersei was the one who ordered Slynt to have Allar kill the baby, Robert's bastard. Varys tells him he was able to get another of Robert's bastards out of the city. They discuss other intelligence Varys has learned, including the defection of some men and that prophets are in the streets preaching about the comet. After he leaves, Tyrion sees Bronn and gets an update on the sellswords or mercenaries that Bronn is recruiting. Tyrion asks Bronn if he would kill a baby without question. Bronn says no, he would ask how much.

Arya Stark, Yoren and the group are taking backwoods trails to avoid the goldcloaks' pursuit. The boys are in awe of Gendry, since he must be special if the queen wants him. Gendry tells them he doesn't know why she would want him. Supplies are low, and the group is living on what they can hunt and forage. Arya catches a rabbit and everyone shares it. They come upon a ruined area, a holdfast, and find two survivors of an attack, a one-armed woman and little girl. The woman dies that night. Arya goes to the bathroom in the woods, where she sees a wolf. It doesn't harm her, and when she goes back she tells Yoren about it. Yoren says they probably should have taken another route or a ship.

Chapter 9, Tyrion and Chapter 10, Arya Analysis

Ser Jonas Slynt is one of the men who Tyrion Lannister does not trust. Tyrion hides this from Janos as he asks who Janos would recommend for the head of the city watch. Janos is supposed to become lord of Harrenhal, but Tyrion eventually reveals his plan to send Janos to the Night's Watch. Tyrion does not like how Janos has acted during the war and sending him the Night's Watch is punishment. Tyrion had already planned to give the position to Ser Jacelyn Bywater, but by hiding this information from Janos, he was able to learn that Janos is allied with Allar Deem. Tyrion also plans to get rid of



Deem, who he detests since Deem killed a baby, and the other men Janos recommended. Tyrion knows these men will not be loyal to him, since they have been working for Cersei Lannister.

Arya Stark and her group are fleeing from the goldcloaks, who they fear will attack the group again. The goldcloaks are trying to track down Gendry. The Lannisters know Gendry is a bastard of Robert Baratheon and could be used to show that Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella Baratheon are not really Robert's children, since they do not look like a child who is actually sired by him. As they are fleeing, they meet a woman and a little girl, and when the woman dies, they let the little girl join the group. Yoren's wish that they had taken another route shows that he is not used to trouble on the trip to the Wall. However, he is willing to protect his charges instead of handing them over to the City Watch.



Chapter 11, Davos

Chapter 11, Davos Summary

Ser Davos Seaworth stands and watches as Melisandre has Stannis Baratheon's men burn the statutes of seven gods at Dragonstone as a sacrifice to R'hllor. Any men who tried to stop this are killed or imprisoned. The other lords are unsure about the burning, including Davos, but Davos is extremely loyal to Stannis. Stannis has not only knighted Davos, but also promoted his wife and sons to prestigious positions. Melisandre says there is a prophecy that when a long summer ends and the stars bleed, a legendary hero named Azor Ahai will return. Stannis reaches into a fire in a pyre and pulls out a sword, supposedly Lightbringer, Azor Ahai's sword, and Melisandre claims Stannis is the hero reborn. Stannis cannot hold the sword and drops it and leaves. Davos sees the sword is ruined.

After the ceremony, Davos goes to an inn and meets his friend, Salladhor Saan. He tells Davos that Tyrion Lannister has returned to King's Landing and sent Janos Slynt to the Night's Watch. He tells Davos of the legend of Azor Ahai, who forged a great sword, Lightbringer, when darkness plagued the land. It took Azor Ahai three tries to make the sword without it breaking. He plunged the sword into his wife to finish it, and by sacrificing her, he was able to complete it. Salladhor does not believe this is the sword Stannis pulled out of the flames.

Davos is summoned to Stannis. He meets Ser Axell, who claims he saw a vision in the flames. When Davos meets with Stannis and Maester Pylos, Pylos reads a letter naming Joffrey, Tommen and Myrcella the children of Jaime Lannister, not Robert Baratheon, and claims the throne for Stannis Baratheon in the name of R'hllor, the Lord of the Light. Stannis is going to use all the ravens in Dragonstone to send the message throughout the Seven Kingdoms. He wants Davos and his sons to spread the message to coastal towns on their ships. Davos asks to talk to Stannis privately.

Stannis wants to know what Davos really thinks of the letter. Davos says there is no proof of incest between Cersei and Jaime Lannister. Stannis wants to use Edric Storm, one of Robert's bastards, to prove that Joffrey, Tommen and Myrcella don't resemble Robert. Davos says it would be hard to get Edric Storm there. Davos also thinks people will resent Stannis forcing a new god, R'hllor, on them. He tells Stannis to remove the Lord of the Light part of the letter. Stannis says does not believe in gods, but he can't deny Melisandre has power. He knows he is weak in military strength, so he needs her power on his side.

Chapter 11, Davos Analysis

Ser Davos Seaworth is totally loyal to Stannis Baratheon because Stannis made him a knight and took care of his family. However, Davos is a sensible man, and he realizes



certain actions taken by Stannis could turn the people against him. Melisandre has Stannis burn the other gods to show that R'hllor is the only true god. She also has him send the letter affirming him as the king in the name of R'hllor. Davos realizes some people may resent having their gods pushed aside for Stannis' god, and he tells this to Stannis. Stannis reveals that he does not care so much about the god, but he wants Melisandre's power on his side. He believes her power will enable him to triumph over the other claimants to the throne. To placate her, he will hold up her god as the only true god.

Although it seems many of the nobles in the Seven Kingdoms are already aware that Jaime Lannister is the true father of Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella Baratheon, the people are not aware of it. Stannis' letter will be very damaging to the Lannister family, not only because incest is abominable, but because it invalidates Joffrey's claim to the throne. When King Robert Baratheon died, Joffrey, as the eldest son, was the successor. Since Joffrey is not Robert's real son, and neither are the other children, the crown should have passed to one of Robert's brothers, either Renly or Stannis. This explains why Renly and Stannis are fighting the Lannisters to gain back the crown that should rightfully be in their family.



Chapter 12, Theon Greyjoy

Chapter 12, Theon Greyjoy Summary

Theon Greyjoy is sailing on his ship. He was released by Robb Stark in order to carry messages to his father, Balon Greyjoy. He has sex with the captain's daughter frequently, which makes the captain angry. They land on Lordsport, a town on Pyke, one of the Iron Islands. Theon sees many ships bearing the symbols of different houses, not his father's. Theon decides his father must have recalled his banners with their symbol to hide their plans. He thinks his father wants to be king to bring back the old traditions, not to rule the continent. Theon wanders around the dock, looking if someone is there to meet him. Finally Aeron, his uncle, beckons him. Aeron takes Theon to the castle, Pyke, the home of the Greyjoys. Theon tries to talk to his uncle, but his uncle is quite gruff, very different from how he was when Theon was younger. Aeron does say Theon is not favored by Balon at the moment. He says Theon may also not be his father's heir, since he has a sister. Theon says if they join with Robb, they will have victory. He thinks this is what the comet portends. Aeron thinks the comet signals a return to traditional ways.

Theon learns about the state of his family and several of the officials of the castle. He is taken to a room in the Bloody Keep, which disturbs him since several princes were killed there a millennium ago. He goes to see his father, who is disappointed in him and makes fun of his clothes. Theon says Robb and he are like brothers, which angers Balon. Theon gives Balon the message from Robb, which says if Balon joins with him against the Lannisters, Robb will make Balon the King of the Iron Islands. According to the plan, Robb and Balon would work together to get Casterly Rock, the home of the Lannisters. Balon doesn't think it will work and burns the letter, saying he will get his crown by himself. Balon has a better place he wants to attack.

Chapter 12, Theon Greyjoy Analysis

Theon Greyjoy has been held captive by Robb Stark in Riverrun. During his time with Robb, he seems to have gotten close to him and is loyal to Robb. When he returns home as Robb's messenger, he finds that his family resents him. His uncle, Aeron, tells him he doesn't belong there anymore. His father, Balon Greyjoy, feels Theon's alliances have shifted, and he does not like that his son has gotten so close to Robb. Theon is proud of Robb's plan, since Theon put it together himself. However, Balon does not accept the plan. Balon and the other Greyjoys seem to want a return to the old ways, when they were able to live as they wanted.



Chapter 13, Daenerys and Chapter 14, Jon

Chapter 13, Daenerys and Chapter 14, Jon Summary

Daenerys Targaryen is leading her people through a desert on the continent. They are following the comet, which she believes will show her where she is supposed to go. She doesn't have many assets; no army and her people are dying from the harsh elements. Daenerys has three dragons, which she names Rhaegal, Viserion, and Drogon. She thinks about Drogo, the man she loved who died. They stop at an abandoned city to rest. Ser Jorah tells Daenerys about his wife, Lynesse. He loved her, but she left him because he never had enough money to support her in the lifestyle to which she was accustomed. To support her, Jorah sold some poachers to a slaver, which was against the law, so he was supposed to be beheaded. Lynesse left him to become a concubine to a merchant prince. He tells Daenerys she looks like his wife. Daenerys sends three of her men in different directions to try and find somewhere else to go. One man comes back from the city of Quarth, with three men of the city who wants to see the dragons.

Jon Snow, Lord Commander Mormont, and Thoren Smallwood, part of a large party of the Night's Watch, are in the deserted village of Whitetree, where they find burnt human remains. The Night's Watch know their enemies, the wildings, burn their dead. The wildings are a group of people who live free beyond the Wall. Whitetree is the fourth deserted wilding village they have come upon. The Night Watch members split up to examine the village. No one can figure out what may have happened to cause the wildings to leave. The party continues on, and Jon gives Sam a message to send back to Castle Black about what they have found. Ghost, Jon's direwolf, joins him, and they catch up to Commander Mormont. Mormont says they will find out what happened to Benjen, who led a party of rangers into the north and has not yet returned; they will also find out what the wildings are doing. Jon thinks maybe so only if the enemy doesn't find them first.

Chapter 13, Daenerys and Chapter 14, Jon Analysis

Daenerys Targaryen is the daughter of King Aerys Targaryen, who was king before King Robert Baratheon. She has a claim to the throne; however, her current position is perilous. She has some people with her, but the harsh desert environment is taking its toll in them. She needs to find someplace where the people can rest. Daenerys needs to get her army built up so she can try to assert her claim to the throne. She also realizes Ser Jorah has feelings for her, which troubles her, since she does not feel the same way.

The members of the Night's Watch are trying to find out why the wildings have left their villages. The wildings are a people who choose to live free from the rulers of the Seven

Kingdoms. They live to the north of the Wall. The wildings do not like the Night's Watch or the people who live below the wall. Lord Commander Mormont is afraid the wildings may be planning something, and he wants to find out what it is before it happens. Jon thinks the wildings might already be luring them into a trap.



Chapter 15, Arya and Chapter 16, Tyrion

Chapter 15, Arya and Chapter 16, Tyrion Summary

Arya Stark, Yoren and the company reach the river. The group can't cross it, so they go to a nearby town to hire a boat. The party doesn't find anyone or any boats. That night, a horn blows to signal someone is coming. The party sees riders coming to burn the town. Ser Amory Lorch demands they open the gates. Yoren says he is part of the Night's Watch and they don't take sides. Ser Amory doesn't believe him and orders his men to take the town. The party, including Arya, fights the invaders. Yoren passes her and tells her to take the people through a trapdoor in a barn. The prisoners in the wagon ask her to help them while Hot Pie, Gendry, Lommy, and the little girl they found in the last town escape through the tunnel. Arya finds an ax and gives it to the prisoners, then goes down the tunnel as the fire burns the barn. The tunnel collapses behind her.

Cersei Lannister is very angry at Stannis Baratheon's letter proclaiming her children, Joffrey, Tommen and Myrcella, to be bastards and their father as her twin brother, Jaime Lannister. Cersei doesn't want her children to find out about their true parentage. She wants to burn the letters, but Tyrion says it's too late, since everyone already got them. Tyrion tells her to ignore the letter and no one will believe it without proof. Lord Petyr Littlefinger suggests they make their own rumors, such as Stannis's daughter Shireen is actually the child of Selyse Baratheon and Patchface the fool. Cersei tells him to spread the rumor. The council wonders where Varys is, and Tyrion makes an excuse to leave. He meets with several smiths in his chambers and directs them to make a giant chain. The men are afraid of Cersei's wrath if they leave their regular jobs of making armor and weapons. Tyrion says he if they don't make the chain, he will punish them.

Tyrion leaves to go through the city to see how conditions are. He has made many efforts to find food for the people, but there is still not enough and the people blame him. Tyrion goes to a brothel, where the women will help him since he got rid of Allar Deem. A whore leads him to a room, where he climbs down a passage in a wardrobe and meets Varys. They follow the tunnel to a stable. Tyrion disguises himself so he can meet with Shae without anyone knowing. While Tyrion is getting ready, he tells Varys that Stannis has claimed the crown. He asks Varys how Stannis Baratheon might have found out Cersei's children were really fathered by Jaime, but Varys says he doesn't know. He says maybe Stannis just compared the children to Robert's bastards, since the bastards all look like Robert. Tyrion says he doesn't know if Varys is his best friend or worst enemy, and Varys says he thinks the same of Tyrion.

Chapter 15, Arya and Chapter 16, Tyrion Analysis

Arya Stark shows that she is a brave girl who's not afraid to fight. When the invaders start burning the town, she fights them to the best of her ability until Yoren tells her how to escape. Arya leads the other orphans to the trapdoor and helps them escape. The



prisoners in the wagon know they will die, since they are locked up and cannot escape the fire. Arya gives them an ax to free themselves, showing she takes pity on them and can't leave them to die. Even though the men have mocked her, she risks her life to try and save theirs.

Cersei Lannister is understandably angry at Stannis Baratheon's letter, even though she knows it is true. She wants to do something to show that Stannis is lying, but Tyrion knows that ignoring the letter is the best way to insure people don't pay it much attention. Tyrion knows there is no proof, but if the Lannisters try to speak out against the letters, it makes it more likely that proof will be found. Cersei plans to use rumors about Stannis's daughter being fathered by another man to even the playing field. Tyrion is not very concerned about this. He leaves to discuss the making of a chain, the purpose of which is not clear. He also meets with Varys on his way to see his whore, Shae. Varys is helping Tyrion to see Shae in secret, and Tyrion is unsure if Varys' intentions are good or if Varys plans to betray him at a later time. Both men need each other, but they don't know if they can trust each other.



Chapter 17, Bran

Chapter 17, Bran Summary

Bran Stark is going to a harvest feast at Winterfell. Hodor comes and helps him get dressed. Hodor then carries him in a basket to the hall, and on the way, they pass Little Walder and Big Walder Frey in the yard. The Freys make fun of Hodor until they are stopped by Maester Luwin. At the feast, Lord Wyman Manderly is present and is talking with Ser Rodrik. Wyman says Lord Tywin Lannister has sent him a letter asking for him to remain neutral in the war, in exchange for his captive son, Wylis. Wyman says he isn't going to agree to this.

The next day, Lady Donella arrives and tells Maester Luwin, Ser Rodrik, and Bran that her lands are in danger from Lannister allies. Her husband was killed in the war, and she needs a new one to hold on to her lands. The men discuss who might marry her after she leaves. Donella is too old to have a son, so a husband is the only answer. Hodor carries Bran away to see Summer, his direwolf. Bran sees Osha who asks if he is still dreaming of wolves. He says no, but she doesn't believe him. Bran dreams about a three-eyed crow that night, until he wakes up to the sound of horns signaling guests have arrived. The next day, many of Robb's allies come to ask for assistance with different problems due to the war. A man tells Bran about Stannis' claim that Cersei Lannister's children are actually Jaime Lannister's, not Robert Baratheon. To Stannis' claim that he is king, Bran says Robb will beat him, too. That night, Bran remembers how a golden man pushed him off a tower.

Chapter 17, Bran Analysis

Bran Stark acts as lord of Winterfell while his mother Catelyn and brother Robb Stark are busy with the war. He is privy to the discussions of the men about how the war is going and participates in some of their strategy sessions. Bran's dream about falling is related to Cersei Lannister's children being fathered by Jaime Lannister. The Lannister family is well-known for their golden hair, and a golden-haired man pushed Bran from a window. The man seems to be Jaime Lannister—Bran may have discovered Jaime and Cersei in a compromising position or overheard something he shouldn't have. However, it seems Bran can't remember the accident clearly. He also dreams of a three-eyed crow, although the meaning of this crow is not clear.



Chapter 18, Tyrion

Chapter 18, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister meets with Grand Maester Pycelle, who watches the ravens over breakfast and gives him two letters to send to Prince Doran Martell. He doesn't tell him what the letters contain, although Pycelle is interested. While Pycelle is gone, Tyrion takes a potion from Pycelle's stock of potions. When Pycelle returns, Tyrion says to notify him as soon as a reply comes. Tyrion next meets Bronn, who tells him several people are looking for him, including Ser Alliser Thorne, who has a rotted hand in a jar. Tyrion does not want to see him. Tyrion runs into Cersei, who is preparing to ride into the city to check the city's defenses. She has heard Renly Baratheon is marching on the city with a host of men. Tyrion has also heard this, but he says Renly is stopping at every place he passes and will not be there soon. Cersei wants their father, Tywin, to bring his army from Casterly Rock, but Tyrion says their father won't do it. Cersei asks Tyrion when he will get their brother, Jaime, back.

Tyrion is not worried about Renly since he has never led anyone to war. Tyrion meets with Lord Petyr Littlefinger. He asks Petyr about his time spent with the Tully family. Petyr claims he was close to both Catelyn and Lysa Tully and took both of their virginities. Tyrion asks Petyr to send a message to Lysa Tully Arryn saying they will give her Jon's killer and have Myrcella married to Robert Arryn if Lysa Arryn will support King Joffrey. He tells Petyr he will give him control of Harrenhal if he does this. Petyr greedily accepts. Tyrion next meets with Varys, who guesses correctly that Tyrion wants Prince Doran Martell to join the cause on their side. Tyrion says he will offer Tommen as a ward, as well as a seat on the council and bring Doran's sister Elia's killer, Gregory Clegane, to justice. Varys says Cersei will be very mad if she finds out he wants to send her children away. Tyrion replies that if Cersei finds out, he will know who told her.

Chapter 18, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister wants to discover who in the ruling house is a spy for his sister, Cersei. He goes to three of his suspects, Grand Maester Pycelle, Lord Petyr Littlefinger, and Varys and gives them information about his plans for Myrcella Lannister and her brother, Tommen. He tells Pycelle that he wants to send Myrcella to Prince Doran Martell of Dorne. He tells Petyr that he wants to send Myrcella to Lisa Arryn to marry her son. When he talks to Varys, Varys guesses that Tyrion wants to send Tommen to Dorne and send Myrcella to Lysa Arryn. Tyrion gives a different plan to each of the men, so if the story gets back to his sister, he will know which one is a spy for her. Cersei is mostly concerned with getting her brother and lover, Jaime, back and is not equipped to combat Tyrion's attempt to get the upper hand.



Chapter 19, Sansa and Chapter 20, Arya

Chapter 19, Sansa and Chapter 20, Arya Summary

Sansa Stark receives a mysterious note under her pillow telling her to come to the godswood if she wants to go home to her family. She isn't sure if she can trust who left it or if it is Joffrey playing a joke but decides to go. Sansa misses her old friends and her sister, Arya. She sees Ser Preston is guarding the bridge and is unable to go until later that night when he is helping Joffrey put on armor. She gets to the wood and meets Ser Dontos Holland, who wrote the note. He is not the brave knight she wished for, so she is initially disappointed. He tells her he will begin to make preparations so she can leave. She begins to trust him and hopes he can get her home. He tells her to check in at the godswood so he can update her. On the way back, she meets Sandor Clegane, one of the Kingsguard, who makes fun of her before taking her back to her chamber. He tells her Joffrey was chasing some beggars away. Sandor asks Sansa, whom he calls little bird, to sing to him, but she says she will at another time. He calls her a liar and says the castle is full of them. He tells her he will get her to sing to him sooner or later.

Arya Stark, Hot Pie, Lommy, Gendry, and the little girl return to Harrentown after Ser Amory's attack and find almost everyone is dead, including Yoren. Two men who survived the battle run off and leave them alone. Lommy cannot walk and the others have to help him. Arya climbs a tree to look around. They find a fishing village where there are people. The sneak in at night. Gendry tells Arya he knows she is a girl, and asks who she is. Arya tells him, and the group splits up to search the town. There are plenty of dead bodies throughout the town. They learn that Ser Gregor Clegane, who is loyal to the Lannisters, and his men have overtaken the town. Gendry gets caught, and when Arya and Hot Pie go to help him, they are captured as well. The men make them reveal their hiding place and take them back to get the little girl and Lommy. The little girl has run off, and the men kill Lommy since he can't walk.

Chapter 19, Sansa and Chapter 20, Arya Analysis

Sansa Stark is desperately hoping someone will save her from the Lannisters. When the note arrives, Sansa is not sure if the sender is honest or if it is Joffrey playing a joke. Joffrey has purposely tried to hurt her many times, including taking her up to the battlements to see her father's head on a pole. This shows how cruel Joffrey is to Sansa, since she fears he would get her hopes up just to smash them; however, she wants to go home so badly she is willing to take the chance. Ser Dontos is the one to meet her, which disappoints Sansa, since he is a drunk and not a noble knight. However, she has to trust him as she has no one else to turn to. This is shown again when she meets Ser Sandor Clegane, who mocks her and teases her. She knows she will never get help from him. Sansa is afraid of him and wonders why Joffrey has never had Sandor beat her.



Arya Stark and the rest of the orphans learn that almost all the men they traveled with are dead or dying. The only two who are okay flee quickly, leaving the orphans behind. Arya knows they will need help and cannot survive in the wilderness by themselves. She tries to take care of the kids by leading them towards a town, knowing they don't have much choice if they want to survive. Unfortunately, the men in the town are under the rule of Ser Gregor Clegane. His men show how merciless they are when they kill Lommy since he can't walk. Arya knows they are in big trouble and despairs of ever seeing her family again.



Chapter 21, Tyrion and Chapter 22, Bran

Chapter 21, Tyrion and Chapter 22, Bran Summary

Tyrion is inspecting the supply of wildfire made by the Alchemists' Guild, which are stored in their vaults. Cersei has demanded 10,000 jars of wildfire, and the guild is making them. They also have a few thousand jars left from King Aerys' Day, giving them about 7,000. Tyrion has them send several jars to the city watch so they can practice working with them. He doesn't want Joffrey to learn of the jars, since Joffrey will probably take up the practice of burning people alive. When he leaves, he sees Bronn, who tells him Cersei and Ser Jacelyn want to see him. Ser Jacelyn gives Tyrion the peace terms from Robb Stark that have arrived with Ser Cleos Frey. Tyrion will not agree to the terms and tells Ser Cleos the council will discuss it.

He goes to see Cersei, who is upset he has offered Myrcella to marry one of Prince Doran Martell's family. Tyrion says they need Doran's support, and if they send Myrcella there, she will be out of harm's way. He says Renly assumes Doran is on his side, and if they get Doran on their side, it will greatly help their cause. Cersei slaps Tyrion, then cries at the thought of losing her daughter. She tells Tyrion she wishes she was born a man, and if so, she never would have allowed Jaime to be taken. Tyrion shows her the peace terms, which are unacceptable, but a good place to start. He also knows Cersei will agree to the marriage. He is happy because he knows he has caught one of Cersei's informers.

Bran attends the harvest feast. He has the highest place at the table and the responsibility of sharing the food with the other guests. Meera and Jojen Reen attend the feast as well. Jojen asks Bran about where the direwolves are, although he had just come and could not know about them. Bran leaves the feast early and goes to bed. He dreams about his direwolf, Summer. Jojen and Meera are in the dream. Jojen goes to Summer and touches her. The dream is gone and Bran feels like he is falling.

Chapter 21, Tyrion and Chapter 22, Bran Analysis

Wildfire is a very dangerous substance that will burn anything, and water cannot put it out. Cersei Lannister has ordered the alchemist to make it so it can be used as a weapon. The wildfire unsettles Tyrion, since he knows previous kings have tortured people with it by burning them. Tyrion is well aware of Joffrey's cruel nature and knows Joffrey would be happy to use the wildfire to torture people. Tyrion has also uncovered an informer, Pycelle. When Cersei comes to him about sending Myrcella to Dorne and Prince Doran Martell, he knows Pycelle has read the letter he was sending to the king. Tyrion is also happy about the terms from Robb. He doesn't think they are fair, but that it is a good place to start negotiations. Tyrion seems more amenable to Robb Stark than some of the other claimants to the throne.



Bran Stark enjoys his role as head of the household while the rest of the family is away. He diplomatically shares the dishes at the banquet, including sending some choice ones to people who may not be very important but have been kind to him. He meets Jojen and Meera Reed, who are very interested in the direwolves. When Bran goes to sleep, he has a dream about them visiting the wolves. It seems Jojen and Meera Reed have some connection to the wolves and Bran, although it is not clear what.



Chapter 23, Catelyn

Chapter 23, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn Stark is riding south with some guards from Winterfell. Robb Stark has convinced her to meet with Renly Baratheon. All his messages to Lysa Arryn went unanswered, so they will not have assistance there. Robb has told her that the men need to fight; otherwise, they will grow restless and want to return to their homes. Catelyn wishes her father could have gone, but he is too sick. Catelyn and her party arrive at his camp, and she sees the tens of thousands of men in Renly's army. She meets with Renly and his new wife, Margaery Tyrell Baratheon, who are watching the knights fight each other in a tourney. Catelyn is surprised to see the knight who wins the battle is a woman, Brienne Tarth. Renly allows Brienne to join his Rainbow Guard. Renly tells Catelyn he will see there is justice done for the murder of her husband, Eddard Stark, by sending her Cersei's head when he takes King's Landing.

That night, Catelyn is at the banquet. She speaks with Brienne, who tells her of the glory of excelling in battle. Renly asks to speak with Catelyn privately. He asks about the whereabouts of Ser Barristan Selmy, who has disappeared. Catelyn doesn't know where he is. Renly tells her if Robb pledges loyalty to Renly, he will let Robb rule the north. Renly tells her Mace Tyrell has 10,000 men who will join them, and he believes Prince Doran Martell and the Dornishmen will join with them as well. Catelyn mentions Stannis Baratheon's claim to the throne, but Renly said his brother would be a horrible leader. Renly doesn't consider his brother to be a threat. Renly plans to win the war with his massive army. A rider arrives and tells them Storm's End is being attacked by Stannis.

Chapter 23, Catelyn Analysis

Catelyn Stark leaves Riverrun to meet with Renly Baratheon, one of the claimants to the throne. She does not want to leave Riverrun, but Robb is using this as an opportunity to get her out of the way so he can make decisions without her. Catelyn also does not want to leave Lord Holster, her father, who is very sick. However, she wants to help her son in any way she can. Catelyn is also surprised to see Brienne Tarth win a tourney against many men. Catelyn seems surprised a woman could be so strong and be permitted to fight. Catelyn admires Brienne for her strength and her ability to follow her heart and do what she wants.

Renly Baratheon doesn't believe his brother, Stannis Baratheon, is a real threat to him. He is more focused on the Lannisters, and perhaps doesn't believe his brother would move against him. Renly is planning to beat the Lannisters by force, and therefore Stannis will not be able to move on him once he controls the throne. However, Stannis Baratheon, as mentioned in Cressen's narration, believes that killing Renly will help him to the throne, and is willing to do so. Renly also thinks the Dornishmen will join him;

however, Tyrion has sent a letter to Prince Doran Martell offering Myrcella, so the Dornishmen's loyalty may not be secured.



Chapter 24, Jon

Chapter 24, Jon Summary

Jon Snow and the other rangers of the Night's Watch have found seven wilding villages deserted. They come to Craster's Keep, where they plan to stop. Jon goes back through the group to alert the other Night's Watch members of this plan. Craster is a wilding man who helps the Watch. When they get there, Craster tells them he has not seen the ranger Benjen, but another ranger, Ser Wymar, and his group did pass through. Mormont mentions wights that attacked them at the Castle Black, and Craster pretends he doesn't know about what they are talking. Craster lets them stay the night. Mormont bribes him to tell him what he knows about the wildings and where they have gone. Jon walks around Craster's Keep, saving one of the pregnant wives from being teased by some of the men. He finds Sam and they eat.

The next day, Jon talks to the girl he saved, named Gilly. If her child is a boy, Craster will give it to the Others, which are the wights, undead beings. Later on, Sam promises her he will help her when they come back. Jon is angry at Sam for this and calls him a fool. The men leave the keep, and Jon tells Lord Commander Mormont about how Craster gives away the baby boys. Mormont says the Watch has always known but can't do anything since Craster is valuable as help to the rangers. He tells Jon that Mance Rayder, the leader of the wildings, has been gathering the wildings in the Frostfangs mountains. Mormont tells Jon that Mance was once a member of the Watch who broke his oath. He believes Mance is planning to try to attack the wall, and they must stop them.

Chapter 24, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow is disgusted at what Craster does to his own children, but Jon's commitment is to the Night's Watch and he doesn't feel it is place to act alone to intervene. Sam Tarly is more soft and vulnerable and can't bear to see Gilly in anguish or her baby killed. Jon figures the best thing to do is trust in the commander of the Watch. However, Lord Commander Mormont tells him the Watch has always known what Craster does and have done nothing about it since Craster is valuable to them. Jon is shaken by the knowledge that the members of the Watch could know about such evil and not do anything about it. It seems Jon places more trust in the system than he should. Sam, in his simple way, just offers to do whatever he can to help her. Craster is clearly mentally unstable, and Gilly is willing to do anything to save her child from his influence.



Chapter 25, Theon

Chapter 25, Theon Summary

Theon Greyjoy is admiring his ship when a woman, Esgrid, comes up to him. Theon talks with her and tries to hit on her. They go back to Lordsport, and there are crowds of people there. Esgrid knows several of the people they pass and calls out to them. Theon remarks that she is well-known among the people. Theon and Esgrid get on his horse and go to the castle Pyke. During the ride, he touches her in inappropriate places, and she does it to him. He continues to talk dirty to her, and she seems to respond. He tells her about his family, and when they arrive at the castle the servants reveal that she is actually his sister, Asha.

That night at banquet, Asha is placed in the seat of honor, next to their father Balon Greyjoy. Theon tells Asha he should sit there and she taunts him. She tells him he needs to rethink his behavior if he wants the people and his family to accept him back. After the feast, Balon tells Asha and Theon he is going to set up a diversion, with Theon and two other men invading Stony Shore. Asha will take thirty ships and invade Deepwood Motte. Another main group will take Moat Cailin. This will stop Robb from returning to the north. Theon is mad at his small part in the plan. Asha continues to make fun of him.

Chapter 25, Theon Analysis

Theon Greyjoy does not recognize his sister, Asha, since he has been living with the Stark family for some time. When he discovers she has misled him and let him touch her inappropriately, Theon is shocked and disturbed. Asha clearly knows who he is and purposely led him on so she could mock him for it later. It seems Theon's time with the Starks has softened him and he is unused to the ways of his family. The way he is treated by his father Balon and his sister indicate that they are not ready to accept him back willingly until he proves himself. Balon shows this by giving Theon a small part in the upcoming attack on the Starks' holdings. He also seats Asha in the seat of honor at the banquet. Theon's family is not shy about showing how they feel about him.



Chapter 26, Tyrion

Chapter 26, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister meets with his sister, Cersei Lannister, in her chambers. He tells her Stannis is attacking Storm's End and Renly is going to meet him. Tyrion and Cersei laugh and hope the two rivals will eliminate each other. They have some wine, and Tyrion puts something in Cersei's. She is sick the next day, so Tyrion can meet with Ser Cleos Frey without her there. Tyrion gives Ser Cleos new terms to take back to Robb Stark. He wants Robb to swear loyalty to King Joffrey and return to Winterfell, as well as freeing Jaime. Jaime is to be given command of Robb's men to attack Stannis and Renly. They will also make prisoner exchanges, including the return of Arya and Sansa when all terms are met. He doesn't tell Ser Cleos that Arya has escaped. Tyrion also announces that Prince Doran Martell has accepted Myrcella to marry his son, Trystane, and be loyal to Joffrey. Petyr confronts Tyrion, angry that he was told Myrcella would be promised to Robert Arryn.

After this, Ser Alliser comes to Tyrion and tells him about the wights attacking in the north. Tyrion and the others present make fun of him. Tyrion tells him he can have recruits from the streets and the dungeon. Varys tells Tyrion he has a poisoner, thief, mummer and murderer to act as guards at Riverrun. Ser Cleos leaves to take the new terms to Robb. That night, Tyrion visits Grand Maester Pycelle with some of his men. He tells Pycelle that he knows Pycelle informed on him to Cersei. Tyrion reveals how he told Pycelle, Petyr, and Varys different stories so he would know who the informer was. Pycelle tries to beg and pledge his loyalty to the Lannister family. Pycelle admits he orchestrated Jon Arryn's poisoning, and Tyrion has Pycelle locked in the dungeon.

Chapter 26, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister is able to discover Grand Maester Pycelle is one of his sister Cersei's spies. Tyrion is a little disappointed by this, since Pycelle is the least dangerous of the three, and Tyrion would have preferred to get Petyr Baelish or Varys out of the way. However, Tyrion is pleased he has discovered one of the spies, since it gives him leverage against his sister. Tyrion and Cersei do not get along, and their nice moment rejoicing over the Stannis and Renly Baratheon's battle only sets up one of them to be subverted by the other. Tyrion takes the opportunity to slip something into Cersei's wine, so she will be out of the way for his negotiations with Ser Cleos. Tyrion is well aware that Cersei and Jaime Lannister are lovers, and he does not trust her to negotiate with Cleos, as her passions may get the better of her. The end results Tyrion wants to achieve are more noble than Cersei, but he is not above using subversive methods to achieve them.



Chapter 27, Arya and Chapter 28, Daenerys

Chapter 27, Arya and Chapter 28, Daenerys Summary

Arya Stark is imprisoned by Ser Gregor Clegane's men, along with the other orphans and the villagers of Harrentown. Clegane tortures the villagers each day to learn more about the town, eventually killing them. He wants information on the whereabouts of Ser Beric. Gregor then takes them all to Harrenhal to serve as slaves. Arya recites a list to herself of all the people she hates, including Gregor and some of his men, Sandor Clegane, Ser Amory, King Joffrey and Queen Cersei. When they get to Harrenhal, Arya is forced into service as a servant, under the steward Weese. In order to hide her identity, Arya has the others call her Weasel.

Daenerys Targaryen arrives in Qarth with her party. Ser Jorah tells her they should not trust the men from Qarth and advises they should leave as soon as possible. Xaro Xhoan Daxos gives them a room in his palace, along with many gifts. She sends Ser Jorah out on an errand and some of the other men to reconnoiter the city. She goes to take a bath and think about how she will win the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. She knows she needs to find an army and ships to transport them. Ser Jorah comes back, and Daenerys learns that Robert Baratheon is dead and the kingdom is at war. Daenerys thinks this is good news because she has a better chance of winning the kingdom while it is in the midst of a civil war.

Chapter 27, Arya and Chapter 28, Daenerys Analysis

Arya Stark is a spirited and vengeful girl. She has seen the hurt inflicted on her family by the Lannisters and their allies and desperately wants to do justice for them. She creates her list of people she wants dead in order to remember those hurts and hopefully gain justice for them some day. Although she is only a child, she is determined to right the wrongs that have been done to her family.

Daenerys Targaryen is a claimant to the throne, but she is currently out of the war since she is in distant lands. Daenerys knows she needs to create a formidable force if she hopes to gain the throne. She is in the best position to bide her time and when she learns of Robert Baratheon's death, she knows that time may be near.



Chapter 29, Bran and Chapter 30, Tyrion

Chapter 29, Bran and Chapter 30, Tyrion Summary

Bran Stark and Meera and Jojen Reed are playing with Summer, Bran's direwolf. Everyone else has left after the feast, but Bran, Meera, and Jojen have become good friends. and so they stayed. Meera reminds Bran of his sister, Arya. Bran asks if he would be welcome at their home, and they say he would. Ramsey Snow has married Lady Donella to gain her lands, but Lord Manderly has moved into her castle to protect them. Ser Rodrik has gone to settle the dispute. Jojen tells Bran that he has dreams that show him the future, called greensight. He wants Bran to leave Winterfell with them, but Bran doesn't want to. Jojen has also dreamed of the three-eyed crow. Bran says he has too. Both admit the crow came to them after they each almost died. Jojen tells Bran the crow sent Jojen and Meera there to break his chains. Bran must seek out the crow in the north beyond the Wall.

Bran gets angry at Jojen for question him and insisting he leave and Summer growls and moves towards Meera and Jojen. Hodor comes to chase off the wolves. Jojen also tells Bran his dreams of wolves means he is entering Summer's mind. Bran tells Maester Luwin about what Jojen said, but Maester Luwin doesn't believe Jojen can really do what he says. He does know what greensight is, but tells Bran magic is now gone from the world. Bran tells Meera this. She says her brother Jojen had dreamed of Bran at a meal with Little and Big Walder. Maester Luwin brings them food, and the Walders' portions are dead, but Bran's is fresh. She says Bran will not like his meal as much as the Walders. She says they will wait until Bran understands.

Tyrion is visited by Ser Lancel Lannister late at night, who says Cersei wants him to release Grand Maester Pycelle. He is insistent and rude to Tyrion, who mocks him back. Lancel threatens to draw his sword, but Tyrion mentions how Lancel helped orchestrate Robert Baratheon's death and that he is sleeping with Cersei. Lancel backs down and begs Tyrion not to tell Joffrey. Tyrion tells him he will now spy on Cersei for Tyrion. Lancel agrees, and Tyrion says he will release Pycelle. However, Pycelle will not be able to join the small council again. Cersei also wants Ser Jacelyn removed as commander of the city watch, but Tyrion tells Lancel to tell Cersei that Lancel will get Jacelyn on her side. Tyrion cautions Lancel not to get Cersei pregnant, and Lancel says they are taking precautions. Tyrion goes to the brothel and uses the tunnel to see Shae. On the way, he thinks of his first love, Tysha. He has sex with Shae when he gets there, and thinks that he loves her.

Chapter 29, Bran and Chapter 30, Tyrion Analysis

Bran Stark and Jojen Reed both have dreams about a three-eyed crow, a strange creature. Jojen is convinced the crow can help Bran access his third eye, but Bran is not so sure and doesn't want to leave his home. The crow may be an animal, but Jojen says



it is in the north, which is also the home of the Night's Watch. The members of the Watch are known as crows due to their black uniforms, so the crow may be an animal or a man. Meera tries to convince Bran that Jojen's dreams are true by telling him one dream about Bran and the two Walders. The dream does not seem to make sense, but Meera said he will understand soon.

Tyrion Lannister is able to get Ser Lancel on his side by blackmailing him, since Tyrion knows Lancel has been sleeping with Cersei. Lancel is weak and easily cowed, and agrees to spy on Cersei for Tyrion. It shows that many of the people in King's Landing will only work for whoever has the upper hand at any given moment. In order not to reveal Lancel is working for him, Tyrion agrees to some of Cersei's demands and releases Pycelle. Tyrion goes to see Shae, and his inability to give up the whore is telling. Tyrion was betrayed by his first love, who turned out to be a whore hired by Jaime. Their father Tywin punished Tyrion by giving Tysha to the guards. Tyrion does not want the same to happen to Shae, so takes great pains to protect her. However, his distrust of women is evident in the fact that he uses ugly guards to guard her, so that she will not be tempted to sleep with them.



Chapter 31, Arya and Chapter 32, Catelyn

Chapter 31, Arya and Chapter 32, Catelyn Summary

Arya Stark, Hot Pie, and Gendry are working as servants in Harrenhal. The steward, Weese, is cruel, and Arya adds his name to the list of people she hates. She learns that her brother Robb's army is at Riverrun, and she hears about Stannis' letter proclaiming Joffrey to be a bastard. She knows Riverrun is closer than Winterfell, and tries to figure out how to get there. The Bloody Mummerys, also known as the Brave Companions, come in and cause a fight. Ser Amory comes several days later, with the prisoners Arya freed from the wagon cage at Harrentown, including Jaqen H'ghar. That night, as she is falling asleep, he tells her that since she saved them, he will repay her by killing three people she wants dead. She doesn't know who to tell him, but she hears one of the men she hates, Chiswyck, talk about gang-raping a girl. Arya gives his name to Jaqen, and a few days later, Chiswyck appears to be dead from an accident. Arya is pleased that one of the people she hates is dead.

Catelyn Stark is still with Renly Baratheon's army. They are meeting with Stannis Baratheon to discuss terms. Stannis has been holding a siege on Storm's End, one of Renly's holdings. Stannis arrives with Melisandre, and Renly brings Brienne. While they are waiting for Renly, Stannis tells Catelyn he should have been Hand instead of her husband Eddard Stark. He promises to have justice for her husband's death and to return her children if they are found. When Renly arrives, Stannis and Renly argue, despite Catelyn's efforts to get them to talk calmly and negotiate. Stannis insults Robb and tells Catelyn that Robb will be brought down next.

Renly offers Storm's End to Stannis, but he refuses. Stannis says Storm's End is his by birthright anyway. They mention Cersei's incest with Jaime, which is the first Catelyn has heard of it. Stannis says he came to Jon Arryn when he first figured it out, but Cersei had Jon killed before he could tell King Robert. As for their battle, Stannis tells Renly he must surrender by morning, but Renly believes his forces outnumber Stannis and is not worried. The lords debate what to do, and Renly declares he wants to fight Stannis now and not delay it. Brienne is assigned to dress Renly for the battle. Catelyn wants to leave, but Renly wants her to witness the battle. Catelyn goes away to pray.

Chapter 31, Arya and Chapter 32, Catelyn Analysis

Arya Stark is having a hard time at Harrenhal. She is still away from her family, and the only thing she has achieved is adding more names to her list of people she wants dead. Arya is happy to see Jaqen H'ghar. Although he is a dangerous man, she feels a kinship to him in that they will both do whatever it takes to achieve their goals. Jaqen is grateful for how Arya saved him at Harrentown, and he offers to repay her by letting her choose



the three people who die to replace the three lives she saved. Arya tries to think hard and choose the best one, but when she hears Chiswyck speaking about raping a woman, she names him first. When Chiswyck is found dead, Arya knows Jaen has killed him.

Catelyn Stark is present when Renly Baratheon and Stannis Baratheon meet to discuss terms. Catelyn naturally wants peace throughout the realm, since that would make her family safe. She tries to reason with Stannis and Renly, but neither will listen to her. Renly is too cocky and sure he has the upper hand, while Stannis is bitter towards his brother and wants to beat him for all the slights Stannis has received from his family over the years, whether they are real or imagined. Catelyn is also surprised to learn of Cersei's and Jaime's incest, and she sees that it makes sense in light of recent events in the kingdom, including the deaths of Jon Arryn and her husband. Catelyn realizes both Baratheon men are determined to fight each other and retreats to pray.



Chapter 33, Sansa and Chapter 34, Catelyn

Chapter 33, Sansa and Chapter 34, Catelyn Summary

Sansa Stark is called before King Joffrey Baratheon. She is afraid he found out about Ser Dontos helping her escape. However, Joffrey says Robb Stark's army has beaten one of the Lannister allies and orders Sansa beaten as punishment for it. He wanted to shoot her with his crossbow. However, he said Cersei told him Jaime Lannister would be killed if any real harm came to Sansa. Ser Dontos starts to beat her lightly with a melon, hoping Joffrey will laugh and be satisfied. He isn't and has Ser Boros beat her next.

Sandor Clegane asks Joffrey to stop it after a few minutes, but he refuses and has her stripped naked until Tyrion stops them. He yells at Ser Boros and admonishes Joffrey. He takes Sansa to be healed and to sleep it off. When she wakes up, she tries to leave the chambers to go to the godswood, but the servants won't let her. Tyrion comes to check on her and tells her about Robb's victory and why Joffrey was so mad. Robb's army attacked Tyrion's uncle, Ser Stafford, and his men, killing them at Oxcross. Tyrion tells her he doesn't want Sansa to marry Joffrey. Sansa is not sure he is telling the truth. She asks to return to her rooms, not telling him she needs to be free to meet Ser Dontos again if she has any hope of returning home.

Catelyn Stark is praying before the battle. She kneels to each of the statues of the gods and prays for her family. She believes Cersei Lannister is guilty of incest with Jaime Lannister, and she thinks this is why her son Bran was pushed off the tower, since he discovered some evidence of this. Catelyn is called to see Renly. Brienne and the other members of the Rainbow Guard are in the tent, and Brienne is dressing him. Renly delays the attack until dawn, the set time for battle, although his men try to convince him to strike earlier to gain the advantage. He tells them he wants Stannis' corpse untouched and if Ser Barristan is on his brother's side, Barristan should be spared.

Everyone leaves the tent but Renly, Brienne, and Catelyn. Catelyn tells Renly of her suspicions regarding Bran's fall from the tower. She remembers there was a hunt that day, and Jaime Lannister and Cersei stayed behind. She suggests the claimants to the throne, Stannis, Renly, and Robb, come together to prove the incest charges, but Renly doesn't want to do it. Suddenly, a shadow enters the room and slits Renly's throat with a shadow sword, killing him. Renly's knights come rushing in and Brienne is blamed. Catelyn, however, reasons with Ser Robar and says Brienne is innocent and it was some kind of magic that killed Renly. He holds the others at bay so Catelyn and Brienne escape. Catelyn thinks Stannis had something to do with Renly's death. Brienne vows to kill Stannis.



Chapter 33, Sansa and Chapter 34, Catelyn Analysis

Sansa Stark has further evidence of King Joffrey's cruelty when he beat her for her brother's victories in the war, even though she has been captive at King's Landing and had nothing to do with them. It is also revealed that Joffrey had Sansa's direwolf, Lady, killed, after Arya's wolf Nymeria attacked him. Even though Lady didn't hurt Joffrey, he took retribution anyway. Joffrey becomes more and more of a monster. Tyrion Lannister, on the other hand, shows kindness to Sansa by stopping Joffrey and telling Sansa he wants to make sure she doesn't have to marry Joffrey. Tyrion is primarily trying to bring justice to King's Landing, and he would be true to his word to help and protect Sansa, but unfortunately, Sansa has been too damaged by the Lannister family to trust him. All Sansa wants to do is escape King's Landing and be free of the Lannisters, and she pins all her hopes on Ser Dontos.

Catelyn Stark is preparing to witness the battle between Stannis Baratheon and Renly Baratheon. As she prays, she reflects on what she has learned, and makes the connection between Jaime Lannister and Cersei's incest and Bran being pushed off the tower. She believes Bran saw Cersei and Jaime in a compromising position, and the couple tries to silence Bran. This further proves Bran's dreams about a golden man pushing him from a tower referring to Jaime. When she is meeting with Renly in the tent, she tries one last time to convince him to join with Robb Stark and Stannis, but he refuses. Catelyn seems to recognize the shadow that creeps into the tent to kill Renly. The shadow most likely seems to be the work of Melisandre, Stannis' sorcerer, since she is the only magic practitioner on the field.



Chapter 35, Jon and Chapter 36, Bran

Chapter 35, Jon and Chapter 36, Bran Summary

Jon Snow and the rest of the Night's Watch group have arrived at a mountain encampment named Fist of the First Men. For some reason Jon's direwolf, Ghost, runs away and won't come to the fort. The Night Watch camps there to wait for reinforcements. After preparing the camp, Jon tries to get Ghost to come up, but Ghost is afraid for some reason and refuses. He talks to Sam, who says he's starting to get a little braver. Sam is afraid of what they might find. Jon goes to a meeting with Lord Commander Mormont. Mormont plans to stay at the camp and wait until the wildings come to them. The men are unsure about this, since there will only be 300 Night's Watch and thousands of wildings. After the meeting, Jon is woken by Ghost. Ghost leads him to a cache, which is full of dragonglass, also known as obsidian, weapons. The items are wrapped in a cloth, a cloak from the Night's Watch. Jon thinks the items must have been buried not too long ago.

Bran Stark learns of Robb's victory against the Lannister allies. Maester Luwin tells Bran and the Walders that the Walders uncle, Ser Stevron, died in the battle, but the Walders are not upset. They discuss who will get Stevron's lands. Ser Rodrik returns with a prisoner, a man named Leek. Bran realizes Jojen's dream has come true. Osha takes him back to his room. Jojen visits Bran, and Bran tells Jojen he believes him now. Jojen describes another dream he had about water drowning some men in Winterfell. Bran tells Jojen about his wolf dreams and also about his dreams of the crow and of falling. Jojen says Bran has a special gift and can see through the eyes of the wolves by using his third eye. Jojen says this power comes out while Bran is asleep, but he can learn to use the power while awake. Bran tries to warn some of the men who Jojen saw die in his dream, but no one believes him. Lady Donella is found dead, and Ser Rodrik doesn't believe the Boltons will give up her lands. Jojen tells Bran he dreamt of Reek standing over Bran and Rickon's bodies. Reek was skinning off their faces. Jojen says his visions always come true, and there is nothing they can do to stop it.

Chapter 35, Jon and Chapter 36, Bran Analysis

Ghost, Jon Snow's direwolf, won't come up to the Fist of the First Men, which alerts Jon that something may be wrong with him. Ghost leads him to a cache of dragonglass weapons, signifying there may be some reason he wants Jon to have them. The weapons were buried there by a Night's Watchman, who also left his cloak. Jon thinks that maybe Benjen Stark or one of the other lost rangers left them there, although the purpose of this is not clear.

Bran Stark learns that Jojen Reed's dream has come true. Jojen has dreamed that Maester Luwin serves a meal to Bran, Little Walder Frey and Big Walder Frey, and although the Frey's portion is rotted, they like it better than Bran likes his fresh portion.



The dream is a metaphor for the news Luwin brings of Robb's victory. Luwin is serving them the food in the dream, as he is giving them the news. The Walders' uncle, Ser Stevron, died in the battle, making the rotted meat bad news, but the Walders are happy because they did not like their uncle and hope to get his lands. Bran learns that Robb has a had a victory, which does not satisfy him, signifying the good news that he doesn't particularly like. Bran now knows that Jojen's dreams do come true, and when he hears about Jojen's next dream with Bran and Rickon dead, he is desperate for a way to change it.



Chapter 37, Tyrion and Chapter 38, Theon

Chapter 37, Tyrion and Chapter 38, Theon Summary

Tyrion Lannister learns from Varys that Renly Baratheon has been killed, although no one is sure how. A few of Renly's followers have pledged their loyalty to Stannis, but there may be some the Lannisters can win over. Tyrion suggests an envoy be sent to meet Ser Loras Tyrell and convince him to come to their side. He says they should offer Joffrey to marry Margaery Tyrell, Renly's widow. Tyrion also considers letting Joffrey be with a whore so he will lay off Sansa. The envoy will also try to recruit others of Renly's former followers. Cersei doesn't think this is a good idea at first, but Tyrion convinces her. Cersei and Tyrion each suggest each other as the envoy, but Lord Petyr will go. He takes an escort of several hundred members of the city watch and knights. Cersei kisses Tyrion in thanks after the meeting, prompting Tyrion to ask Bronn to find out what Cersei is up to.

Theon Greyjoy and his men have just finished their planned attack at Stony Shore. Benfred Tallhart, the leader of the opposing force, is caught and spits at Theon. He is drowned by Aeron Greyjoy as a sacrifice for his god. Theon's men are going through the fallen, killing the wounded and stealing from the dead. One man gets in a fight over the money they have found and Theon orders him to be shot with an arrow. Theon meets with Dagmer, one of his men. Theon thinks that what they are doing is not work for a man of his stature. He tells Dagmar that he wants glory and to be remembered. Theon plots to have his uncle Aeron take some of the ships and raid along the coast. Dagmar will attack at Torrhen's Square to get Ser Rodrik away from Winterfell.

Chapter 37, Tyrion and Chapter 38, Theon Analysis

Cersei Lannister and Tyrion Lannister are still grappling for the upper hand in the ruling of the Seven Kingdoms. Tyrion is able to convince Cersei that they should recruit some of Renly's followers and she gives in quickly and is even kind to Tyrion. Tyrion is suspicious of this, since Cersei has never been nice to him, and wonders if she has some trick she is waiting to pull. Theon Greyjoy is participating in the attacks outlined by his father, but he is not satisfied with his small role. He wants to prove to his family that he is worthy, so he plots with his men to get Rodrik's forces out of Winterfell. He tells Dagmar he is not interested in Torrhen's Square and hints that his true target in Winterfell.



Chapter 39, Arya

Chapter 39, Arya Summary

Lord Tywin Lannister is preparing to move his army from Harrenhal, where Arya Stark is working as a servant. Ser Gregor Clegane and his men will also be marching out, but Ser Amory will be staying with Vargo Hoat to be in charge of the castle. People mention Robb's attack on the Lannister allies, but Arya cannot get the full story. Arya thinks all the people she hates will leave before she can kill them and is desperate to find Jaqen H'ghar so he can kill another for her. Weese sends her with messages and beats her if she's late. When she's outside the castle walls in the camps, she thinks about fleeing but Weese will punish her severely if she is caught.

Gendry warns Arya that Hot Pie heard her yell "Winterfell" at the battle at Harrentown. Gendry says he told Hot Pie that Arya only yelled "go to hell," and warns her she better say the same. Arya meets Rorge, one of the other criminals from the wagon. He mocks her at first. She asks where Jaqen is and is surprised to see Rorge is afraid of Jaqen and tells her where Jaqen is. She finally finds Jaqen and tells him she hates Weese. The next day, while the army is leaving, she realizes she should have asked him to kill Tywin or Ser Gregor instead. She tries to find him to change this but comes across a crowd around Weese's body. Jaqen catches her eye and lays two fingers across his cheek.

Chapter 39, Arya Analysis

Arya Stark has a crisis when she has to decide who Jaqen will kill next. She has several people on her list, but when Weese is extraordinarily cruel to her, she impulsively picks him. After she cools down and realizes the army is leaving, she is remorseful because she feels she should have picked a better target. In the long run, Weese is not important, nor has he done as much to the Stark family as the others on her list, such as Lord Tywin. Since Tywin is leaving with the army, she may not have another chance to kill him, and curses herself for her stupidity. Arya also finds out her identity is in danger of being discovered. She must cover up the fact she yelled Winterfell at the battle; otherwise, she may be caught and held hostage again.



Chapter 40, Catelyn

Chapter 40, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn Stark is on her way back to Riverrun with her party, including Brienne Tarth. They meet riders, some of Robb's allies, who tell Catelyn about Robb's victories and that Tywin has left Harrenhal. Robb and his allies are invading and raiding many places in the Westerlands. They were able to get around the Golden Tooth, an enemy castle, with the help of Grey Wind, Robb's direwolf. Catelyn's brother, Edmure, has been left in charge of Riverrun. Later on, Brienne comes to Catelyn in private and asks permission to find and kill Stannis Baratheon. Catelyn wants Brienne to stay with her where she is needed and it is safe. Brienne decides to stay and serve Catelyn. They arrive back at Riverrun and Catelyn discovers her brother wants to attack Tywin Lannister's army. Edmure informs her that Ser Cortnay is asking for assistance and promises loyalty to whichever king stops the siege at Storm's End. Cortnay writes that Stannis wants Edric Storm, one of Robert Baratheon's bastards, and promised to stop if Edric is given to Stannis.

Catelyn asks Edmure about three Lannister men that are hung on the castle walls. Edmure says they came back as guards with Ser Cleos Frey and tried to free Jaime Lannister. One tried to impersonate Edmure, but when Edmure returned to the castle the plot was discovered and the men killed. In the battle, Jaime acquired a sword and fought back. Edmure says Jaime and Ser Cleo Frey are both securely locked up, although Cleos claims he had nothing to do with it. The party enters the castle, and Catelyn discovers Edmure has let many of the peasants stay there. Edmure and Catelyn discuss the next steps of the battle. Edmure wants to guard the river fords so Tywin can't cross. He will also have Roose Bolton's men take Harrenhal back. Tywin will be trapped between the two armies. Catelyn is skeptical of his plan, especially since it removes Robb's men from the home of Lord Walder Frey, who were guarding him to ensure his loyalty. She goes to see her father, who is not doing well, and who thinks Catelyn is her sister, Lysa. One of the men brings her Eddard's bones, and she has them taken to Winterfell.

Chapter 40, Catelyn Analysis

Catelyn Stark has become close to Brienne and wants to help console her after Renly is killed. She feels it is best if Brienne stays with her instead of searching out Stannis. Catelyn may also want to have someone who is on her side at Riverrun, since most of her family and the Stark's men are following Robb's orders. Catelyn is not as concerned with the bigger issues of the war. She is still focused on getting her daughters back. The delivery of her husband Eddard's bones makes this hit home. Catelyn is most concerned about protecting her family above all else.



Catelyn also learns about Jaime Lannister's escape attempt. The men who tried to help him escape are the men that Tyrion Lannister placed in Ser Cleos Frey's party exactly for this purpose. However, the attempt failed and the men were killed. Ser Cleos is locked in the dungeon. Although he protests his innocence, he is a known ally of the Lannisters and they cannot trust him. Ironically, he is telling the truth, since Tyrion placed the men in his party without his knowledge.



Chapter 41, Daenerys

Chapter 41, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys Targaryen rides back to Xaro's palace after speaking with the rulers of the city, the Pureblood council, who refuse to help her. The people of Qarth only wanted to see the dragons she had, not assist her. They do bring gifts to her, which she uses to bribe three of the Pureblood council members. However, she tells Xaro the bribes did not work. Xaro will not help her gain the throne, either, as he has no ships. He asks her to marry him, but she knows Xaro just wants one of the dragons. She wants to go to the warlocks for aid, but Jorah tells her they could be dangerous.

They stop to watch a firemage perform. The crowd says the mage has more power than he used to, and Daenerys sees that her dragons are allowing magic to grow. Quaithe, a woman who lives in Qarth, tells her she should leave and go to Asshai. Daenerys asks why, but Quaithe only says because she will find the truth there, and if she doesn't leave Qarth soon, the people won't allow her to leave. Ser Jorah and other members of the party warn her against going to Asshai. She meets with Ser Jorah, who says their group should go east, but Daenerys wants to go west to Illyrio to hire an army. Before she leaves, however, she wants to meet with the warlocks, a group of magicians.

Chapter 41, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys Targaryen is unable to find help in Qarth. The leaders of the city refuse to help her and do not trust her. One reason for this is that the people are very excited to see her dragons, and the leaders fear their power may slip if they help her. They must also worry that Daenerys wants to take over the city herself. Daenerys knows she needs an army before she can claim the throne of the Seven Kingdoms, so she reconciles herself to the fact that she won't receive help in Qarth. However, before she leaves she wants to visit the house of the warlocks, who she hopes may help guide her in the direction she is supposed to go.



Chapter 42, Tyrion

Chapter 42, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister is at the dock in King's Landing, seeing off Myrcella Baratheon, who is going to Dorne with Ser Arys, where she will live until she marries the son of Prince Doran Martell. Tyrion is surprised how well Myrcella is taking it. Tyrion is nervous about sending the ships with her, since their fleet is already small. When they are back, Dorne will pretend to be making a move to make Stannis' men uneasy, but he will not actually fight unless the city of Dorne is attacked. Myrcella will be safe by this time, and Tyrion doesn't believe Stannis will try to capture Myrcella. Tyrion meets with Cersei Lannister and Ser Lancel, who tells Tyrion in private that Cersei has hired mercenaries to protect her from Tyrion. Bronn, Tyrion's friend, is actually paying the men to placate Cersei. They return back to the castle when the ships are gone.

As they pass through the people, a woman accuses Cersei of incest and someone throws feces at King Joffrey, who tells Sandor to find out who did it. The crowds, hungry and disillusioned, begin to riot and everyone rushes back to the castle. Joffrey is angry at what has been done, and Tyrion slaps him to try to get him to see sense. He says by sending Sandor out, he made the people angrier. Sansa is missing, however, and Tyrion plans to send the Kingsguard to look for her and the other missing members of their party. Sandor comes in with Sansa, who has minor injuries from the brawl. Sandor reports that the people are attacking and there is a fire. Tyrion sends Sandor and Bronn to put out the fire. The Kingsguard are sent to break up the riot. Several hours later, Ser Jacelyn visits Tyrion and tells him the results of the fight. Many people were killed and wounded, including several knights. Tyrek Lannister, Tyrion's cousin, has gone missing. Tyrion wants him found.

Ser Jacelyn tells Tyrion that the city is turning against the Lannisters and Tyrion. They view Tyrion as the reason for all their problems, since Joffrey is only a boy king. The people have misinterpreted his letting go of Janos and Pycelle from the council. They believe he is planning something evil instead of doing good. Tyrion meets with Bronn next, who suggests killing Joffrey, since Tommen Baratheon would be easier to work with. Tyrion won't kill his nephew, however, and wants to concentrate on repairing the city after the riot.

Chapter 42, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister's plan to get Myrcella out of the city has worked. The Lannisters are now allied with the Martells, and although the Martells will stay out of the battle unless attacked, Tyrion hopes knowing there is an alliance will be enough to deter Stannis Baratheon. His control over Cersei also gets tighter, as he is able to employ the mercenaries she hired to spy on her for him. As they travel back to the castle, the group is caught in a riot. Joffrey incites the riot by sending Sandor to find the man who threw



feces on him. Sandor is greatly feared by the people, and they do not want to get in his way. However, the people are hungry and miserable and need to take their misery out on someone. Tyrion is the only one worried about the people who are left behind when the party flees. He is also disappointed to learn all his good works have been misconstrued by the people. Tyrion begins to wonder if what he is doing is even worth it if the people can't see the results of his work.



Chapter 43, Davos

Chapter 43, Davos Summary

Ser Davos Seaworth is now at Storm's End with Stannis Baratheon after delivering Stannis' message. They meet with Ser Cortnay during the siege. This is the first time Davos has seen Stannis since he arrived about a week ago. Davos is surprised at how old and worn Stannis looks, and Stannis has been having nightmares. Melisandre is the only one who has been able to help Stannis, and is closer to him than ever. Ser Cortnay won't acknowledge Stannis as king and tells Stannis he will not give up Edric Storm. He also offers to meet Stannis in single combat for Storm's End. Stannis refuses and talks with Davos on the way back to camp. Davos tells Stannis the lords who served under Renly may not be as loyal as they seem. Stannis asks Davos how well the incest rumors were spread. Davos tells him he is not sure how many believe it. He also says Cersei's rumor concerning Selyse and Patchface reached some places first.

Stannis tells Davos he has been dreaming about Renly's death. He was asleep when his brother was killed, but no one could wake him. However, since he woke with clean hands, he couldn't have done anything. Back at camp, he and Davos discuss what to do next. Davos thinks they should leave and attack King's Landing while Tywin Lannister is not there. Stannis thinks it is too risky, since there are other enemies in that area. Also, people will think he was defeated here if he can't bring down Storm's End. Stannis wants Ser Cortnay out of the way, since Cortnay will not agree to Stannis' terms. Stannis tells Davos that Melisandre has foretold that Cortnay will be dead by the end of the day. Melisandre has made many predictions so far which have come true, Stannis says, including Renly's death. She also saw Renly's army crushing Stannis' at King's Landing, so he needed Renly out of the way.

That night, Stannis orders Davos to row Melisandre through channels under the castle at Storm's End. Davos doesn't trust Melisandre, and thinks she is lying when she says she is good. While talking to her, he realizes Melisandre is the one who killed Renly, although she says she had nothing to do with it. Melisandre tells him she needs to get close to the castle because there are ancient spells blocking its perimeter. Melisandre takes off her cloak and shows she is pregnant. This shocks Davos, but not as much as when she gives birth to a shadow. The shadow straightens up and disappears. Davos realizes he knows who it looks like.

Chapter 43, Davos Analysis

Ser Davos Seaworth finds himself starting to doubt the methods used by Stannis to win the war. He is not one of Melisandre's followers and doesn't believe they need her help to win the war. He doesn't approve of her methods, and although Stannis wants Davos' advice, he seems to value Melisandre's advice much more. He does not believe Melisandre's powers are purely good as she claims. When he witnesses the creation of



the shadow, he is shocked and horrified by it. However, Davos owes everything he has to Stannis and will remain loyal to him. Melisandre's birth of a shadow also proves that she is the one who killed Renly Baratheon. Catelyn and Davos both recognize the shadow as someone they know, and Stannis says his men were unable to wake him at the moment Renly was killed. From this evidence, it seems the shadow that Melisandre births is some form of Stannis.



Chapter 44, Jon

Chapter 44, Jon Summary

Jon Snow and the other members of the Night's Watch have been waiting for reinforcements, which were to arrive some time ago. The members of the Night's Watch could not decide what to do—if they should stay at the camp, go back to the Wall, or attack the wildings. No consensus is reached. Jon is awakened one night by a horn, which is the reinforcements finally arriving. He meets Sam on the way to greet the party and gives him the news. Qhorin, the reinforcements' leader, arrives and tells Commander Mormont they ran into some wildings, which is what caused the delay. Mormont and Qhorin go in a tent to talk. Jon worries that a mutiny may be afoot. He knows Chett and Lark do not want to fight the wildings and may be plotting something.

Jon has a new dragonglass dagger from the cache he found. He gave one to Mormont as well, and an old horn he found he gave to Sam. Jon serves a meal to Mormont and Qhorin and overhears them talking. Qhorin has information on the wildings, who have formed a great army. He has also learned their leader, Mance Rayder, is looking for something magical that will help them get through the Wall. He wants three patrols to investigate what the wildings are doing, and he wants Jon Snow to go with him. Mormont agrees. He also decides they will possibly man some of the abandoned castles along the Wall.

Chapter 44, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow and the other members of the Night's Watch need reinforcements so they can defend an attack against the wildings if it should come. When the horn blows, the men wait to see how many sounds are made. One blast of the horn is for members of the Watch coming and two blasts are for enemies approaching. The men are edgy, since they know the wildings are up to something, and they cannot hope to sustain an attack until the reinforcements come. Jon overhears that the wildings have a great army and are looking for some way to breach the Wall. The Wall is a towering wall of ice that is miles long, so Mormont and Qhorin are unsure exactly what could help the wildings breach it.



Chapter 45, Tyrion

Chapter 45, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister meets with Ser Lancel, his informer. Lancel tells him Cersei will have Tommen hidden away at Rosby to keep him safe from the citizens and from Tyrion. Tyrion is surprised Varys didn't know about this. Tyrion promises to give Lancel a command in the next battle. Later that night, Tyrion talks to Bronn and sets up an ambush to get his men at Rosby to protect Tommen when he arrives. This way, Tommen will still be safe, but under Tyrion's control. Tyrion has enacted a curfew, which makes the people mad, but Tyrion believes it will stop the rioting. The penalty for not obeying the curfew is death. Tyrion goes to visit Shae, but instead of using the tunnel in the brothel, he goes straight to the house where she is staying. He finds Shae is being sung to by Symon Silvertongue. Tyrion tells Shae to watch him carefully.

After Tyrion and Shae have sex, Varys comes disguised as a beggar. Shae recognizes him, which surprises the men, as Tyrion didn't even recognize him. Shae says a whore needs to be able to recognize the man, not the clothes. Varys tells Tyrion that Stannis has gained control of Storm's End. Tyrion is worried for Shae, who may be hurt if Stannis attacks the city. He tells Shae he wants to move her to the castle as a kitchen servant, but she doesn't want to leave her manor. She laughs at him for being afraid of his father, and Tyrion slaps her. She finally agrees after he tells her about his marriage to Tysha, a whore who was gang-raped by soldiers after Tywin found out she was a whore. Tyrion says he will send for her. Varys tells Tyrion that Shae will be molested if she serves in the kitchen, and they will make her a maidservant instead. Tyrion asks Varys how she can get to his chambers, and Varys tells him of a secret door they can use.

Varys goes back to the subject of Storm's End and Ser Cortnay. He tells Tyrion he is suspicious about Cortnay's death, since Cortnay threw himself from a tower when there was no one around, and that magic was probably involved. Tyrion doesn't believe him. Varys tells Tyrion about how he was a servant in an actor's troupe and his master sold him to a sorcerer. The sorcerer castrated Varys and used the parts to make a blue flame, and Varys heard a voice speak in a strange language. Varys says he has always hated magic since then, and Stannis must be evil if he is using magic. Tyrion still isn't convinced, but understands Varys' feelings.

Chapter 45, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister sets up a plot to keep his nephew, Tommen, under his control instead of Cersei's. Tyrion knows that Cersei would do anything for her children, and by keeping Tommen, Tyrion will have more leverage against his sister. Tyrion again demonstrates his distrust of his sister. He also knows the situation in the city is getting worse, and he is afraid of Shae being alone in the city in case of an invasion by Stannis Baratheon. He knows he still must hide Shae from Cersei, but to protect her they need to get her a



position inside the castle. Tyrion is also upset when he learns Symon Silvertongue has been singing to Shae and Symon recognizes Tyrion. He knows that if Cersei gets her hands on Symon, Shae will be in grave danger. In order to convince her, he tells her about his first wife, Tysha. Tyrion is still hurt by what happened with her and does not want the same fate to befall Shae. Tyrion believes he loves Shae and wants to protect her as much as possible.



Chapter 46, Catelyn and Chapter 47, Bran

Chapter 46, Catelyn and Chapter 47, Bran Summary

Catelyn Stark and Brienne Tarth watch as Ser Edmure Stark leads an army out of Riverrun to attack Tywin Lannister's army. Only a small guard remains at the castle. Catelyn tells Brienne they will do their duty now. She goes to the sept and prays for some time, hoping to find guidance for what she should do next. The people at the castle soon learn that Storm's End has been taken by Stannis. Catelyn believes Stannis wants to use Edric Storm to prove that Cersesi's children are not Robert Baratheon's. Catelyn wants Robb notified and learns he is marching for the Crag, home of the Westerlings. She also learns that Ser Rodrik executed Ramsay Snow. Catelyn visits the battlements, where she can see some of the Lannister men trying to get through the ford at the river. The ford is held, and Brienne tells Catelyn that Tywin is probably looking for a weak place where his army can cross.

That night, Catelyn wakes up and watches Tywin's men attempt to cross again. The next day, Catelyn has wine sent to Ser Cleos Frey, who she plans to question later. More reports come in of Tywin's men trying to get across the river at different points. Catelyn goes to talk to Ser Cleos, who tells her Tyrion's peace terms, including the exchange of Arya and Sansa Stark for Jaime Lannister. She also learns that Cleos never actually saw Arya while he was in King's Landing. She thinks that she might be able to trust Tyrion. Tywin launches an attack at several different fords, but hasn't succeeded in breaking through. The castle celebrates.

Bran Stark is at Winterfell and in the middle of a dream, where he is seeing through Summer's eyes. He smells something wrong and tries to get Summer to wake everyone up, but there aren't many men left in Winterfell. Most of the men are at Torrhen's Square, which is under siege from Theon Greyjoy's men. Theon comes into Bran's room and tells him he has taken Winterfell. He says his men were able to scale the wall and get the gate open. He says he will gather everyone together and Bran can yield the castle to him. Some of the men are killed in the process of Theon taking over, fulfilling Jojen's dream prediction. Hodor starts to yell at this, and Theon has him beaten. Reek offers to enter in Theon's service, and Theon accepts. Osha wants to join as well, which hurts Bran. After he tests her against one of his men, Theon accepts her. He dismisses the group.

Chapter 46, Catelyn and Chapter 47, Bran Analysis

Catelyn Stark is watching the men marching out for battle. She has also learned that Ramsay Snow has been executed, which supposedly takes a threat away from Winterfell, where her sons are staying. Catelyn is still not able to participate in the war



negotiations, and her frequent trips to pray may be a way she tries to get some control over the situation. She tries to help wherever she can, including by listening to Ser Cleos. Most of the Stark men are too concerned with battle to take the time to interrogate the prisoners, and Catelyn hopes she will learn something that will help get her daughters home. She finds more to worry about when Ser Cleos says he hasn't seen Arya in King's Landing, and Catelyn worries what may have happened to her. When Tywin's army is rebuffed from breaking through the river, Catelyn does not celebrate with the rest, instead wondering what Tywin may be plotting next.

The threat on Winterfell is not gone, as Theon Greyjoy moves in and takes the castle while Ser Rodrik is away again. Bran Stark is the only Stark present at the time, so he must be the one to yield the castle to Theon. He has no choice, since there is not enough people there to expel the intruders. After Ser Rodrik's battle with Ramsay Snow, he returned and left Reek to serve as a servant. Reek is the former servant of Ramsay Snow. He and Osha are eager to escape their servitude and so join Theon's men. Theon is not particularly cruel to the people of Winterfell, and this may be one reason the changeover goes rather easily.



Chapter 48, Arya

Chapter 48, Arya Summary

Arya Stark is eating in the kitchen with Hot Pie at Harrenhal when a horn blows, signaling someone coming. It is the Bloody Mummies returning, and Arya learns that they have defeated Roose Bolton's men when they tried to cross the river. The prisoners are taken to the dungeon, and the mummies tell Ser Amory that Roose has fled. Gendry asks what's going on and Arya asks him to help free the prisoners, since they are northmen and loyal to Robb. Gendry refuses and says he wants to stay at the castle. She goes to the godswood to practice her sword moves with a stick, and soon Jaqen comes out and talks to her. He is tired of waiting for her to give him a third name. He also tells her he knows who she is. After establishing that anyone she says would have to die, Arya tells him the third person she wants dead is Jaqen. He calls her an evil child, and she agrees she will take it back if he helps her free the northmen. Jaqen has no choice but to agree, and he says they will begin immediately. He sends her to the kitchen to get broth made, and he and Rorge and Biter take the boiling hot broth and throw it at the guards to kill them.

When they get the gate open, they learn Vargo Hoat brought the men in to betray Harrenhal to them, putting it in the control of Roose Bolton. The northmen leave to take the castle, and Arya takes back Jaqen's name. He won't let her name another in its place, since so many of the guards died. He runs his hand over his face and his features change. Arya wants him to teach her how to do that, and he tells her she must come with him across the Narrow Sea. She wants to go to Winterfell instead, so he gives her an iron coin. If she wants to find him, she needs to give the coin to anyone from the city of Braavos and say "valar morghulis." His oath fulfilled, Jaqen leaves and Arya returns to bed. Roose has taken over the castle when she wakes up, and he arrives shortly thereafter. Roose asks how the men were released, and Arya is named responsible for the broth. Roose asks her her name and she answers Nymeria, the name of her direwolf. Roose makes her his cupbearer. Ser Amory is paraded naked before the men and fed to a bear later on that night.

Chapter 48, Arya Analysis

Arya Stark sees the northmen come as prisoners into Harrenhal. She knows most of the northmen are loyal to her brother Robb, and she wants to do what she can to free them. Arya has a very vigilante outlook, as she will not hesitate to kill those who do wrong and will do anything to help those she feels do right. She knows that she cannot free the men by herself, so she turns to Jaqen. However, she only has one more person to wish dead, and he cannot have all the guards dead for one name. She smartly says his name, so he has no choice but to help her so she will take it back. Luckily, once they get to the northmen, they discover it is part of a plot to help Roose Bolton take Harrenhal. Arya believes Roose is faithful to Robb but is wary about revealing herself in case she



still might be more valuable as a hostage. Jaqen leaves Arya, but not before telling her how to find him in case she needs him. He also reveals he is not physically killing the people Arya asks him to kill, meaning something mystical may be at work.



Chapter 49, Daenerys

Chapter 49, Daenerys Summary

Against the advice of her men, Daenerys Targaryen enters the House of the Undying. The house is like a maze and she must follow one path through it, always taking the right door and going up stairs. She must also ignore any who talk to her on the way, including versions of herself from the past or future. Pyat, one of the warlocks, tells her each of the rooms contains visions of the past, present, or things that will never happen. He gives her a drink which he says will open her senses. She goes in with her dragon, Drogon, and sees many visions. Each tableau seems to be a future or past event in the Seven Kingdoms. Some of the things she sees are a room of corpses at a banquet; a man that looks like her brother who says the dragon has three heads; rat-raced men raping a woman, and a vision of the warlock, Pyat. She comes to the end of the hall, with only one door on the left. She figures out that it is also the first door on the right and goes in.

She finally reaches the top and there is a room filled with people who say they are the Undying, however Daenerys realizes there's a small door right before that room. She goes in and meets the Undying, who are a small, blue, old people. They call her the mother of dragons and a child of three. They tell her many prophecies, including that she will light three fires, for life, death, and love; ride three mounts, to bed, to dread, and to love; know three treasons, for blood, for gold, and for love. She gets many more visions of past and future events, which come at a rapid speed. She realizes the Undying are clawing and biting at her and she flees, helped by Drogon's fire. She gets outside and Pyat, one of the city's warlocks, lunges at her with a knife, but her other men stop him.

Chapter 49, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys Targaryen goes to the House of the Undying to seek information that may help her on her path to conquer the Seven Kingdoms. The House of the Undying is a mysterious and unreal place. Daenerys has many visions of past and future events, some which concern her. The nature of the images she sees are not explained, nor are the meanings, but most seem to be a metaphor for actual events. Daenerys is told that she will have three loves, three mounts, and will light three fires, although it is not clear what these are. Daenerys will have much to contemplate about the things she saw in the house. Daenerys discovers that the Undying are trying to kill her, and it is only Drogon that enables her to escape. When she does, the warlock Pyat tries to stab her. It is unclear if he does this because she has burnt the house, or because they are trying to kill her and didn't want her to escape alive.



Chapter 50, Tyrion

Chapter 50, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister is sending some of his men to harrass Stannis' army, which is moving on King's Landing. Tyrion is worried because many of his men are mercenaries and may not be willing to die for him. The City Watch is also strong, but only some of them can be trusted. Tyrion sees there are structures outside the walls which may help the invaders get over and tells Bronn to burn them. He goes back to the castle and placates several merchants who had their ships taken. Next, he attends a ceremony instituting new Kingsguard. Ser Balon and Ser Osmund are replacing Ser Boros and Ser Preston. Ser Boros is being replaced because he didn't try to protect Tommen when Ser Jacelyn's men took him on the way to Rosby. Cersei was angry at this, since Kingsguard are supposed to protect royalty to their deaths; Cersei had Ser Boros put in the dungeon.

Tyrion meets with the high priest and tells him to spread the word that anyone who joins Stannis is betraying the gods, since Stannis only worships the Lord of the Light. Back in his chambers, he gets messages of Stannis' triumph at Storm's End. He also hears about Balon Greyjoy's triumphs in the north. Balon wants to negotiate an alliance with King Joffrey. Tyrion doesn't know what to make of it. He checks on the alchemists to see how many wildfire jars there are. He is told over 13,000, which surprises him, but the alchemists have been able to work faster for some reason. The alchemist thinks there may be a dragon around if magic is getting stronger. Ser Jacelyn, now lord of Rosby, comes to see Tyrion. He tells him Tommen is very happy and safe and can be moved from Rosby if necessary. He doesn't tell Tyrion exactly where the boy will be in case Tyrion is captured and tortured for the information. Varys comes and tells Tyrion a group of men called the Antler men are planning to open a gate for Stannis when he comes. They are the smiths who worked on the giant chain. Tyrion orders them arrested.

Chapter 50, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister has completed his scheme to gain control of Tommen. Cersei is angry since her men were overtaken on the road, and she knows her son is now under Tyrion's control. She realizes Tommen will probably not be hurt, but Cersei cannot bear to not be in control and will probably take revenge on Tyrion. Tyrion has also had the alchemists preparing more wildfire. The purpose of the wildfire is still unknown, but it seems Tyrion will use it as a weapon if Stannis' army invades King's Landing. The alchemists are able to make much more than anticipated, and they believe a dragon may be around, since dragons make magic more powerful. This is probably an effect of Daenerys' dragons, and it is interesting that they can affect magic while in a continent across the sea. Tyrion also finds out that some of the men he had working on the giant chain have turned against the city and are plotting to help Stannis. Tyrion cannot let them get away with this and is forced to order their deaths.



Chapter 51, Theon and Chapter 52, Jon

Chapter 51, Theon and Chapter 52, Jon Summary

Theon Greyjoy awakens in the middle of the night. He feels something is wrong and realizes the direwolves are no longer howling. He sends his men to see what happened and ensure Bran and Rickon are okay. The men come back and tell Theon that Bran, Rickon, and their wolves, Summer and Shaggydog, are gone. He sends out a search party. The people of the castle are angry at their treatment, and Theon is waiting for his sister to send help. The search party finds two guards dead, and Theon decides to wait until morning to search further. The next day, he also learns Osha, Hodor, Meera and Jojen are missing. No horses are gone, so they must have fled on foot. Theon asks the rest of the castle's inhabitants where the group went, but no one knows. Theon leads a group out to look for them, but the trial runs out and they can't find them. Reek says he believes the group is in a nearby mill and shows Theon something he has in a sack, a wolf's head brooch. Theon agrees and sends most of the party back, and he, Reek, and a few others go to the mill. Theon tells Maester Luwin he will "show no mercy to the boys."

Jon Snow is with Qhorin's party, looking for the wildings. They come upon a camp of wilding sentries and Stonesnake and Jon climb above it to ambush them. They attack the three sentries and kill two of them. The last, a woman named Ygritte, is taken prisoner by Jon. They interrogate her and she reveals she knows of the Stark family. She tells him a legend about a Stark woman who loved a wilding king and bore him a child. The point of the story is to show that the wildings and Starks are of the same blood, which Jon doesn't believe. The next day, they meet the rest of the group. Jon is ordered to kill Ygritte, but when no one is looking, he lets her go. She tells him Mance Rayder would accept Jon into his service.

Chapter 51, Theon and Chapter 52, Jon Analysis

Theon Greyjoy is having no luck with his attempt to rule Winterfell. He discovers that Bran and Rickon Stark are missing, along with Meera, Jojen, Osha and Hodor. The exact reason for their fleeing is not clear, but it may be a result of Jojen's dream where Reek was standing over Bran and Rickon's bodies. Bran is most likely afraid the dream will soon come true, and by fleeing the group may be safe. Their escape is another example of Theon's ineptitude. His men are turning against him, and the people of Winterfell resent him. He is also haunted by memories of his family and their disgust for him.

In the north, Jon is with the scouting party when they capture a wilding, Ygritte. Qhorin orders Jon to kill Ygritte, and although Jon is normally very strict about following orders, he cannot bear to kill this woman. He views her as a noble, proud woman and decides to let her go, since no one is watching, and he thinks it will be without consequence.



Chapter 53, Sansa and Chapter 54, Jon

Chapter 53, Sansa and Chapter 54, Jon Summary

Sansa goes to the godswood to talk to Dontos, who tells her Stannis Baratheon is beginning his attack on King's Landing. His men have already started burning the nearby forest, and Stannis and his army are on their way. Dontos says he hears more as a fool than he did as a knight. Sansa wants to escape, but Dontos says it is too dangerous right now. Sansa goes back to her room and climbs onto the roof to see what is going on. She almost falls, but Sandor Clegane saves her. She tries to thank him for saving her from the mob, but Sandor is too angry to listen and talks about how much pleasure he gets from killing. Sansa is disturbed and leaves him. The next morning, she wakes up covered in blood and realizes her period has started. She tried to hide it because she knows now she will be married to Joffrey. However, the servants see the blood and take her to Cersei. Cersei talks to Sansa about marriage and having children, and how hard it can be. She knows Sansa will love the children she has, even if marriage to Joffrey is difficult.

Jon Snow rejoins the party of rangers. When they stop for the night, he tells Qhorin that Ygritte said Mance Rayder would accept Jon. Qhorin agrees, saying he knew Mance when Mance was a member of the Night's Guard. Qhorin correctly guesses that Jon let Ygritte go, and Qhorin understands and is not angry. When Jon falls asleep, he dreams he is in Ghost and sees the wilding camp. Ghost is attacked by an eagle, and Jon wakes up and tells Qhorin. They believe the eagle is a man who can change his shape, and the group heads towards where Jon saw the camp in his dream. They see the camp and the formidable force the wildings have. They find an injured Ghost and see an eagle. After tending to Ghost, Qhorin says the eagle is probably a wilding and they should flee before it reveals their position. As they flee back to the Fist of the First Men, they hear horns behind them.

Chapter 53, Sansa and Chapter 54, Jon Analysis

Sansa Stark is still hoping Ser Dontos can free her from King's Landing and her impending marriage to Joffrey. However, when she wakes up and sees she has gotten her first period, she panics because she knows she is now old enough to be married. Her fear motivates her to hide the evidence as quickly as she can, and the only way she can find is to burn the sheets. Unfortunately she is caught and taken to Cersei. Cersei is surprisingly understanding. Since Cersei was married to Robert, she knows what it is like to be married to someone you don't love. She tells Sansa the truth about marriage and children from her experience, and it seems she actually sympathizes with her.

Jon Snow is also shown as having wolf dreams, similar to Bran's. Through his wolf dream, he sees an eagle attacking Ghost, who is near the wilding camp. Jon uses the information in his dream to find the camp and get the information they need about the



wilding forces. He also finds an injured Ghost, which shows that what happened in his dream was real. The men are discovered by an eagle, which has the soul of a man inside. It is not clear how this is possible, but the eagle spots them and they must flee. The eagle is able to alert the wildings to them, which is why they hear the horns behind them.



Chapter 55, Tyrion

Chapter 55, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion Lannister gets a report from Varys that Bran and Rickon Stark are dead. Tyrion tells Cersei over dinner, and tells her to take good care of Sansa. They discuss further happenings in the war. Cersei is afraid Petyr Baelish betrayed them to Stannis, but Tyrion is not worried. Cersei said Varys told her Sandor Clegane is to fight, not guard Joffrey. Tyrion said that Sandor and Ser Balon will be needed to fight, and that the other Kingsguard members can guard Joffrey, who must be seen on the wall to hearten the men. Cersei threatens Tyrion, as she wants Joffrey well protected.

Cersei tells Tyrion she knows about his whore and accuses him of wanting to kill Joffrey. She brings out Alayaya, the whore from the brothel, who has been beaten. She says she will hold Alayaya hostage so Tyrion will do what she wants. Tyrion is relieved she fell for the decoy whore and doesn't have Shae. Cersei tells Tyrion they will exchange Tommen for Alayaya after the battle. Alayaya goes along with the plan, much to Tyrion's relief. Tyrion says he will hurt Tommen if she hurts Alayaya, and Cersei slaps him. Tyrion threatens her with retribution and then goes to his room. Shae is waiting there. She was brought there by Varys, who blindfolded her so she couldn't see the passage. He is too worried about the state of the city to have sex and just watches her sleep.

Chapter 55, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister knows that with Bran and Rickon dead, Catelyn will be more concerned about her daughter's safety. He warns Cersei she should make sure no harm comes to Sansa, an apt warning since Joffrey is fond of beating her. He also knows Cersei would not want anything to happen to their brother Jaime, and if Sansa is killed, Catelyn would most likely have Jaime killed in retaliation. Cersei also finally strikes back at Tyrion, by revealing she has his whore. Unfortunately for her, she got the wrong woman, and Tyrion is relieved his feint worked. However, he does care for Alayaya as a person and doesn't want to see Cersei harm her. Tyrion is not as secure as he thought he would be when Cersei finally comes out and threatens him.



Chapter 56, Catelyn

Chapter 56, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn Stark is eating with Brienne. The rest of the castle is celebrating Edmure Stark and Robb Stark's victories, but Catelyn is distraught because of Bran and Rickon Stark's deaths. She tells Brienne about their deaths, and how she wants her daughters back. She asks Brienne to go and question Jaime Lannister with her that night. She has wine sent to Jaime in the dungeon and goes to see her father, Lord Hoster. He is asleep, but she sits and talks to him for a while. Catelyn and Brienne go to the dungeon to see Jaime. Jaime hasn't drunk the wine, fearing it was poisoned. He needles Catelyn until she is about to leave, then he relents. He agrees to answer her questions if she gives him information.

Jaime admits he is the father of Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella, and that he pushed Bran out the tower window. Jaime starts to drink the wine. He says his family had nothing to do with another assassination attempt on Bran, however. Catelyn tells him how a dagger was found that was thought to be won in a wager by Tyrion. Tyrion was supposed to have bet on Petyr Baelish in a tournament. Jaime says Tyrion always bet on Jaime, and Jaime lost that tournament. Jaime does remember Robert having a dagger like it. Catelyn tells him Robb has taken the Crag. He tells her how the past king, Aerys, had Catelyn's first husband, Brandon Stark, watch his father, Rickard, burned alive. He begins insulting Catelyn again, along with her late husband Eddard, and she calls for Brienne to get her sword.

Chapter 56, Catelyn Analysis

Catelyn Stark has learned about the deaths of her sons Bran and Rickon, and she is full of grief. The most important thing for Catelyn has always been her family, and the loss of her sons so soon after her husband is a crushing blow. Catelyn now focuses on the fight to save her daughters and knows she must act immediately to try to get them back. She goes to interrogate Jaime Lannister, possibly to see if it is worth exchanging him for her daughters. She tests Jaime by seeing how much he will tell her. Jaime admits his incest with Cersei, and his attempt to silence Bran by throwing him out the window. Catelyn seems both disgusted and fascinated by him and his strength to survive in the awful conditions of the dungeons. When he begins to insult her, she calls Brienne and asks for Brienne's sword. What she plans to do with it is not clear.



Chapter 57, Theon

Chapter 57, Theon Summary

Reek wakes Theon Greyjoy up from a nightmare to tell him his sister has arrived. He goes to see his sister, Asha. Theon has had bad luck since killing Bran and Rickon at the mill, and the people of the castle have begun to ambush and kill his men. Asha makes fun of her brother for killing children. After they were brought back, the boys' heads were mounted on the wall. The heads were tarred and skinned. Asha and Theon go talk in private. Asha tells him the other battles are going poorly for their side, and some of Robb's men are coming to take back Winterfell.

Asha tells Theon he won't be able to hold the castle, but he thinks she is just jealous. She tells him it was a mistake to keep the castle, and he should have burnt it and taken the boys back to Pyke for hostages. She leaves him only a few reinforcements. Reek says he can round up some men in exchange for one of the servant girls. That night, Theon can't sleep. Maester Luwin makes him a sleeping potion, but Theon doesn't trust him enough to take it. The next morning, when he sees the heads on the wall, he thinks about the mill and how they killed the miller's boys and pretended they were Bran and Rickon. Reek took the skin off their faces, and they dressed the bodies in the Starks' clothing.

Chapter 57, Theon Analysis

Theon Greyjoy meets with his sister, Asha, who mocks him for taking over a landlocked castle and killing two children. The Greyjoys are sea-faring people and an important aspect of taking over a castle is making sure there is a supply line available. Asha tells Theon he should have taken over somewhere near the sea, so he could easily get reinforcements and supplies. Theon can do nothing right in his family's eyes, and he knows it. His killing of Bran and Rickon Stark was also a mistake, since it turned the people of Winterfell against him. It will also cause more trouble between the Starks and the Greyjoys, and the Starks will soon try to reclaim the castle. It is clear Theon does not think before he acts and does not know how to win back his family's honor. Reek offers to get men, and Theon does not believe he will get many, since Reek is only a servant. Nevertheless, he must take what he can get.



Chapter 58, Sansa and Chapter 59, Davos

Chapter 58, Sansa and Chapter 59, Davos Summary

Sansa Stark is watching King Joffrey prepare for battle. Joffrey shows her his new sword and makes her kiss the blade before riding off to take command of the three massive trebuchets in the city. Sansa goes to the sept to sing and pray with the others, but leaves when the priest begins a blessing on Joffrey. She goes to Cersei, who is sitting with all the women of the castle. The women will banquet while the fighting goes on. Ser Ilyn, the captain of the queen's new guard, is there and Sansa asks why. Cersei tells her she wants him there for protection, and to protect against the other guards, since they are all mercenaries. Sansa says he is a knight and wouldn't hurt them, and Cersei says that is just a fantasy.

Ser Davos Seaworth is on his ship, commanding the fleet for Stannis. His sons command several of the other ships. The plan is to rout the small royal fleet, and then land and attack the city. Storms have caused the fleet to go slowly, but they are finally in position. Davos sees two new towers on either side of the harbor and a chain between them. He wonders why the harbor hasn't been blocked off with the chain boom. They enter the harbor, and Davos sees only the smaller boats of the royal fleet. He begins to suspect a trap. He sees Stannis' army on the shore. Eddard Storm and Melisandre were sent back to Dragonstone. The fight begins and boulders are launched onto the fleets. Davos' fleet is soon winning. He sees the first sign of wildfire, but is not too worried since it is only a small amount. However, Davos notices an enemy ship leaking wildfire, and it explodes when it is rammed by another ship. Davos goes overboard and when he surfaces, wildfire is everywhere. He drifts out of the harbor and sees the chain boom is now up, wrecking the ships that try to escape the harbor.

Chapter 58, Sansa and Chapter 59, Davos Analysis

When Sansa Stark is praying in the chapel, she prays for all the other people involved in the battle, but leaves before the priest can bless King Joffrey Baratheon. Sansa does not want Joffrey to have any holy protection and believes the best thing that could happen would be for Joffrey to die in the battle. She is to be sequestered in the castle with the other women. When she learns Ser Ilyn is there, it unnerves her because he is the castle executioner, who executed her father, Eddard Stark. Cersei Lannister's explanation does not satisfy Sansa, since there does not seem to be a good reason to need an executioner to protect them.

Ser Davos Seaworth unfortunately learns the purpose of the wildfire that was made by the alchemists in King's Landing. The Lannister ships in the harbor were trapped with the wildfire, in the hopes that it would leak out and destroy Stannis' fleet. The purpose of



the giant chain Tyrion has the city smiths make is also revealed. The chain is stretched across the exit to the bay, preventing any of the ships from leaving. When the ships do reach the chain, they are broken and sunk and succumb to the wildfire. Davos is thrown overboard and swept out to sea, so there is a chance he will escape the wildfire.



Chapter 60, Tyrion and Chapter 61, Sansa

Chapter 60, Tyrion and Chapter 61, Sansa Summary

Tyrion watches the ships burn, satisfied that his plan worked. Joffrey points out their ships that are lost, but Tyrion says they were necessary as bait and wouldn't have been much help anyway. Some of the ships were able to land troops before the fire got to them. Tyrion has the men rotate the trebuchets and lets Joffrey go command them. Joffrey plans to launch the Antler Men from the trebuchets. Tyrion is called to the King's Gate, where Stannis' troops have a ram. Tyrion wants Sandor to lead the charge, but he refuses. Tyrion realizes Sandor is afraid of the wildfire. Tyrion prepares to lead it himself.

Sansa Stark is in the ballroom with the women. Cersei gives Sansa advice on how to protect herself if the castle falls. She says women have another weapon besides tears. Many of the women are nervous. Cersei gets very drunk and wishes she were allowed to learn how to use a sword and do other things men do. A report comes that Tyrion has led the men to defend the gate, and Cersei sends a man to bring Joffrey back to the castle. She gives Sansa some wine and tells her she knows Sansa has been going to the godswood. Sansa is afraid Cersei learned her secret, but Cersei tells her to stop praying for the Lannisters' defeat. Cersei tells her Ser Ilyn is present to kill Cersei, Sansa, and all those in the hall if Stannis' men take the city, for she won't let Stannis take them alive.

Chapter 60, Tyrion and Chapter 61, Sansa Analysis

Tyrion Lannister reveals here that he intended the wildfire to put down any attack by sea, and he is satisfied his plan worked. He must concentrate on the battle again, however, since the gate will be attacked. Tyrion has compassion for Sandor Clegane, who has been fighting. Tyrion realizes Sandor may be afraid of the fire and is of no further use to them if he doesn't want to go on fighting. Tyrion knows the men need a strong leader, however, and there is no one left they will follow. He decides to take matters into his own hands and lead them himself.

Cersei Lannister reveals more of her true nature to Sansa while they are sequestered in the banquet room. Sansa learns that Cersei will not let the women be subject to the opposing army if the city falls and is willing to kill them all to keep them out of the enemy's hands. Sansa, with her more innocent view on the world, thinks this plan is extreme. Cersei mocks her for her innocence, and makes it clear she wishes she were not a woman so she could be out there fighting in the battle herself. However, Cersei may not realize how hard battle is or all it entails.



Chapter 62, Tyrion and Chapter 63, Sansa

Chapter 62, Tyrion and Chapter 63, Sansa Summary

Tyrion forms his men and they attack the men at the King's Gate. The attackers flee, and Tyrion and his men fight at the river. Many of Stannis' men are able to cross using the wrecked boats as a bridge. Tyrion jumps on a ship and fights, but the boats come apart and he staggers and gets dizzy. Tyrion sees a large force fighting Stannis' men farther down the river, but he knows he doesn't have forces there. Tyrion falls over the edge of a ship, holding on to the edge. Ser Mandon, one of his men, offers his hand to get Tyrion back to safety, but Tyrion realizes he's holding out his left, weaker hand, not his sword hand. Tyrion pulls back just in time as Mandon tries to slash him. Mandon slashes Tyrion's face, but doesn't kill him. Podrick, Tyrion's squire, pushes Mandon overboard, which kills him.

Sansa Stark listens as Lancel comes to tell Cersei that the battle is lost and Tyrion is probably dead. He is angry that Cersei called Joffrey back, since the men lost heart when they saw the king had retired. Sandor is also missing, the goldcloaks are deserting and Stannis has won the riverfront. Cersei orders the drawbridge taken up and Joffrey brought to her. Lancel refuses, and Cersei punches him and leaves. Sansa tries to take charge and comfort the other women there. Dontos tells her to go and lock herself in her chamber. She does and looks out at the battle before trying to sleep. Sandor comes out and grabs her, saying he wants the song he was promised. He says he is going to flee the city. He holds a knife to her until she sings. Sandor begins to cry and leaves. Several hours later, the city bells ring and people start cheering. Dontos tells her the battle is won, and Lord Tywin and the Tyrells attacked Stannis' army. "Renly" and his men were the ones who won the battle, since "Renly" slew over a dozen knights.

Chapter 62, Tyrion and Chapter 63, Sansa Analysis

Tyrion Lannister experiences the rush of battlelust from taking part in the battle. Due to his small stature, he has never been part of such a battle before. It partly comes from knowing he is being a hero and is successfully defending the city. He also again learns why he can't trust anyone. Ser Mandon Moore is a knight of the Kingsguard and should protect Tyrion as part of the royal family. Instead, he tries to kill Tyrion. It is not clear if Mandon is acting alone or has received orders from Cersei. Tyrion probably suspects Cersei's involvement, even if that is not the case.

Sansa Stark is forced to take control of the women when Cersei Lannister starts to lose it. Cersei is angry that she is chided for wishing to protect her son. Sansa comforts the other women as best she can before leaving, showing how her compassion is in direct



contrast to Cersei's nature. When Ser Dontos comes to her and reveals that Renly Baratheon was there to help win the battle, this contradicts the fact of Renly's death earlier that Catelyn witnessed. It seems that the Renly people saw at the battle may be a ghost, or more simply someone else wearing Renly's armor. The fright of seeing that person, however, may have made Stannis' men think it was a ghost and caused the tide of the battle to turn.



Chapter 64, Daenerys

Chapter 64, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys is preparing to flee Qarth, as the warlocks are preparing to attack after she burned the House of the Undying. Since it was destroyed, the people are afraid of her. Xaro asks her to marry him again, and she refuses. He asks to buy a dragon from her for some ships, but she refuses and he won't help her or speak to her. She speaks with Ser Jorah of her visions, but he doesn't think they are important. He does help her make sense of some of them. Daenerys still thinks they are important. They set to find a way out of Qarth.

At the city docks, she talks to the trading captains to try to find a ship. Some of the captains refuse, or the prices are too high, or they are going the wrong way. They keep searching, and Jorah tells her that two people are following them. A strange man comes up to her and gives her a box. When she opens it, what looks like an emerald turns out to be a poisonous mantichore that tries to attack. One of the men following them knocks it out of her hand and kills the creature. The two strangers introduce themselves as Arstan and Belwas, who say they were sent by Illyrio to bring Daenerys to Pentos. Arstan says Illyrio wants her to use her dragons to bring justice to the Seven Kingdoms. She agrees to go with them.

Chapter 64, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys Targaryen is still trying to decide what her next step will be. She knows her end goal is to achieve the throne of the Seven Kingdoms, but she needs an army to fight for her. Right now, the important thing is that she gets away from Qarth, since the people there are angry she has burned down the House of the Undying. She and her group are treated suspiciously, and the people feel she will only bring ill to Qarth. This is made clear when one of the people tries to kill her using a hidden mantichore in a box. She is only saved because Arstan and Belwas arrive at that moment. This may be part of the reason Daenerys agrees to go with them to Pentos.



Chapter 65, Arya

Chapter 65, Arya Summary

Arya Stark is still working as a servant at Harrenhal. Lord Roose Bolton has taken over the castle and killed those still faithful to the Lannisters. She sees the girls who have slept with the Lannister men locked up for any of the men's use. One girl warns Arya that's where she'll be when Roose loses the castle. Gendry has complained to Arya that the castle is worse now, and Arya also hates the Bloody Mummies. She goes to Roose's chambers, where he is talking with his knights. They believe Robb should make peace with the Lannisters in light of Stannis' defeat. She also learns Bran and Rickon are dead. Roose and the men leave. Arya cleans his room and finds a map of the surrounding area. She believes Riverrun is not too far away.

Arya asks Roose when he returns if she will go with him when he leaves, but he tells her he will stay there with the Bloody Mummies. She meets Roose's squire, Elmar, who tells her the Frey family has been dishonored, and he won't get to marry his princess. She snaps at him and heads to the godswood to practice with her swords. Late that night, she goes to the forge and asks Gendry for a sword. She tells him she is leaving and lies that Vargo will cut a foot from every servant as soon as he is in charge. Gendry goes to get Hot Pie and pack some food. Arya steals the map and a dagger from Roose's room, as well as stealing three horses. Gendry returns with Hot Pie and they go to the gate. In order to escape, Arya tells the guard Roose is giving them a coin for their service. She drops the coin Jaqen has given her and when the guard picks it up, she slits his throat. The three escape from the castle.

Chapter 65, Arya Analysis

Arya Stark knows that the good position she has under Roose Bolton may change when he leaves Harrenhal. She has seen how ruthless the Bloody Mummies are, and knows she may be in danger if Roose is not there to protect her. Instead of waiting for someone to rescue her, as her sister Sansa is doing, Arya takes matters into her own hands and orchestrates an escape. She gets Gendry and Hot Pie to come with her by lying to them, as she is afraid they will not come otherwise. Her motive for doing this may be selfish, since she wants companions on the road, or she may want to save them from the Mummer's influence as well. It is clear that Arya has had enough and is willing to do anything to get home, as evidenced by her killing of the guard.



Chapter 66, Sansa and Chapter 67, Theon

Chapter 66, Sansa and Chapter 67, Theon Summary

Joffrey is meeting with his court, including Sansa Stark. Tywin Lannister rides in, and Joffrey names him Hand of the king. The court rewards the heroes of the battle. Ser Loras Tyrell is named to the Kingsguard, Lord Mace Tyrell to the small council, and Ser Garlan Tyrell asks for Joffrey to marry his sister, Margaery Tyrell. Joffrey accepts, and Sansa is happy to be free of him. Many more heroes come in for their reward, including the captain of the surviving ships. Many men are knighted. The prisoners are brought in as well, and those who don't swear loyalty to Joffrey are to be killed. One man calls Joffrey a monster and Joffrey calls for his death, accidentally cutting himself on the Iron Throne. Cersei takes him away and the man is killed. Tywin takes over the court, and Sansa leaves. Dontos meets her in the godswood and says she will escape on Joffrey's wedding day in a month. He gives her a hairnet with black amethysts on it.

Maester Luwin visits Theon Greyjoy, telling him he must yield to Ser Rodrik, who is coming to reclaim Winterfell. Theon ignores him and rallies his men. He draw a line in the dirt, and tells the men whoever steps over will help him. About half come over, and they get ready to defend the castle. Ser Rodrik and his host arrives, and Theon goes out to parley. Theon tells Rodrik he will hang a person twice every day until the army leaves. The first will be Rodrik's daughter, Beth. Theon knows he can't beat the army by force, so he has to trust Rodrik will value his daughter more than the castle.

Theon goes back to the castle and wonders what his fate will be. Luwin tries to convince him to leave and join the Night's Watch. Theon likes the idea until he hears men under the Bolton banner have attacked Rodrik's army. The Bolton army wins and a knight comes into the castle. He reveals himself as Reek. However, Reek is really Ramsay Snow, bastard son of Roose Bolton. He tells Theon he traded places with his servant when Rodrik first attacked him. Reek asked for the woman he was promised, but wants Kyra, Theon's whore, instead. Theon rejects this idea, but Ramsay's men invade the castle. Luwin is stabbed and kills all of Theon's men. Theon is knocked unconscious and Ramsey tells his men to save the Freys for him and burn everything else.

Chapter 66, Sansa and Chapter 67, Theon Analysis

King Joffrey finally frees Sansa Stark of her promise to marry him, which makes Sansa very happy. She has not been let go from King's Landing, but with the freedom from Joffrey and the future promise of freedom from Ser Dontos means Sansa's life is looking up. Ser Dontos brings her a hairnet with black jewels, and the fact that this is the last interaction between the two in the novel means the hairnet may play an important role in future events.



Theon Greyjoy is still trying to reclaim some of the glory he felt when he conquered Winterfell, but he feels it may be a lost cause. He is agreeable to Maester Luwin's suggestion that he yield the castle and join the Night's Watch, since it seems to be the only way to get out of the situation alive. However, Theon is saved from making the decision when Reek brings an army and destroys Ser Rodrik and his men. Reek reveals himself to be Ramsay Snow, who was thought to be dead. Ramsay had exchanged clothes with his former servant Reek, leading Ser Rodrik to believe he had killed Ramsay already. Theon finally gets what he deserves when Ramsay burns the castle. He learns that he should not have let his pride get in the way of the advice of his family.



Chapter 68, Tyrion and Chapter 69, Jon

Chapter 68, Tyrion and Chapter 69, Jon Summary

Tyrion Lannister is asleep, dreaming of the battle. He wakes up and is put back to sleep by Maester Ballabar. He dreams of Tysha. The next time he wakes up, Maester Ballabar tries to put him back to sleep, but Tyrion grabs his chain and chokes him until the maester stops and takes off Tyrion's bandages. He has a mirror brought so he can see his wounds. Ballabar tells him he is in a chamber in Cersei's quarters, since she wanted to watch over him. Tyrion thinks she wants him to die from his wounds. He learns Tywin has arrived to become the Hand. Podrick comes, and Tyrion swears him to secrecy about what happened with Ser Mandon. He asks Podrick to get some dreamwine made, since he doesn't trust Ballabar, and have Bronn come to him. Podrick tells him Bronn has been knighted.

Qhorin and Jon Snow are the only two left in their party that was fleeing the wildings. The weather is getting harsher. Qhorin told one man to go to the fist while the others tried to lead off the wildings. Qhorin tells Jon that if they are caught, he is to join the wildings and be a spy for them. He tells Jon to do whatever the wildings ask to prove his loyalty to them. They stop at a cave to spend the night and hopefully hide from the wildings. When they come out the next day, the eagle is there and the wildings catch them. The leader of the group shows them one of the other ranger's head. Jon yields to them, and Ygritte vouches for him. She tells him the man he killed in the pass is the one who is trapped in the eagle's body. The leader, Rattleshirt, tells Jon to kill Qhorin. They fight, and Ghost bites Qhorin, allowing Jon to kill him. Rattleshirt still wants to kill Jon, but the others won't let him. Ygritte tells him the rest of the wildings are marching for the wall.

Chapter 68, Tyrion and Chapter 69, Jon Analysis

Tyrion Lannister wakes up in his sister's chambers, with a strange maester working on him. The maester puts him into a deep sleep every time Tyrion wakes up, until Tyrion stops him by threatening to choke him. Tyrion fears that his sister is holding him in her chambers because she hopes to keep him asleep until he succumbs to his wounds. No hard proof of this is shown, except for Cersei's history of anger and hatred toward her brother. Tyrion is successful in rousing himself and sends for help. He learns that his father has come to replace him as Hand, and his father is sure to have an opinion on Tyrion's recent actions.

Jon Snow follows Qhorin's orders and sets himself up as a spy in the wildings' group. Jon did not anticipate that Rattleshirt would demand as high a price as killing Qhorin to prove his loyalty. However, Qhorin had told Jon he must do whatever necessary to join, and Jon must comply. Even so, Rattleshirt would have Jon killed if Ygritte did not speak up for him. By letting her go, Jon saved his own life, for Rattleshirt would have killed him

if she was not there to vouch for him. This is the first instance where Jon goes against a command of the Night's Watch, that to kill Ygritte, and learns that there can be a benefit for breaking the rules.



Chapter 70, Bran

Chapter 70, Bran Summary

Bran Stark is using Summer to watch the burning of Winterfell. When he is brought back to his body by Meera, Jojen tells him he was using his third eye for several days. He has learned to use his third eye and can enter Summer at any time. However, he can't eat or drink while he is with the wolf. The group is in the crypts of Winterfell. Since Bran, using Summer, has seen that everyone is gone, they decide it is time to leave. Osha lights a torch and they go up to the surface. Hodor has to force the door open, and they walk out into the ruin. They go to the godswood, where Luwin lies. He is happy to see them, and says he knew Bran and Rickon were alive since the body supposed to be Bran didn't have its legs broken. Luwin tells Osha the boys must be hidden and taken away separately. Osha sends the group away while she sees Luwin in private. She takes Rickon, while the others go with Bran. Jojen says they will head north to search for the three-eyed crow.

Chapter 70, Bran Analysis

Maester Luwin warns Osha that Bran Stark and Rickon Stark should be separated for their safety. Bran and Rickon are both thought dead, and if they are found alive there could be another attempt on their lives if someone wants leverage against the Stark family. Since Rickon is younger, Osha takes him and leaves the older children, who plan to make their way north. Maester Luwin asks Osha to send the children away while he talks to her, and Osha comes back alone. Given the seriousness of his injuries, it is likely he asked Osha to kill him so he would not have to die slowly and in pain. Osha complies, and they both shield this act from the children. In addition, Bran's powers are growing, since he can now take control of his direwolf, although he cannot nourish his own body while in her. Jojen has finally gotten Bran to agree to seek the three-eyed crow.



Characters

Joffrey Baratheon

Joffrey Baratheon is the king of the Seven Kingdoms. Joffrey is the child of Cersei Lannister and Jaime Lannister, and is the sibling of Tommen and Myrcella. However, the realm believes them to be the children of Robert Baratheon, although the children were born of incest between Cersei and Jaime, who are twins. A letter sent by Stannis reveals this incest to the Seven Kingdoms, although some do not believe it. Joffrey is a boy of thirteen, so his mother, Cersei rules as Queen Regent, although most of the true power comes from the King's Hand. Joffrey's grandfather, Tywin, is supposed to hold the post, but he sends Tyrion instead.

Joffrey is cruel to those around him, especially Sansa Stark, his intended wife, and frequently has the Kingsguard knights beat her. At a tournament on his birthday, he wants to kill a drunk knight names Ser Dontos but Sansa stops him and Joffrey makes Dontos a fool instead. When Joffrey's sister, Myrcella, is sent to Dorne, someone throws feces at Joffrey on the court's way back to the castle. Joffrey sends Sandor Clegane to find out who did it, causing a riot in the city. When Robb Stark wins a victory against Lannister forces, Joffrey has Sansa beaten for her brother's crimes until Tyrion stops him. Joffrey eventually decides not to marry Sansa, instead becoming engaged to Margaery Tyrell to ally the Lannister family with the Tyrells.

Catelyn Stark

Catelyn Stark is the daughter of Hoster Tully, wife of the late Eddard Stark, sister of Edmure Tully, and the mother of Robb, Bran, Rickon, Sansa, and Arya Stark. Her son Robb is one of the claimants to the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. Catelyn is with Robb at Riverrun as they plan out the war. Robb loves his mother but he doesn't want her advice on what his next move should be. Robb sends Catelyn to talk to Renly Baratheon, one of the other claimants for the throne. Catelyn meets with Renly, but he doesn't want to give Robb his assistance, instead saying Robb should assist him. While Catelyn is there, Stannis Baratheon's army comes to engage Renly in battle. Before the battle begins, Catelyn is in Renly's tent, where Brienne Tarth is preparing him for battle. Suddenly, a shadow appears and kills Renly.

Catelyn convinces the other knights that Brienne didn't do it, and the two women go back to Riverrun. At Riverrun, Catelyn learns her sons Bran and Rickon were killed at Winterfell when Theon Greyjoy took over. Desperate to get her daughters back, Catelyn goes to interrogate Jaime about him pushing Bran Stark out the window. Jaime thought Bran had seen Jaime and his Cersei having sex. Jaime admits to doing this, but denies orchestrating a further assassination attempt on Bran. He mocks Catelyn, and she asks Brienne to give her a sword. What she intends to do with it is unclear.



Tyrion Lannister

Tyrion Lannister is the son of Tywin Lannister, uncle of King Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella, and the brother of Jaime and Cersei Lannister. Tyrion is sent by Tywin to be King Joffrey's advisor, the Hand of the King. Cersei resents him and does her best to spy on him, but Tyrion discovers her spies and pays them off. Tyrion tries to bring justice to the kingdom and correct the corrupt court that has formed under Cersei. His one weakness is his whore, Shae, who he thinks he loves. Tyrion plots to get Tommen and Myrcella out of the city for their safety and succeeds. To get back at him for removing Tommen, Cersei kidnaps his whore, but she gets the wrong woman, to Tyrion's relief.

Tyrion plans the defense of King's Landing when it is attacked by Stannis Baratheon. He arranges for the wildfire to be released on the harbor, killing most of Stannis' fleet. When the gate is about to be breached, Tyrion leads a sortie himself. He succeeds, and the fight moves onto a bridge made up of partially sunken ships on the river. Tyrion is on a ship when it shifts and he falls, grabbing onto the edge. One of his men, Ser Mandon, tries to kill him while pretending to help him, and Tyrion's squire, Podrick, pushes Mandon in the water, killing him. Tyrion is seriously wounded and wakes up in Cersei's chambers. Afraid Cersei plans to let him die by not treating his wounds, Tyrion prepares to move.

Cersei Lannister Baratheon

Cersei Lannister Baratheon is the wife of the late King Robert Baratheon, daughter of Tywin Lannister, sister of Jaime and Tywin Lannister, and mother of King Joffrey, Tommen and Myrcella Baratheon. Her children are thought to be Robert's, but are actually those of her twin brother Jaime. Cersei and Jaime have had an incestuous relationship for some time. Jaime is currently a prisoner at Riverrun, and Cersei would do anything to get him back. Cersei and Tyrion do not like each other, and Cersei is upset when Tyrion comes to be Joffrey's advisor instead of Tywin.

Tyrion tries to ferret out Cersei's spies. Cersei is not a good ruler, and Tyrion tries his best to correct her mistakes. Tyrion learns that Cersei had a hand in the death of King Robert Baratheon. Cersei threatens Tyrion when he sends away her son, Tommen, for his safety. She tells him she will hold his whore hostage, but she has the wrong woman. When Stannis Baratheon attacks the city, Cersei and the other women of the court lock themselves in the tower, and Cersei plans to have them and herself killed if the city is taken. Cersei tells Sansa Stark that love is a disease. She is bitter that she is a woman and is not allowed to do the same things men are. She spoils Joffrey and is partly responsible for his monstrous ways.

Daenerys Targaryen

Daenerys Targaryen is the daughter of the former Aerys, the former king of the Seven Kingdoms, before King Robert Baratheon. She takes her people on a journey following



the comet. Daenerys has three dragons, which she names Rhaegal, Viserion, and Drogon. The group finds the city of Qarth, where people are amazed by Daenerys' dragons. Daenerys learns Robert Baratheon is dead and the kingdom is at war. While in Qarth, she enters the House of the Undying, a house of the warlocks. Each of the rooms contains visions of the past, present, or things that will never happen. She goes in with her dragon, Drogon, and sees many visions.

Daenerys meets the Undying, who tell her many prophecies, including that she will light three fires, for life, death, and love; ride three mounts, to bed, to dread, and to love; know three treasons, for blood, for gold, and for love. She gets many more visions of past and future events, which come at a rapid speed. She realizes the Undying are clawing and biting at her and she flees, helped by Drogon's fire. Daenerys prepares to flee Qarth. Two men, Arstan and Belwas, come to bring Daenerys to Pentos.

Jon Snow

Jon Snow is the bastard son of Eddard Stark and has a direwolf named Ghost. He is a member of the Night's Watch, a group of soldiers who guard the Wall in the extreme north of the Seven Kingdoms. Jon is close friends with Samwell Tarly, another member of the Watch. Jon goes out with a group to discover what the wildings are doing. Jon learns the wildings have left their villages and gathered in the mountains to search for something that will bring down the wall. They go to Craster's Keep, and Craster gives them some information. During his travels, Lord Commander Mormont tells Jon Snow the story behind Maester Aemon's joining the Night's Watch. Aemon joined the Night's Watch so he couldn't be used as a rival heir for his brother's throne. Mormont tells Jon of the brothers' history, since Jon is the brother of Robb Stark, a claimant to the throne.

After the group makes camp at Fist of the First Men, Jon goes out with a small scouting party, and they ambush several wilding sentries. They kill two and interrogate the third, a woman named Ygritte. Qhorin, the leader of the scouting party, tells Jon to kill Ygritte, but he can't bring himself to do so and lets her go. The other wildings find them and give chase. Qhorin orders Jon to join the wildings as a spy if they are caught. Qhorin and Jon are caught by the wildings. Jon says he wants to join and Ygritte vouches for him. Rattleshirt, the leader of the wilding group, tells Jon to kill Qhorin to prove his loyalty, and with help from Ghost he does. Jon goes with the wildings to meet their leader, Mance Rayder.

Bran Stark

Bran Stark is the son of Catelyn and Eddard Stark and the brother of Robb, Arya, Sansa and Rickon Stark. Bran is left at Winterfell while Catelyn and Robb are planning the war from Riverrun. Bran has been crippled ever since he was pushed off a roof by Jaime Lannister and is usually carried around by Hodor. Bran plays host to all the visitors that come to the hall, especially for the harvest feast. He meets Meera and Jojen Reed at the feast. The three become friends, and Jojen tells Bran that he (Jojen) has dreams of



the future and thinks Bran's wolf dreams are special as well. Bran doesn't believe him until Meera tells him about a dream Jojen had and it comes true. Jojen then tells Bran he had a dream of Jojen and Bran lying dead with their heads skinned.

Theon Greyjoy comes and conquers Winterfell. Bran escapes with Rickon, Meera, Jojen, Hodor and Osha. Theon sends out a search party for them. Theon comes back to the castle with two bodies he pretends are Bran and Rickon, but are really boys from a nearby mill. The group hides in the crypts until Ramsay Snow comes and burns the castle. When they emerge, they find Maester Luwin, who has been seriously wounded. He tells Osha to take Bran and Rickon in separate directions. He sends the children away and asks Osha to see him, presumably to have her put him out of his misery. Osha goes with Rickon; Bran, Meera, Jojen and Hodor head north to find the three-eyed crow Jojen and Bran have dreamed about.

Ser Davos Seaworth

Ser Davos Seaworth, also known as the Onion Knight, is a knight who is loyal to Stannis Baratheon. Previously a smuggler, he was knighted after a seige on Storm's End, the home of the Baratheons. During the siege, he smuggled food into the castle, which let the occupants survive until Lord Eddard Stark came and stopped the siege. Stannis knighted him, but chopped off part of his fingers for his smuggling crimes. Ser Davos frequently gives Stannis advice on the war. He does not agree with Stannis on everything, including Melisandre, but is faithful because Stannis takes care of him and his family.

When Stannis' army is besieging Storm's End, Davos rows Melisandre under the castle, where she gives birth to a shadow to kill Ser Cortnay, the fort's commander. Davos is horrified at this and doesn't believe Melisandre will be helpful to Stannis. During the attack on King's Landing, Davos commands the ships which will attack the city dock. His fleet is winning when a Lannister ship is suddenly hit and wildfire explodes everywhere. Davos is thrown overboard and swept out to sea.

Stannis Baratheon

Stannis Baratheon is one of the claimants to the king's throne of the Seven Kingdoms. He is the brother of Robert Baratheon, the former king, and Renly Baratheon, another claimant to the throne, and the father of Shireen. His base is named Dragonstone, a castle on the sea. Stannis plots to attack his brother's army. He uses Melisandre, a sorcerer, to advise him on how best to win the throne, along with a knight, Ser Davos Seaworth. Stannis starts a siege on Storm's End, one of Renly's holdings, to capture Edric Storm, one of Robert Baratheon's bastards. Stannis wants to prove that Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella Baratheon are actually the children of Cersei and Jamie Lannister, not Cersei and Robert. He sends out a letter proclaiming this, as well as stating his claim as king.



Renly and Stannis meet with their armies for a battle. They agree to fight the next day. However, Melisandre creates a shadow of Stannis that sneaks into Renly's tent and kills him. Stannis is able to swing some of Renly's men to his side. Stannis goes back to Storm's End, where Melisandre creates another shadow to kill the fort commander, Ser Cortnay. Stannis sends Melisandre and Edric back to Dragonstone. Stannis' army next marches on King's Landing, but are stopped from invading the city thanks to Tywin Lannister's army and the army of the city.

Renly Baratheon

Renly Baratheon is a claimant to the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. He is the brother of Robert Baratheon, the former king, and Stannis Baratheon, another claimant to the throne, and the husband of Margaery Tyrell. Renly has a sizeable army, which he expects will win him the throne. While his army is in camp, he holds a tournament, which is won by Brienne Tarth. Renly appoints her to his Rainbowguard, his personal group of bodyguards, at her request. When he hears Stannis is attacking his fort at Storm's End, Renly's army marches to meet Stannis. The morning before the battle is to begin, a shadow comes into the tent where Renly is getting ready and slits his throat. Brienne is initially blamed for his death, but Catelyn Stark clears her.

Melisandre

Melisandre is also known as the Red Woman. She is a sorceress who has visions and is a worshiper of R'hllor, the Lord of the Light. She is a supporter of Stannis Baratheon, a claimant to the throne. She has a vision that Renly Baratheon is dead. Cressen tries to kill her for inspiring Stannis Baratheon to kill Renly, his brother, but Melisandre's amulet protects her from the poison. Melisandre uses her magic to create a shadow of Stannis, which is responsible for assassinating Renly Baratheon. During the siege at Storm's End, she also creates a shadow to kill Ser Cortnay, the commander of the fort. Ser Davos watches in horror as Melisandre gives birth to the shadow as if it was a baby. Stannis sends her back to Dragonstone before he assaults King's Landing.

Arya Stark

Arya Stark is the daughter of Catelyn and Eddard Stark, and sister of Sansa, Robb, Bran, and Rickon Stark. She escapes from King's Landing with Yoren after her father's execution. When several members of the city watch stop the group, they say they want Gendry to take back to King's Landing, but they don't reveal why. Yoren runs off the goldcloaks and the party flees to Harrentown, where they are attacked by Ser Amory's men. Arya helps the other children escape through a trapdoor in the barn. Three convicts are trapped in a wagon, including Jaqen H'ghar, and Arya gives him an ax so they can get free.

The group escapes the town, but are caught when they run into Ser Gregor Clegane's men and are taken to Harrenhal. Arya meets Jaqen again. Jaqen tells her since she



freed the convicts, she can name three people who will die to take their place. She tells him Weese and Chiswyck, who both die. Some northern prisoners, loyal to Arya's brother Robb Stark, come to Harrenhal, and Arya gets Jaqen to help her. She tells him he will be the third person he wants dead, and if he helps her she will take it back. Once they succeed, Jaqen tells her the lives of the guards they kill will take the place of the third name. He gives Arya a coin and tells her if she wants to find him again, show it to a person from Braavos and say "valar morghulis."

For helping to free the northmen, Roose Bolton, who has taken over Harrenhal, makes Arya his cupbearer. Arya finds out Roose plans to leave again and leave the Bloody Mummies in charge. She steals a map from his room to find the way to Riverrun and gets Gendry and Hot Pie to escape with her.

Sansa Stark

Sansa Stark is the daughter of Catelyn and Eddard Stark, and sister of Arya, Robb, Bran, and Rickon Stark. Sansa is betrothed to King Joffrey Baratheon and is being held at King's Landing. Sansa hates the Lannisters, especially Joffrey, because they are responsible for her father's death. Joffrey is frequently mean to Sansa and beats her. When Sansa gets her period, she is desperately afraid because it means she is a woman and old enough to marry Joffrey. Ser Dontos meets with Sansa in secrecy and tells her he can help her escape from King's Landing. After Stannis Baratheon army is put down and King's Landing is safe, Joffrey decides to marry Margaery Tyrell instead of Sansa. Dontos tells Sansa they will flee on Joffrey's wedding day and gives Sansa a hairnet with black stones.

Varys

Varys is the head spy for the king in King's Landing. He primarily works for Tyrion Lannister, although neither he or Tyrion trust each other completely. He helps Tyrion meet with Shae, Tyrion's whore. He frequently informs Tyrion about the going-ons in the city and of Tyrion's sister, Cersei.

Lord Theon Greyjoy

Lord Theon Greyjoy is the son of Lord Balon Greyjoy and the sister of Asha Greyjoy. Theon has been staying with the Stark family at Riverrun, but is sent by Robb Stark to bring terms of peace to the Greyjoy family. Balon rejects the peace terms and sends Theon and Asha to attack Robb's holdings. Theon is upset because his father gives him a small part in the attack and instead plots to invade Winterfell. He succeeds and takes Winterfell for his own. When Bran and Rickon Stark escape Winterfell, Theon kills two boys at a nearby mill and pretends they are the Starks. Ser Rodrik comes to take the castle back from the Starks. Theon makes a deal with a servant, Reek, that Reek will go find more men to help them defend Winterfell. Reek comes back with an army and



totally wipes out Rodrik and his men. Reek reveals himself as Ramsay Snow and knocks out Theon and burns Winterfell to the ground. Theon's fate is unknown.

Lord Balon Greyjoy

Lord Balon Greyjoy is the lord of the Iron Islands. He is the father of Theon and Arya Greyjoy. He declared himself king of the islands, but his rebellion was put down by King Robert Baratheon. He may again have aspirations to the throne. He sends Theon and Arya to assault some of Robb Stark's holding in the north.

Robert Baratheon

Robert Baratheon is the late king of the Seven Kingdoms. Robert is the brother of Renly and Stannis Baratheon. Robert was married to Cersei Lannister, and the realm believes him to be the father of Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella Baratheon. However, Cersei's brother Jaime is their true father. Robert was killed after Cersei and Ser Lancel Lannister conspired to give him more potent wine before a hunting trip, which resulted in his death when a boar attacked him.

Lord Tywin Baratheon

Lord Tywin Baratheon is the father of Tyrion, Cersei, and Jaime Lannister. Tywin and his army are primarily at Harrenhal, which bothers Cersei since she wants Tywin to come to King's Landing and take up his place as King Joffrey's advisor. Tywin eventually mobilizes his army and helps put down Stannis Baratheon's army when Stannis attacks King's Landing. He resumes his position as Hand of the King and presides over awarding the heroes of the battle and punishing the prisoners taken.

Robb Stark

Robb Stark is the son of Catelyn and Eddard Stark and the brother of Jon Snow, Arya, Sansa, Bran, and Rickon Stark. Robb is one of the claimants to the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. His family holds Winterfell, where Bran is staying, and Riverrun, where he plots out his battle plan with his men and his mother, Catelyn. Robb would rather Catelyn return to Winterfell, as he loves his mother but does not value her advice. He leads his army out to attack Lannister holdings and scores a big victory at Oxcross.

Gendry

Gendry, also known as the Bull, is one of the boys who travels from King's Landing with Arya Stark. When several members of the city watch stop the group, they say they want Gendry to take back to King's Landing, but they don't reveal why. Yoren runs off the goldcloaks and the party flees to Harrentown, where they are attacked by Ser Amory's



men. Gendry goes to Harrenhal and works in the smith. He flees Harrenhal with Arya and Hot Pie.

Lord Commander Mormont

Lord Commander Mormont is the head of the Night's Watch. He is the father of Ser Jorah Mormont. He tells Jon Snow the story behind Maester Aemon's joining the Night's Watch. Aemon joined the Night's Watch so that he couldn't be used as a rival heir for his brother's throne. Mormont tells Jon of the brothers' history, since Jon is the brother of Robb Stark, a claimant to the throne. Mormont goes with the party to the Fist of the First Men. The Watch is looking for signs of the wildings, who have fled their villages. Mormont sends Jon out with a scouting party to find out where the wildings went.

Ser Cleos Frey

Ser Cleos Frey is a knight captured by Robb Stark and a cousin of the Lannisters. Robb sends him to carry a message to Cersei Lannister, which is an offer of peace. Tyrion Lannister receives the message and sends terms of his own back with Ser Cleos. Tyrion also includes four of his people in Cleos' band to free Jaime Lannister from Riverrun without Cleos' knowledge. When the men are discovered trying to break Jaime out, Ser Cleos is also locked up and punished, although he protests his innocence.

Jaime Lannister

Jaime Lannister is the son of Tywin Lannister, brother of Cersei and Tywin Lannister, and father of King Joffrey, Tommen and Myrcella Baratheon. The children are thought to be King Robert Baratheon's, since Cersei was married to Robert, but are actually hers and Jaime. Cersei and Jaime are twins and have had an incestuous relationship for some time. Jaime is currently a prisoner at Riverrun. He is interrogated by Catelyn Stark. He admits to pushing her son Bran out of a window when Bran caught him and Cersei having sex. Bran was crippled because of the fall. He mocks Catelyn, who calls for a sword, although what she plans to do with it is not seen.

Ser Jorah Mormont

Ser Jorah Mormont is a knight traveling with Daenerys Targaryen. His former wife is Lynesse, who left him when he could not make enough money to satisfy her. Daenerys thinks he is in love with her (Daenerys). He advises her not to place too much importance on the things she sees in the House of the Undying. He is her most faithful follower and wants to see her regain the throne of the Seven Kingdoms.



Hodor

Hodor is the man who carries around Bran Stark, since Bran's legs don't work. Hodor is at Winterfell with Bran. He can only say his name and usually yells it in panic if something disturbing happens. He goes north with Bran Stark and Jojen and Meera Reed after Winterfell is burned by Ramsay Snow's men.

Ser Gregor Clegane

Ser Gregor Clegane is the brother of Sandor Clegane and is loyal to the Lannisters. Arya runs into his men at a fishing village, and Arya and her friends are captured and taken to Harrenhal. Arya hates Ser Gregor and wishes him dead. Ser Gregor's men are dispelled from Harrenhal when Roose Bolton takes it over.

Ser Sandor Clegane

Ser Sandor Clegane is a knight of the Kingsguard. He is the brother of Gregor Clegane. He is a member of the Kingsguard and is called Dog or the Hound. He does whatever Joffrey request. He looks down on Sansa Stark and is verbally cruel to her often but never directly tries to hurt her. He is the only knight that Joffrey has not asked to beat Sansa. He meets Sansa after she goes to the godswood to meet Ser Dontos. He mocks her and asks her for a song, which she says she will give him later. When Sansa is lost after the riot in King's Landing, Sandor finds her and brings her back to the castle. After the battle against Stannis Baratheon at King's Landing, Sandor comes to Sansa's room and has her sing to him. He seems very disturbed and tells her he plans to flee King's Landing.

Tommen Baratheon

Tommen Baratheon is the child of Cersei Lannister and Jaime Lannister and the sibling of King Joffrey and Myrcella. However, the realm primarily believes them to be the children of Robert Baratheon, although the children were born of incest between Cersei and Jaime, who are twins. A letter sent by Stannis reveals this incest to the Seven Kingdoms, although some do not believe it. Tommen is sent by Cersei to live at Rosby so he is not captured if King's Landing is attacked. However, Tyrion wants Tommen under his control so has Ser Jacelyn obtain Tommen from the Kingsguard and take him to Rosby under Tyrion's men.

Myrcella Baratheon

Myrcella Baratheon is the child of Cersei Lannister and Jaime Lannister, and is the sibling of King Joffrey and Tommen. However, the realm primarily believes them to be the children of Robert Baratheon, although the children were born of incest between



Cersei and Jaime, who are twins. A letter sent by Stannis reveals this incest to the Seven Kingdoms, although some do not believe it. Myrcella is sent to Dorne to live until she marries Trystane Martell. Tyrion sends her to gain the Dornishmen as allies.

Maester Cressen

Maester Cressen is a maester of Dragonstone, the home of house Targaryen. He is the narrator of the first chapter, and has been the maester at Dragonstone since Stannis Baratheon first arrived there. He is poisoned when an attempt to kill Melisandre backfires.

Master Pylos

Master Pylos is a man who is at Dragonstone. He is the successor to Maester Cressen and is supposed to train with Cressen. However, Stannis Baratheon appoints him to replace Cressen shortly before Cressen is poisoned in a failed attempt to kill Melisandre. Pylos also helps Stannis write a letter declaring Stannis as the king of the Seven Kingdoms.

Yoren

Yoren is a Night's Watch recruiter who helps Arya escape from King's Landing after her father, Eddard Stark, is executed. He refuses to give up Gendry when the party meets a group of city watch men from King's Landing. He is killed when Ser Amory's men attack the fleeing group at Harrenhal.

Shireen Baratheon

Shireen Baratheon is the daughter of Stannis and Selyse Baratheon. She has a fool, Patchface. She is scared by Patchface's songs about a shadow coming. When she was young, she had a disease called greyscale which left part of her skin dead. She is easily impressionable and comes to Maester Cressen to find out if dragons have really come back.

Patchface

Patchface is a fool, who belongs to Shireen Baratheon. He came to the service of the Baratheon family when Lord Steffon found him in Volantis. Lord Steffon's ship wrecked and everyone but Patchface died. Patchface was rescued by Stannis and Robert Baratheon. He used to be very sharp, but after the wreck his mind is gone and he acts very strangely. He sings songs of a shadow coming, which scares Shireen.



Lord Steffon Baratheon

Lord Steffon Baratheon is the father of Stannis, Renly, and Robert Baratheon. Steffon found the fool Patchface in Volantis and was bringing him to Steffon's home. Steffon's ship was wrecked, killing him and his wife and almost all his men. Patchface was found some time later, his mind gone.

Osha

Osha is a wilding woman who works at Winterfell. She tells Bran Stark he should embrace his dreams of wolves, not be afraid of them. When Theon Greyjoy takes over Winterfell, Osha offers to join his men because she is tired of being a servant. However, she escapes Winterfell with Bran and Rickon Stark and Meera and Jojen Reed. The group hide in the crypts until Ramsay Snow comes and burns the castle. When they emerge, they find Maester Luwin, who has been seriously wounded. He tells Osha to take Bran and Rickon in separate directions. He sends the children away and asks Osha to see him, presumably to have her put him out of his misery. She returns to the children and takes Rickon away.

Shae

Shae is a whore that Tyrion is very fond of in King's Landing. He has Varys, the castle spy, find a hiding place for Shae so Tyrion can visit her whenever he wants. When the battle heats up, Tyrion finds a place for her as a maidservant in the castle.

Lord Mace Tyrell

Lord Mace Tyrell is the lord of the Tyrell family. He is the father of Loras Tyrell and Margaery Tyrell. The Tyrells are initially allies of Renly Baratheon. However, when Renly is killed, the Tyrells agree to ally with the Lannisters. Mace fights on the side of the Lannisters when Stannis Baratheon attacks King's Landing. He arranges the marriage of Margaery to King Joffrey.

Brienne Tarth

Brienne Tarth is a woman who fights for Renly Baratheon. She is a member of the Rainbow Guard. She is dressing Renly for the battle against Stannis Baratheon when a shadow appears and slits Renly's throat. The other knights accuse Brienne of killing him, but Catelyn Stark, who is also present, clears her. Brienne goes to serve Catelyn at Riverrun. She goes with Catelyn to interrogate Jaime Lannister.



Lord Eddard Stark

Lord Eddard Stark is the late husband of Catelyn Stark and the father of Sansa, Robb, Bran, and Rickon Stark. He was loyal to King Robert Baratheon. He is executed by King Joffrey before the events of the novel. Ser Jonas Slynt held Eddard down while he was beheaded.

Lommy Greenhands

Lommy Greenhands is one of the orphan boys who travels with Arya. When the group is attacked by Ser Amory's men at Harrentown, he is wounded in the battle. Arya helps him escape using a secret tunnel in a barn. The group is later captured by Ser Gregor Clegane and his men. Lommy is killed by one of Gregor Clegane's men because he can't walk and the man doesn't want to carry him.

Samwell Tarly

Samwell Tarly is a member of the Night's Watch and friends with Jon Snow. Sam is easily frightened and usually needs the other members of the Night's Watch to boost his courage. He is in charge of the ravens when the party goes to camp at Fist of the First Men. When the party stops at Craster's Keep, Sam promises Gilly, one of Craster's wives, that he will come back for her baby. Craster leaves his male babies for the ghostly Others to take, and Sam says he will help keep that from happening.

Jojen Reed

Jojen Reed is the brother of Meera Reed. They come to Winterfell for the harvest feast. Meera and Jojen befriend Bran Stark, and Jojen and Meera convince Bran that Jojen can see the future in his dreams. Meera and Jojen escape with Bran after Theon Greyjoy takes over the castle. After Ramsey Snow attacks and burns the castle, Meera, Jojen, Bran and Rickon emerge from their hiding place in the crypts. Meera, Jojen and Bran head north to find the three-eyed crow about which both Jojen and Bran have dreams.

Meera Reed

Meera Reed is the sister of Jojen Reed. They come to Winterfell for the harvest feast. Meera and Jojen befriend Bran Stark, and Meera helps convince Bran that Jojen can see the future in his dreams. Meera and Jojen escape with Bran after Theon Greyjoy takes over the castle. After Ramsey Snow attacks and burns the castle, Meera, Jojen, Bran and Rickon emerge from their hiding place in the crypts. Meera, Jojen and Bran head north to find the three-eyed crow about which both Jojen and Bran have dreams.



Night's Watch

The Night's Watch is a group of soldiers who guard the Wall at the northern part of the Seven Kingdoms. It is primarily made up of men who are pardoned criminals or were exiled. Jon Snow, Lord Commander Mormont, and Sam Tarly are some of the members of the Night's Watch.

Ser Dontos

Ser Dontos is a knight at King's Landing who is too drunk to participate in a tournament honoring Joffrey. Joffrey orders him to become a fool. Ser Dontos later tells Sansa Stark he can help her escape from King's Landing and get back to her home. They meet several times and Sansa begins to trust that he can get her out of there. When Stannis Baratheon's attack on King's Landing is repelled, Ser Dontos brings the news to Sansa. He tells her she will escape on the night of Joffrey's wedding to Margaery Tyrell and gives her a hairnet with black stones.

Lord Petyr Baelish

Lord Petyr Baelish, also known as Littlefinger, is a member of the small council in King's Landing. He is the master of the coin. Tyrion Lannister suspects him of being a spy for Cersei, but Tyrion is proven wrong. Petyr is sent to Lysa Arryn to offer Myrcella in marriage to her son, Robert. Petyr also claims to have taken the virginity of Catelyn and Lysa Tully. Petyr goes to House Tully after Renly Baratheon is killed to buy their loyalty by having Margaery Tyrell marry King Joffrey. Petyr becomes the Lord of Harrenhal for his services to King's Landing.

Viserys Targaryen

Viserys Targaryen is one of the claimants to the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. He is killed before the events of the novel. He is the brother of Daenerys Targaryen. While Daenerys is in the House of the Undying, she sees visions that may relate to her brother.

Maester Luwin

Maester Luwin is the maester of Winterfell. He stops Big Walder and Little Walder Frey from making fun of Hodor. When Winterfell is taken over by Theon Greyjoy, he is one of the prisoners of the castle. He is mortally wounded when Ramsey Snow attacks the castle and burns it. Bran and Rickon Stark, Osha, and Meera and Jojen Reed find him outside the castle after Ramsey has left. He tells Osha that Bran and Rickon should be separated for their safety. He asks Osha to send the children away and presumably has her kill him to put him out of his misery.



Jaqen H'ghar

Jaqen H'ghar is a convict traveling in the group with Arya Stark. He is trapped in a wagon with two other convicts. Arya frees him from a burning barn by giving him an ax to break out. When Arya is taken to Harrenhal as a captive by Ser Gregor Clegane, she meets Jaqen again. Jaqen tells her since she freed the convicts, she can name three people who will die to take their place. She tells him Weese and Chiswyck, who both die. Some northern prisoners, loyal to Arya's brother Robb Stark, come to Harrenhal, and Arya gets Jaqen to help her. She tells him he will be the third person he wants dead, and if he helps her she will take it back. Once they succeed, Jaqen tells her the lives of the guards they kill will take the place of the third name. He gives Arya a coin and tells her if she wants to find him again, show it to a person from Braavos and say "valar morghulis."

Maester Aemon

Maester Aemon is the maester of the Night's Watch. He is the keeper of the ravens. Aemon joined the Night's Watch so that he couldn't be used as a rival heir for his brother's throne. Lord Commander Mormont tells Jon Snow of the brothers' history, since Jon is the brother of Robb Stark, a claimant to the throne.

Aegon Targaryen

Aegon Targaryen is the brother of Maester Aemon Tagaryen and one-time king of the Seven Kingdoms. Aemon joined the Night's Watch so that he couldn't be used as a rival heir for his brother's throne. Lord Commander Mormont tells Jon Snow of the brothers' history, since Jon is the brother of Robb Stark, a claimant to the throne.

Lord Hoster Tully

Lord Hoster Tully is the father of Catelyn Tully Stark and Lysa Tully Arryn and the brother of Brynden Tully. He is old and in ill health and is kept at Riverrun, where Catelyn watches over him. He frequently fought with Bryndyn when they were younger, and Catelyn is happy the brothers are able to make peace. In his delirium, he calls Catelyn by her sister's name and is not sure of the time or place.

Ser Brynden Tully

Ser Brynden Tully is the brother of Lord Hoster Tully and the uncle of Catelyn Tully Stark. He visits Lord Hoster at Riverrun, where Hoster lays dying from old age. He frequently fought with Hoster when they were younger, and Catelyn is happy the brothers are able to make peace.



Lord Janos Slynt

Lord Janos Slynt is in charge of the city watch in King's Landing. Tyrion Lannister banishes him to the Night's Watch for his crimes in the war. Slynt was at Eddard Stark's execution and held the man down while his head was chopped off.

Ser Jacelyn Bywater

Ser Jacelyn Bywater is a man Janos Slynt and Tyrion Lannister consider for the head of the city watch. Tyrion promotes him to commander after banishing Janos to the Night's Watch. Cersei Lannister is angry at his appointment and wants Ser Jacelyn dismissed, but Tyrion placates her. Ser Jacelyn becomes lord of Rosby after helping Tyrion secure Tommen Lannister.

Edmure Tully

Edmure Tully is the brother of Catelyn Stark and the son of Lord Hoster Tully. He is presently at Riverrun to plan the upcoming battles with Robb Stark. He defends the river from Tywin Lannister's men, not allowing Tywin's army to cross near Riverrun.

Edric Storm

Edric Storm is the bastard of Robert Baratheon. Stannis Baratheon wants to use him to show that Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella are not Robert Baratheon's true children. Stannis besieges Storm's End in order to get Edric Storm. Stannis succeeds and sends Edric back to Dragonstone with Melisandre before the battle.

Aeron Greyjoy

Aeron Greyjoy is the brother of Balon Greyjoy and the uncle of Theon Greyjoy. He almost drowned in a storm but survived and joined a religious order for the Drowned God. He does not like Theon because he is associating with Robb Stark. He tells Theon he has to re-earn the respect of his family. Aeron goes with Theon to raid the Stony Shore.

Ser Arys Oakheart

Ser Arys is a knight of the Kingsguard. He is kinder to Sansa Stark than the other members of the Kingsguard. Joffrey frequently has his Kingsguard beat Sansa, and when he ordered Arys to do it, Arys did his best to make it easy on her. He takes Sansa down to the tourney celebrating Joffrey's birthday. He is sent with Myrcella Baratheon when she leaves for Dorne to protect her.



The wildings

The wildings are a group of people who live free from the rule of the Seven Kingdoms in the north beyond the Wall. Mance Rayder is their leader. The Night's Watch sends out scouts to discover what the wildings are up to.

Lord Beric

Lord Beric is a knight who is loyal to the Starks. He has fought with Eddard Stark and marched out to fight Ser Gregor Clegane. When Tywin Lannister has his army at Harrenhal, Lord Beric raids some of Tywin's parties and allies.

Craster

Craster is an old man who lives in Craster's Keep north of the Wall. The Night's Watch patrol stops there while they are scouting. He leaves all of his male babies for the Others to take. Craster tells the patrol he has seen Ser Wyman pass by a while ago, and tells them the wildings have gone up into the mountains.

Ser Wymar

Ser Wymar is a ranger of the Night's Watch. He went scouting with Benjen north past the Wall. Craster tells Jon Snow that Ser Wymar had passed by his home some time earlier. However, Jon Snow and the other rangers find no sign of him.

Mance Rayder

Mance Rayder is the leader of the wildings. He was once a member of the Night's Watch, but left to live free in the north. Jon Snow is taken to meet him when Jon is captured by the wildings.

Asha Greyjoy

Asha Greyjoy is the sister of Theon Greyjoy. He meets a woman named Esgred at a port in the Lordsport, and she eventually reveals herself as his sister. She looks on her brother with disdain. Their father, Balon, gives Asha more responsibility than Theon. She visits Theon at Winterfell and mocks him for taking over the castle before leaving him with only a few reinforcements.



Ser Barristan Selmy

Ser Barristan Selmy is a knight who served Renly Baratheon, but has disappeared. Renly Baratheon is eager to find him, and tells his men that if Barristan is found fighting on Stannis' side, then Barristan should be spared.

Gilly

Gilly is one of Craster's wives. She begs Jon to take her away from the keep so if her baby is a boy, it won't be given to the Others. Jon doesn't agree, but Sam Tarly does and promises to come back for the baby.

Hot Pie

Hot Pie is an orphan boy who travels with Arya Stark. He is captured with her and taken to Harrenhal, and is present when Roose Bolton takes over. He escapes Harrenhal with Arya Stark and Gendry.

Margaery Tyrell

Margaery Tyrell is the wife of Renly Baratheon and the daughter of Lord Mace Tyrell. When Renly is killed, Margaery is offered as a wife to King Joffrey Baratheon. This will cement the Tyrell's loyalty to the Lannisters. King Joffrey agrees, releasing Sansa Stark from her promise to marry him.

The Others

The Others are mysterious, undead beings called wights who can be found north of the Wall. Craster leaves any of his male babies for the Others.

Prince Doran Martell

Prince Doran Martell is the prince of Dorne, one of the regions in the Seven Kingdoms. His sister, Elia, was killed and he wants her killer brought to justice. He is also the father of Tystane, who is betrothed to Myrcella Lannister.

Grand Maester Pycelle

Grand Maester Pycelle is grand maester of the Seven Kingdoms. Tyrion Lannister learns he is a spy for his sister Cersei Lannister and throws him in the dungeons. Cersei sends Ser Lancel Lannister to demand Pycelle's release. Tyrion agrees after blackmailing Lancel to spy on Cersei for him.



Lord Wyman Manderly

Lord Wyman Manderly is a lord of White Harbor that is loyal to Robb Stark. His son, Wylis, is held captive by Tywin Lannister. Tywin offers to release him if Wyman does not participate in the war, but Wyman does not accept this.

Salladhor Saan

Salladhor Saan is a pirate and a friend of Ser Davos Seaworth. He is present when Ser Davos' fleet attacks King Landing and the wildfire destroys the fleet. Salladhor's ships are outside the bay and out of reach of the fire.

Azor Ahai

Azor Ahai is a legendary hero. He forged a great sword, Lightbringer. Melisandre claims that Stannis is Azor Ahai reborn and has Stannis draw a sword out of a fire to prove this.

Ser Axell

Ser Axell is a knight at Dragonstone who is loyal to Stannis. He is a fanatic follower of Melisandre and the Lord of the Light, and one of the first knights to convert to her religion.

Ser Amory Lorch

Ser Amory Lorch is a knight. He is part of a group of men that burns Harrentown. His men kill Yoren, the man in charge of the group traveling to the Wall. Ser Amory takes Arya Stark to Harrenhal. However, Roose Bolton soon invades and takes over Harrenhal. Ser Amory is stripped naked and thrown in a bear pit.

Bronn

Bronn is a mercenary who helps out Tyrion Lannister. He carries out orders for Tyrion throughout the novel. Tyrion sometimes worries about his loyalty, since Bronn is a mercenary who will do anything for money.

Big Walder Frey

Big Walder Frey is a member of the Frey family who is loyal to Robb Stark. He is present when Theon Greyjoy takes over Winterfell. His fate is unknown.



Benjen Stark

Benjen Stark is a ranger of the Night's Watch. He led a party of rangers into the north some time ago, but they did not come back. Jon Snow and other rangers search for word of him, but do not find anything.

Little Walder Frey

Little Walder Frey is a member of the Frey family who is loyal to Robb Stark. He lives at Winterfell with Bran Stark. When Theon Greyjoy takes over, Little Walder helps him look for Bran and Rickon when they escape. His fate is unknown.

Wylis Manderly

Wylis Manderly is the son of Lord Wyman Manderly. He is an ally of Robb Stark and is held captive by Tywin Lannister.

Elia Martell

Elia Martell is the sister of Prince Doran Martell. She was killed some time ago by Gregor Clegane. Her brother would like to have her killer brought to justice.

Rainbow Guard

The Rainbow Guard are the bodyguards of Renly Baratheon. Brienne, a woman who is also a fighter, wins a tournament and is rewarded by being allowed to join the Rainbow Guard.

Tystane Martell

Trystane Martell is the son of Prince Doran Martell. He is betrothed to Myrcella Lannister. Myrcella leaves King's Landing to live in Dorne until they are of age to be married.

Ser Alliser Thorne

Ser Alliser Thorne is a knight who comes to see Tyrion Lannister with a rotted hand in a jar. He tells Tyrion about an attack of wights in the north. Tyrion lets him take prisoners from the dungeon to fight the wights.



Lady Donella

Lady Donella is a woman who comes to Winterfell. She needs to find a husband to hold onto her lands. Ramsey Snow takes her and marries her to gain her lands. He leaves her to die in a dungeon after she signs a paper giving him control of her lands.

Xaro Xhoan Daxos

Xaro Xhoan Daxos is a man in Qarth who gives Daenerys and her people shelter while they are in Qarth. He offers to marry her, but he really just wants one of her dragons. When she refuses to marry him or sell him a dragon, he withdraws his assistance.

Ser Preston

Ser Preston is a knight of the Kingsguard. He guards the bridge to the godswood when Sansa is trying to get to the godswood to meet whoever wants to help her escape King's Landing.

Weese

Weese is a steward at Harrenhal. Arya Stark is forced to be a servant in his charge. He is mean and abuses Arya. She tells Jaqen H'Ghar that she wants Weese dead, and Weese is soon found with his throat ripped out.

Ramsey Snow

Ramsey Snow is the bastard son of Roose Bolton. He married Lady Donella to try and gain her lands. He is supposedly killed in a battle with Robb Stark's army. However, he turns up at Winterfell masquerading as a servant named Reek. He leaves the castle to get reinforcements for Theon, but instead comes back and takes over and burns the castle.

Lord Alester Florent

Lord Alester Florent was one of the knights loyal to Renly Baratheon. When Renly is killed, Alester switches his loyalties to Stannis Baratheon. He is present when Stannis meets with Ser Cortnay at Storm's End. Ser Cortnay mocks him for switching sides so quickly.



Ser Mandon Moore

Ser Mandon Moore is a knight of the Kingsguard loyal to the Lannisters. During the battle against Stannis' army, he tries to kill Tyrion and Podrick kills Mandon instead.

Goldcloaks

The goldcloaks are the city watch, the guardians of King's Landing. Tyrion Lannister appoints Ser Jacelyn as their leader when Tyrion arrives in King's Landing.

Lord Rickard Karstark

Lord Rickard Karstark is loyal to Robb Stark. However, he does not agree with all of Robb's decisions. He participated in the battle at Oxcross with Robb.

Thoren Smallwood

Thoren Smallwood is a ranger with the Night's Watch. He goes with the party to the Fist of the First Men as they try to discover what the wildings are doing.

Allar Deem

Allar Deem is a man Janos Slynt and Tyrion Lannister consider for the head of the city watch. However, Tyrion punishes him for his war crimes by sending him to join the Night's Watch. Tyrion orders that Allar should have an "accident" on the way north.

Dolorous Edd

Dolorous Edd is a member of the Night's Watch. He is a friend of Jon Stark and Sam Tarly and goes with the party to the Fist of the First Men.

Ghost

Ghost is Jon Snow's direwolf. He travels with Jon in the north as part of the Night's Watch. When Jon is forced to kill Qhorin to prove his loyalty to the wildings, Ghost gives him an opening by biting Jon's leg.



Ser Rodrik Cassel

Ser Rodrik Cassel is a knight at Winterfell. He attacks Winterfell to gain it back from Theon Greyjoy. Theon threatens to hang Rodrik's daughter, Beth, if Rodrik does not leave. Rodrik is then killed when Ramsey Snow's army attacks his.

Nymeria

Nymeria is the direwolf of Arya Stark. Arya sent Nymeria away while she was at King's Landing so Nymeria wouldn't get killed by King Joffrey after Nymeria attacked Joffrey.

Summer

Summer is Bran Stark's direwolf. Bran learns that he can use his third eye to see through Summer's eyes.

Old Nan

Old Nan is a servant at Winterfell. She is present when Bran yields the castle to Theon Greyjoy and is presumably killed when Ramsey Snow burns the castle.

Rhaegal

Rhaegal is a dragon belonging to Daenerys Targaryen.

Viserion

Viserion is a dragon belonging to Daenerys Targaryen.

Drogon

Drogon is a dragon belonging to Daenerys Targaryen. She takes him into the House of the Undying with her. Drogon saves her from the Undying by burning down the house.

Ser Cortnay

Ser Cortnay is a knight loyal to Renly Baratheon and holds Storm's End in Renly's name. After Renly dies and Storm's End is besieged by Stannis Baratheon, Cortnay promises to be loyal to whichever aspiring king frees him. He meets with Stannis during the siege, but won't agree to give Edric Storm to Stannis. Stannis has Melisandre use her shadow magic to kill Ser Cortnay.



Roose Bolton

Roose Bolton is the father of Ramsey Snow. He is loyal to the Starks and takes over Harrenhal with the help of the Brave Companions. He makes Arya his cupbearer for her part in freeing the northmen to help capture the castle. He plans to leave Harrenhal in control of the Brave Companions, prompting Arya to escape.

Ser Lancel Lannister

Ser Lancel Lannister is a cousin of Tyrion and Cersei Lannister. He comes to Tyrion to demand Grand Maester Pycelle's release. Pycelle is a spy for Cersei. Tyrion tells Lancel he knows he has been sleeping with Cersei and blackmails him to spy on Cersei for Tyrion. Lancel also had a part in King Robert's death. Lancel gave Robert extra potent wine before a hunting trip, which resulted in Robert being killed.

The Brave Companions

The Brave Companions or Bloody Mummerns are a group of mercenaries led by Vargo Hoat. They occupy Harrenhal while Arya Stark is there. They initially pretend to be loyal to the Lannisters, but help Roose Bolton invade Harrenhal and take it over.

Vargo Hoat

Vargo Hoat leads the Brave Companions. The group visits Harrenhal while Arya is there. Vargo has a strong lisp, and Arya doesn't like him or his men.

Chiswyck

Chiswyck is one of Gregor Clegane's men. He and some other Gregor men gang-raped a girl, which makes Arya Stark hate him even more. Jaqen H'ghar kills him at the request of Arya.

Reek

Reek is a prisoner captured by Ser Rodrik. He becomes a servant at Winterfell, then changes his allegiance to Theon Greyjoy when Theon captures Winterfell. He is later revealed to be Ramsey Snow.



Ser Loras Tyrell

Ser Loras Tyrell is a knight who serves under Renly Baratheon and the son of Lord Mace Tyrell. When Renly is killed, Ser Loras is very upset. He kills two of the other knights in Renly's tent in anger. He later allies with the Lannisters.

Tysha

Tysha was Tyrion Lannister's wife. They married before Jaime told him Tysha was a whore and their father, Tywin, had the guards gang-rape her to teach Tyrion a lesson about consorting with whores. She disappeared afterward. Tyrion is haunted by her.

Alayaya

Alayaya is a whore in a brothel that Tyrion Lannister uses as a decoy when he goes to see Shae. Cersei Lannister captures her, thinking she is Tyrion's whore. Cersei says she will keep Alayaya as a hostage until Tyrion gives her back her son Tommen.

Lady

Lady is Sansa Stark's direwolf. She was ordered killed by King Joffrey before the events of the novel.

Podrick Payne

Podrick Payne is Tyrion Lannister's squire. He saves Tyrion life when Ser Mandon tries to kill him by pushing Mandon over the edge of a boat. Tyrion orders him not to tell anyone what happened.

Ser Stafford Lannister

Ser Stafford Lannister is a Lannister knight that Robb Stark kills in an attack at Oxcross. Sansa Stark is beaten by King Joffrey for Robb's win and Stafford's death.

Grey Wolf

Grey Wind is Robb Stark's direwolf. He accompanies Robb everywhere, including with Robb's army as they take over forts and castles in the north.



Rorge

Rorge is one of the prisoners who was locked in the wagon with Jaqen and was freed by Arya. He later became one of Ser Amory's men. He helps Arya free the Northmen at Harrenhal.

Biter

Biter is one of the prisoners who was locked in the wagon with Jaqen and was freed by Arya. He later became one of Ser Amory's men. He helps Arya free the Northmen at Harrenhal.

Ygritte

Ygritte is a wildling sentry captured by Jon Snow. Jon lets her go soon after, although he was ordered to kill her. She speaks up for Jon when he is captured by wildings.

Beth Cassel

Beth Cassel is Ser Rodrik Cassel's daughter. Theon Greyjoy threatens to hang her when Rodrik comes to reclaim Winterfell from Theon. He does not do this, since Ramsey Snow's men rout Ser Rodrik's army. However, she probably dies when Ramsay Snow burns Winterfell.

Rattleshirt

Rattleshirt is the leader of a wildling band who captures Jon Snow. He wants to kill Jon, but Ygritte speaks up for him. He takes Jon Snow back to the wildling camp.

Belwas

Belwas is a man sent by Illyrio to bring Daenerys back to Pentos. He is a giant man and a eunuch, who has many cuts on his chest. He tells Daenerys that he lets everyone he fights cut him once.

Arstan

Arstan is a man sent by Illyrio to bring Daenerys back to Pentos. He saves Daenerys from an assassination attempt by a townsman in Quarth.



Dagmer

Dagmer is one of Theon's men that participates in the raid on Stony Shore. Theon orders him to attack Torrhen's Square as a diversion while Theon captures Winterfell.

Quaithe

Quaithe is a woman from the Shadowlands who advises Daenerys Targaryen. She tells Daenerys not to trust anyone in Quarth and tells her to go to Asshai.

Qhorin

Qhorin is the leader of the Night's Watch reinforcements for the camp at Fist of the First men. He and Jon Snow are part of a scouting party to discover what the wildings are doing. He orders Jon Snow to join the wildings to spy on them if they are caught. When they are caught, Jon must kill Qhorin to prove his loyalty to the wildings.

Lynesse

Lynesse is the former wife of Ser Jorah Mormont. They were married after they met at a tournament. She left him when he could not make enough money to give her the lifestyle she wanted. She became a concubine for a merchant prince. Jorah tells Daenerys about his wife.

Lark the Sisterman

Lark the Sisterman is a member of the Night's Watch, who is not satisfied with Mormont's leadership. Jon Snow hears them talking about possibly deserting.

Chett

Chett is a member of the Night's Watch, who is not satisfied with Mormont's leadership. Jon Snow hears them talking about possibly deserting.

Robert Arryn

Robert Arryn is the son of the late Jon Arryn and Lisa Stark Arryn. Tyrion Lannister sends Petyr Baelish to offer Myrcella Baratheon's hand in marriage to Robert, but he never really intends to send Myrcella.



Shaggydog

Shaggydog is the direwolf of Rickon Stark.

Stonesnake

Stonesnake is a member of the Night's Watch. He is part of the scouting party with Jon Snow looking for the wildings.

Symon Silvertongue

Symon Silvertongue is a singer who Shae employs to sing to her. Tyrion Lannister warns him to say nothing about Tyrion's relationship with Shae.

Selyse Baratheon

Selyse Baratheon is the wife of Stannis Baratheon and the mother of Shireen Baratheon. She is a devout follower of Melisandre and the Lord of the Light, R'hllor. She has convinced her husband Stannis that Melisandre can lead him to glory. She also takes part when Melisandre burns the statues of the seven gods.



Objects/Places

The Seven Kingdoms

The Seven Kingdoms is the main country on the continent of Westeros. The country has long seasons which last years at a time. Summer has just ended.

Dragonstone

Dragonstone is the home of House Targaryen. Stannis Baratheon has a stronghold there.

Volantis

Volantis is a city in Westeros.

Storm's End

Storm's End is the home of House Baratheon. Ser Davos Seaworth is knighted after a siege there. Stannis Baratheon attacks the place while his brother, Renly Baratheon, holds it.

The Citadel

The Citadel is the headquarters of the Maesters.

King's Landing

King's Landing is the capital city of the Seven Kingdoms, where Joffrey Baratheon holds the throne. The Lannister family also lives here.

Tower of the Hand

Tower of the Hand is in King's Landing, where the Hand, the chief adviser of the king lives. Tyrion Lannister lives here while filling in for his father, Tywin Lannister. The tower is seen as cursed due to the unnatural deaths of the several previous Hands.



The Wall

The Wall divides the Seven Kingdoms from the wild lands in the north. It is guarded by the Night's Watch.

Castle Black

Castle Black is a stronghold of the Night's Watch.

Winterfell

Winterfell is the home of the Stark family. Bran Stark is staying here.

Harrenhal

Harrenhal is a stronghold controlled by men loyal to the Lannister family. Several men, including Jonas Slynt and Petyr Littlefinger, are offered it in exchange for their services.

Pyke

Pyke is one of the Iron Islands. It is also the name of the castle of House Greyjoy, and Balon Greyjoy lives here. Theon Greyjoy returns here with a message from Rob Stark.

Lordsport

Lordsport is a town on Pyke, one of the Iron Islands. Theon Greyjoy lands here when returning to the castle Pyke.

Casterly Rock

Casterly Rock is the home of House Lannister. Tywin Lannister keeps his army here, although his daughter, Cersei, wants him to return to King's Landing.

Quarth

Quarth is a city near the desert that Daenerys visits.

Whitetree

Whitetree is a deserted wilding village in the north. Jon Snow and others from the Night's Watch examine the village.



Blackwater

Blackwater is a river in the Seven Kingdoms. Arya Stark and her group cross this river.

Harrentown

Harrentown is a town in the Seven Kingdoms, near Harrenhal. Arya Stark and her group stay here, and many of their group is killed in an attack by the goldcloaks.

Riverrun

Riverrun is the home of the Tully family. Catelyn and Robb Stark use it as a base during the war.

Craster's Keep

Craster's Keep is the home of Craster in the north above the Wall.

Frostfangs

The Frostfangs are mountains in the extreme north of the continent.

Stony Shore

Stony Shore is a town raided by Balon Greyjoy's men.

Deepwood Motte

Deepwood Motte is a castle raided by Balon Greyjoy's men.

Moat Cailin

Moat Cailin is a castle which is seized by Balon Greyjoy's men.

Fist of the First Men

Fist of the First Men is a mountain encampment north of the Wall.



Torrhen's Square

Torrhen's Square is raided by Theon Greyjoy's men.

The Westerlands

The Westerlands is one of the regions of the Seven Kingdoms.

Oxcross

Oxcross is a village where Robb Stark kills Ser Stafford and defeats his men.

The Crag

The Crag is the home of the Westerlings. Robb Stark conquers it.

The House of the Undying

The House of the Undying is the home of the warlocks in Qarth. Daenerys visits it and has visions of the future and past. Her dragon burns it to help her escape.

Pentos

Pentos is a city Daenerys has come from, and is the home of Illyrio.

Iron Throne

The Iron Throne is the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. It was made out of blades and has jagged edges.



Themes

Prophecy

At several points throughout the novel, several characters experience or receive a prophecy. Melisandre has a vision of Stannis as a legendary hero returned; Jojen Reed has greendreams in which he sees future events, and Daenerys Targaryen sees both future and past events in the House of the Undying. Prophecies such as these are very important to the people of the Seven Kingdoms. By knowing what is to happen, those who receive the knowledge can try to adjust their course or be on the lookout for important events they know are coming. Prophecies can also be twisted to the giver's intentions, however.

At the outset of the novel, a giant red comet in the sky seems to foretell a important event is about to happen in the Seven Kingdoms. However, the meaning of the comet is different to each of those who behold it. For Maester Cressen, the comet is a bad omen, coupled with the ending of a decade long summer. He sees the comet as meaning hard times throughout the continent. Selyse Baratheon, wife of Stannis, sees the comet as a sign her husband must go on the march and claim the throne for himself. Ser Aerys of the Kingsguard tells Sansa Stark the comet appearing on King Joffrey's birthday means Joffrey will be blessed. Both Catelyn Stark and Aerys note that red is a Lannister color, and both think it means victory for the Lannisters. Osha, a servant at Winterfell, tells Bran Stark it is a sign of blood and fire to come. Daenerys Targaryen leads her people by the comet, certain it will direct her where her destiny lies. Each of these characters and others have their own idea of what the comet means.

With so many people having differing ideas about the comet, it seems that only some of them could be correct. However, most of the meanings come true. Cressen is soon killed; Stannis does go on the march, although he fails badly; Winterfell is attacked and blood is shed, then the castle is burned down; and the Lannisters do have a victory against Stannis' army. Whether these things come true through fate or coincidence is a matter of debate. However, with the strengthening of magic in the realm, it seems the comet might be a sign of how the war will play out.

Women

The Seven Kingdoms is primarily a patriarchal society, and women are not allowed much of a role in running it. Most are resigned to the roles of wife and mother, and their attempts to break out of this are usually mocked or put down. Cersei Lannister often wishes she were a man, so she would be able to hold lands and rule in her own right. She tries to wield power through her son, Joffrey Baratheon. However, her schemes are usually ill-advised, and she is subverted by her brother, Tyrion. Catelyn Stark also tries to advise her son, Robb Stark, in his quest for the throne. Robb does not value his mother's advice, even when it is sound. He prefers to form his own battle plans and



ignores his mother's pleas to save his sisters. It would be interesting to see if he felt differently if his brothers were the ones held hostage by the Lannisters.

Brienne Tarth is one woman who has broken boundaries to become a knight. She is frequently mocked for her mannish appearance, yet she is able to rise about this, partly because of Renly's faith in her. Brienne is strong and stubborn and willing to make her own way in the world, values which are not admired in a woman. Similarly, Arya Stark is also willing to take matters into her own hands. She is not afraid to kill those who hurt her or her family and constantly practices her swordplay so she can defend herself if the occasion arises and not depend on a man to save her. When things get bad at Harrenhal, she comes up with her own plan to escape, unlike her sister, Sansa, who is held at King's Landing.

Sansa Stark is more of a typical woman, as she looks to a man, Ser Dontos, to be her knight in shining armor and save her from King's Landing. She is still young and may find strength as she grows older, but for now, she is constrained by her life at King's Landing. She is also unable to stand up to King Joffrey, for he has terrorized her so many times, it has cowed her into obedience. Daenerys Targaryen does not meet as much opposition as the other women, possibly because she is traveling on a separate continent across the sea from the Seven Kingdoms. However, she also has to put up with condescending advice from her men at times. Overall, it seems strong women are few and far between in the Seven Kingdoms.

Alliance

Throughout the novel, families join together and break apart as different claimants emerge or fade away. In the Seven Kingdoms, a man is only as good as his alliances. The claimants to the throne must work to get every powerful family they can on their side if they hope to claim the throne. Efforts are made by each family to gain and keep other powerful families on their side. The main way alliances are made in the Seven Kingdoms is through marriage. Tyrion Lannister offers Myrcella Baratheon to Prince Doran Martell's son, Trystane, in order to get the Martells to support the Lannisters. After Renly is killed, Tyrion tries to recruit as many of Renly's followers as possible. One of the most powerful allies Tyrion gains is the Tyrell family, who agree to support the Lannisters if Margaery Tyrell marries King Joffrey. Marriage is a tool used by the noble families of the Seven Kingdoms, and it does not matter if the participants are actually in love. It's more important to have a secure, prominent position in the society than worry about someone's happiness.

Another way to gain someone's alliance is by using currency. There are many mercenaries or sellswords throughout the kingdom, and all are willing to work for the highest bidder. Tyrion employs several mercenaries as his spies and bodyguards in King's Landing. However, he is also aware of the main downfall when working with mercenaries: their alliances will shift as soon as someone is willing to pay them more. Tyrion invokes this rule himself when Cersei hires her own mercenaries, and Tyrion gets



them to spy on her by paying them more. He goes to great lengths to ensure that the mercenaries do not sell him out, but almost every man has his price.

Youth

Based on the things that happen to the characters in the novel, it is easy to assume they are all grown adults. However, the Seven Kingdoms is a violent place to live, and surviving to a ripe old age is not in the cards for most, especially when the country is in the middle of a war. Many of the main characters are young children and teenagers, yet they are faced with obstacles most of us couldn't imagine.

King Joffrey Baratheon is only thirteen; therefore, his mother Cersei Lannister rules for him as Queen Regent. It is clear Joffrey does not have much real power, except when he is in a public forum. This is how he is able to order Eddard Stark's execution, since it is in front of the citizens and no one can refuse the king. Most of the control of the kingdom is in the hands of the king's chief adviser, the Hand. Throughout the novel, Tyrion does most of the plotting and planning for the king. Joffrey is mostly a pawn subject to the whims of his mother and advisers. Robb Stark is also a young claimant to the throne at age fifteen. He is more noble than Joffrey, and takes as much control as he can in planning his attacks in the war. He does not value the advice of his mother, instead acting on his own best impulses. As many young people, Robb and Joffrey are impulsive and seem to believe they are invincible.

Robb's sisters, Arya and Sansa, are also very young. Sansa is only twelve, yet she is already promised to Joffrey as his bride. She does not even have her first period, yet she is already engaged. This is something that wouldn't be tolerated throughout most of the modern world. Arya is even younger, yet by the end of the novel she has already killed or had killed several men. Most children today would not have the strength to do the things the children of the Seven Kingdoms do. This shows that the Seven Kingdoms is a brutal world, and children must grow up quickly if they hope to survive.



Style

Point of View

The novel is told from the point of view of several characters in turn, using a third-person limited point of view. Each character describes the events as they see them, and the reader is aware of things that certain characters are not. For example, the reader is aware that Bran and Rickon Stark survived the attack on Winterfell, but their mother, Catelyn Stark, thinks they are dead. Some of the events in each character's section overlap, and some characters give their accounts of the same events. For example, Ser Davos Seaworth and Tyrion Lannister each describe their parts in the same battle when Stannis Baratheon attacks King's Landing.

This method gives the reader a richer and broader experience of the world of the Seven Kingdoms. The events and their connections are not spelled out; instead, some of the implications of things that happen in the novel must be connected through the reader's mind. This also gives the narrators' some unreliability, as each only has so much information, and no one narrator is free to see the big picture. It also shows how events can be misconstrued by some narrators, and the misunderstanding of these events can be the catalyst for future events.

Setting

The setting of the novel is primarily the Seven Kingdoms on the continent of Westeros. The action throughout the novel happens at several castles, forts, and other locations throughout the land. The Seven Kingdoms consist of seven regions on Westeros and is bounded to the north by the Wall, where the Night's Watch patrol. Above the wall are the wilding lands. Some of the principal regions of the Seven Kingdoms are the North, the Iron Islands, and Dorne. Several free city-states are also featured, including Braavos, Pentos, and Qarth, and are located across the sea on another continent. Most of the events take place on the main continent, except for those concerning Daenerys, who is on the other continent.

The world in which the Seven Kingdoms are located seems similar to a medieval society on Earth. The characters do not have modern conveniences, and jousts and tournaments are in abundance. The novel mostly concerns the upper crust of society, primarily following the lives of nobles and their children; therefore, most of the novel takes place in castles and the homes of the claimant kings. The peasants and their homes are not represented, although many of the main characters travel throughout the novel, visiting inns and brothels. The world is very complex, with a large amount of locations and characters taking part in the overarching events, even if it is only a small part.



Language and Meaning

The language in the novel is primarily common English and easily comprehensible to most readers. Most of the characters speak plainly, and the meaning of their words is usually clear. The author does use words that would be more traditional of a medieval society to add color and authenticity to the novel, especially concerning the weapons and armor used. Some foreign words from ancient languages are also used, but their meanings become clear through examining the context in which they are used and do not need to be understood to comprehend the novel.

The novel also contains some descriptions of sexual acts and sexual encounters, and makes mention of taboo topics, such as incest. There are also very strong descriptions of violence in the novel, including battles and murders, rapes and mutilations. Both types of descriptions can be graphic, but on the whole are used mostly to add authenticity and life to the novel, not to be gratuitous. Since these topics are discussed, the novel is more suitable for mature audiences.

Structure

The novel is divided into 70 chapters, each told by alternating characters. The first chapter is the prologue told by Maester Cressen, and is his only narration. The rest of the chapters are told by Arya Stark, Sansa Stark, Tyrion Lannister, Bran Stark, Jon Snow, Catelyn Stark, Ser Davos Seaworth, Theon Greyjoy and Daenerys Targaryen. Each narrator tells their experiences in a part of the Seven Kingdoms, and the narrators are spread throughout the continent in order to give a widespread view of what happens throughout it. The chapters are not numbered, and are only introduced by the name of the character who will be narrating it. Tyrion narrates the most chapters, which is fifteen, and Ser Davos Seaworth the least, with only three.

It is important to note that this is the second book in a series, so several events that have occurred in past novels have repercussions here. Past events are frequently referred to and described by the characters, and these events color what takes place in the novel. For example, Eddard Stark's beheading took place right before the events in this novel, but it is the catalyst for Arya Stark's fleeing of King's Landing, Sansa Stark's intense hatred of King Joffrey Baratheon, and Tyrion's punishment of those who participated in the execution, to name a few. Likewise, the battle at King's Landing is the climax of the novel, but the lives of the characters continue beyond it.



Quotes

"The shadows come to dance, my lord, dance my lord, dance my lord." Ch.1, Prologue, Maester Cressen, pg. 8

"Some gave me soft words and some blunt, some made excuses, some promises, some only lied ... In the end, words are just wind." Ch. 1, Prologue, Maester Cressen, pg. 11

"I won't cry. I won't do that. I'm a Stark of Winterfell, our sigil is the direwolf, direwolves don't cry." Ch. 2, Arya, pg. 35

"She wore a gown of pale purple silk and a moonstone hairnet that had been a gift from Joffrey. The gown had long sleeves to hide the bruises on her arms. Those were Joffrey's gifts as well." Ch. 3, Sansa, pg. 39

"Once she had loved Prince Joffrey with all her heart, and admired and trusted his mother, the queen. They had repaid that love and trust with her father's head. Sansa would never make that mistake again." Ch. 3, Sansa, pg. 52

"I dream of a tree sometimes. A weirwood, like the one in the godswood. It calls to me. The wolf dreams are better. I smell things, and sometimes I can taste the blood." Ch. 5, Bran, pg. 74

"It's more than Lannister and Tully. There's wild men down from the Mountains of the Moon, try telling them you take no part. And the Starks are in it too, the young lord's come down, the dead Hand's son..." Ch. 6, Arya, pg. 84

"Some men want whores on the eve of battle, and some want gods." Ch. 7, Jon, pg. 98

"Her son's crown was fresh from the forge, and it seemed to Catelyn Stark that the weight of it pressed heavy on Robb's head." Ch. 8, Catelyn, pg. 107

"If I'm King of the North, let him be King of the Iron Islands, if that's his desire. I'll give him a crown gladly as long as he helps us bring down the Lannisters." Ch. 8, Catelyn, pg. 115

"Yet as she lay under her thin blanket, she could hear the wolves howling ... and another sound, fainter, no more than a whisper on the wind, that might have been screams." Ch. 10, Arya, pg. 144

"So many kings, my tongue grows weary of the word." Ch. 11, Davos, pg. 154

"All men know me for the trueborn son of Steffon Baratheon, Lord of Storm's End, by his lady wife, Cassana of House Estermont. I declare upon the honor of my House that my beloved brother Robert, our late king, left no trueborn issue of his body, the boy Joffrey, the boy Tommen, and the girl Myrcella being abominations born of incest between



Cersei Lannister and her brother Jaime the Kingslayer. By right of birth and blood, I do this day lay claim to the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. Let all true men declare their loyalty. Done in the Light of the Lord, under the sign and seal of Stannis of House Baratheon, the first of His Name, King of the Andals, the Rhoynar, and the First Men, and Lord of the Seven Kingdoms." Ch. 11, Davos, pg. 158

"Once. When we still kept to the Old Way, lived by the axe instead of the pick, taking what we would, be it wealth, women, or glory." Ch. 12, Theon, pg. 169

"They are not strong, so I must be their strength. I must show no fear, no weakness, no doubt. However frightened my heart, when they look upon my face they must only see Drogo's queen." Ch. 13, Daenerys, pg. 189

"It was astonishing to see how angry Cersei could wax over accusations she knew perfectly well to be true. If we lose the war, she out to take up mummery, she has a gift for it." Ch. 16, Tyrion, pg. 229

"'Lord Varys,' he said from the saddle, 'sometimes I feel as though you are the best friend I have in King's Landing, and sometimes I feel you are my worst enemy.' 'How odd. I think quite the same of you.'" Ch. 16, Tyrion, pg. 242

"Winter is coming, and you are almost a man grown, Bran. You have a duty." Ch. 17, Bran, pg. 244

"A golden man appeared in the sky above him and pulled him up. 'The things I do for love,' he murmured softly as he tossed him out kicking into the empty air." Ch. 17, Bran, pg. 260

"Come to the godswood tonight, if you want to go home." Ch. 19, Sansa, pg. 279

"That was the way of war. The smallfolk were slaughtered, while the highborn were held for ransom. Remind me to thank the gods that I was born a Lannister." Ch. 21, Tyrion, pg. 314

"He was old enough to know that it was not truly him they shouted for — it was the harvest they cheered, it was Robb and his victories, it was his lord father and his grandfather and all the Starks going back eight thousand years. Still, it made him swell with pride." Ch. 22, Bran, pg. 323

"And now they are all gone. It was as if some cruel god had reached down with a great hand and swept them all away, the girls to captivity, Jon to the Wall, Robb and Mother to war, King Robert and Father to their graves, and perhaps Uncle Benjen as well..." Ch. 22, Bran, pg. 327

"I want to weep ... I want to be comforted. I'm so tired of being strong. I want to be foolish and frightened for once. Just for a small while, that's all ... a day ... an hour ..." Ch. 23, Catelyn, pg. 334



"This is madness, Catelyn thought. Real enemies on every side and half the realm in flames, and Renly sits here playing at war like a boy with his first wooden sword." Ch. 23, Catelyn, pg. 340

"It is all a game to them still, a tourney writ large, and all they see is the chance for glory and honor and spoils. They are boys drunk on song and story, and like all boys, they think themselves immortal." Ch. 23, Catelyn, pg. 349

"So there is magic beyond the Wall after all. He found himself thinking of his sisters, perhaps because he'd dreamed of them last night. Sansa would call this an enchantment, and tears would fill her eyes at the wonder of it, but Arya would run out laughing and shouting, wanting to touch it all." Ch. 24, Jon, pg. 368

"Is this the Cersei that Jaime sees? When she smiled, you saw how beautiful she was, truly. I loved a maid as fair as summer, with sunlight in her hair. He almost felt sorry for poisoning her." Ch. 26, Tyrion, pg. 400

"I have borne a child, buried a khal, and crossed the red waste and the Dothraki sea. Mine is the blood of the dragon." Ch. 28, Daenerys, pg. 432

"'But there isn't,' he said aloud in the darkness of his bed. 'There's no magic, and the stories are just stories.' And he would never walk, nor fly, nor be a knight." Ch. 29, Bran, Ch. 443

"The flicker in Lancel's green eyes was the admission Tyrion needed. So Varys told it true. Well, no one can ever claim that my sister does not love her family." Ch. 30, Tyrion, pg. 446

"It is not what we do, so much as why we do it." Ch. 30, Tyrion, pg. 450

"It is real, all of it, he thought, the wars, the intrigues, the great bloody game, and me in the center of it ... me, the dwarf, the monster, the one they scorned and laughed at, but now I hold it all, the power, the city, the girl. This was what I was made for, and gods forgive me, but I do love it ... And her. And her." Ch. 30, Tyrion, pg. 454

"It took him only three days to earn the place of honor in her nightly prayers. 'Weese,' she would whisper, first of all. 'Dunsen, Chiswyck, Polliver, Raff the Sweetling. The Tickler and the Hound. Ser Gregor, Ser Armory, Ser Ilyn, Ser Meryn, King Joffrey, Queen Cersei.' If she ever let herself forget even one of them, how would she ever find him again to kill him?" Ch. 31, Arya, pg. 457

"And that night, there was one less name to hate." Ch. 31, Arya, pg. 469

"'Kings have no friends,' Stannis said bluntly. 'only subjects and enemies.'" Ch. 32, Catelyn, pg. 474



"I am not threatening the king, ser, I am educating my nephew. Bronn, Timett, the next time Ser Boros opens his mouth, kill him.' The dwarf smiled. 'Now that was a threat, ser. See the difference?' " Ch. 33, Sansa, pg. 489

"They won't be able to stop him, Bran. I couldn't see why, but I saw the end of it. I saw you and Rickon in your crypts, down in the dark with all the dead kings and their stone wolves." Ch. 36, Bran, pg. 527

"And after all is said and won, they will make songs for that bitch Asha, and forget that I was even here. That is, if he allowed it." Ch. 38, Theon, pg. 541

"Suddenly she knew that she had made a terrible mistake. I'm so stupid, she thought. Weese did not matter, no more than Chiswyck had. There were the men that mattered, the ones she ought to have killed. Last night she could have whispered any of them dead, if only she hadn't been so mad at Weese for hitting her and lying about the capon. Lord Tywin, why didn't I say Lord Tywin?" Ch. 39, Arya, pg. 555

"If they have slain the Kingslayer, then my daughters are dead as well." Ch. 40, Catelyn, pg. 564

"Bones, Catelyn thought. This is not Ned, this is not the man I loved, the father of my children." Ch. 40, Catelyn, pg. 573

"Yet even crowned, I am a beggar still, Dany thought. I have become the most splendid beggar in the world. but a beggar all the same. She hated it, as her brother must have. All those years of running from city to city one step ahead of the Usurper's knives, pleading for help from archons and princes and magisters, buying our food with flattery. Small wonder he turned so angry and bitter. In the end it had driven him mad. It will do the same to me if I let it. Part of her would have liked nothing more than to lead her people back to Vaes Tolorro, and make the dead city bloom. No, that is defeat. I have something Viserys never had. I have the dragons. The dragons are all the difference." Ch. 41, Daenerys, pg. 578

"You set your dog on them! What did you imagine they would do, bend the knee meekly while the Hound lopped off some limbs? You spoiled witless little boy, you've killed Clegane and gods know how many more, and yet you come through unscratched. Damn you!" Ch. 42, Tyrion, pg. 596

"I was in my tent when Renly died, and when I woke my hands were clean." Ch. 43, Davos, pg. 613

"There are no shadows in the dark. Shadows are the servants of light, the children of fire. The brightest flames cast the darkest shadows." Ch. 43, Davos, pg. 622

"We can only die. Why else do we don the black cloak, but to die in defense of the realm?" Ch. 44, Jon, pg. 632



"Storm's End is fallen and Stannis is coming with fire and steel and the gods alone know what dark powers, and the good folk don't have Jaime to protect them, nor Robert nor Renly nor Rhaegar nor their precious Knight of Flowers. Only me, the one they hate ... The dwarf, the evil counselor, the twisted little monkey demon. I'm all that stands between them and chaos." Ch. 45, Tyrion, pg. 648

"At times I feel as though I am being torn apart. Would that there were five of me, one for each child, so I might keep them all safe." Ch. 46, Catelyn, pg. 652

The Lorathi brought the blade to Arya still red with hearts blood and wiped it clean on the front of her shift. "A girl should be bloody too. This is her work." Ch. 48, Arya, pg. 689

"Leaving and coming, it is the same. Always up. Always the door to your right. Other doors may open to you. Within, you will see many things that disturb you. Visions of loveliness and visions of horror, wonders and terrors. Sights and sounds of days gone by and days to come and days that never were. Dwellers and servitors may speak to you as you go. Answer or ignore them as you choose, but enter no room until you reach the audience chamber." Ch. 49, Daenerys, pg. 698

"All's well, Greyjoy. Hear the quiet? You ought to be drunk with joy. You took Winterfell with fewer than thirty men, a feat to sing of." Ch. 51, Theon, pg. 721

"You are the blood of Winterfell and a man of the Night's Watch." Ch. 52, Jon, pg. 748

"I killed my first man at twelve. I've lost count of how many I've killed since then. High lords with old names, fat rich men dressed in velvet, knights puffed up like bladders with their honors, yes, and women and children too — they're all meat, and I'm the butcher." Ch. 53, Sansa, pg. 756

"It was as if her own body had betrayed her to Joffrey, unfurling a banner of Lannister crimson for all the world to see." Ch. 53, Sansa, pg. 759

"You've been scheming against me since the day you came to King's Landing. You sold Myrcella, stole Tommen, and now you plot to have Joff killed. You want him dead so you can rule through Tommen." Ch. 55, Tyrion, pg. 777

"I am become I a sour woman, Catelyn thought, I take no joy in mead nor meat, and song and laughter have become suspicious strangers to me. I am a creature of grief and dust and bitter longings. There is an empty place within me where my heart was once." Ch. 56, Catelyn, pg. 784

"Death by poison can seem natural. Harder to claim that my head simply fell off." Ch. 56, Catelyn, pg. 790

"Oh, it's the truth you want? Be careful, my lady. Tyrion says that people often claim to hunger for truth, but seldom like the taste when it's served up." Ch. 56, Catelyn, pg. 792



"So many vows ... they make you swear and swear. Defend the king. Obey the king. Keep his secrets. Do his bidding. Your life for his. But obey your father. Love your sister. Protect the innocent. Defend the weak. Respect the gods. Obey the laws. It's too much. No matter what you do, you're forsaking one vow for the other." Ch. 56, Catelyn, pg. 796

"Ned Stark's tree, he thought, and Stark's wood, Stark's castle, Stark's sword, Stark's gods. This is their place, not mine. I am a Greyjoy of Pyke, born to paint a kraken on my shield and sail the great salt sea." Ch. 57, Theon, pg. 810

"Do you hear them shrieking, Stannis? Do you hear them burning? This is your work as much as mine." Ch. 60, Tyrion, pg. 838

"If I'm not betrayed by my own guards, I may be able to hold here for a time. Then I can go to the walls and yield to Lord Stannis in person. That will spare us the worst. But if Maegor's Holdfast should fall before Stannis can up, why then, most of the guests are in for a bit of rape, I'd say. And you should never rule out mutilation, torture, and murder at times like these." Ch. 61, Sansa, pg. 846

"The battle fever. He had never thought to experience it himself, though Jaime had told him of it often enough. How time seems to blur and slow and even stop, how the past and future vanished until there was nothing but the instant, how fear fled, and thought fled, and even your body." Ch. 62, Tyrion, pg. 855

"Her bell rang softly, and Dany found her thoughts returning to the Palace of Dust once more, as the tongue returns to a space left by a missing tooth. Child of three, they had called her, daughter of death, slayer of lies, bride of fire. So many threes. Three fires, three mounts to ride, three treasons." Ch. 64, Daenerys, pg. 874

"If I had wings I could fly back to Winterfell and see for myself. And if it was true, I'd just fly away, fly up past the moon and the shining stars, and see all the things in Old Nan's stories, dragons and sea monsters and the Titans of Braavos, and maybe I won't ever fly back unless I wanted to." Ch. 65, Arya, pg. 895

"I am free of Joffrey. I will not have to kiss him, nor give him my maidenhood, nor bear him children. Let Margaery Tyrell have all that, poor girl." Ch. 66, Sansa, pg. 908

"They say the Iron Throne can be perilous cruel to those who were not meant to sit it." Ch. 66, Sansa, pg. 913

"Night gathers, and now my watch begins. It shall not end until my death. I shall take no wife, hold no lands, father no children. I shall wear no crowns and win no glory. I shall live and die at my post. I am the sword in the darkness. I am the watcher on the walls. I am the fire that burns against the cold, the light that brings the dawn, the horn that wakes the sleepers, the shield that guards the realms of men. I pledge my life and honor to the Night's Watch, for this night and all nights to come." Ch. 69, Jon, pg. 945

"The stone is strong, Bran told himself, the roots of the trees go deep, and under the group the Kings of Winter sit their thrones. So long as those remained, Winterfell

remained. It was not dead, just broken. Like me, he thought. I'm not dead either." Ch. 70, Bran, pg. 969



Topics for Discussion

Many women in the novel try to be strong, to varying degrees of success. Which women in the novel are admirable? How do they use their strengths to get ahead in a primarily patriarchal society? How does being female hinder the women in the novel in reaching their goals?

Consider the role of advisers in the novel. Each of the kings have official advisers or family members who frequently give them advise on how to win the war. Are these advisers valued? Why or why not? How do the kings treat them, and how often do they take their advice? Should the kings put more or less faith in the advice they receive? Why or why not?

Each of the claimants to the throne, Stannis Baratheon, Renly Baratheon, Robb Stark, and Balon Greyjoy, view the others as threats, but to differing degrees. How does this help or hinder each of them in their quest for the throne?

The comet is seen by many to be a prophecy, although opinions differ depending on who is doing the prophesizing. After learning the outcome of the novel, which prophecy seems the most likely? Why or why not? Is it one of victory, or one of destruction?

Robb Stark, Sansa Stark, Arya Stark, and Bran Stark are siblings, yet their experiences are very different throughout the novel. Describe the character of each and how their characters are similar or different. Arya, Bran, and Robb are have direwolves, but Sansa's was killed. How is she different? What is the significance of wolves to the Stark family?

Daenerys Targaryen is also a claimant to the throne, however she does not have a considerable army yet which may help her claim it. Since she will establish her claim later than Stannis Baratheon, Renly Baratheon, Robb Stark, and Balon Greyjoy, do you believe this will help or hinder her? Why or why not?

The main plot of the novel is the war for the throne of the Seven Kingdoms. Why is power so important? Which of the characters do you feel has the most valid claim to the throne? Explain your reasoning.

Throughout the novel, there is little mention of the lives of the smallfolk, except for the occasional ruined village and mass of corpses. What does this say about the importance of the citizens to the ruling houses? Would one king really be better than another in the eyes of the citizens? Why or why not?

Tyrion Lannister attempts to do justice in the Seven Kingdoms, yet people look on him as an evil influence on Joffrey. What causes the people to look at him in this way? Is any part of their opinion justified? Are Tyrion's efforts to help the kingdom futile? Why or why not?



Theon Greyjoy has lived with the Stark family for a good part of his life, yet he conquers Winterfell, one of their strongholds. What are his motivations for doing this? Does the outcome benefit him and his family? Why or why not?

Melisandre is Stannis Baratheon's greatest ally. However, opinions differ as to whether her power hinders or helps him. Based on the events of the novel, does Melisandre have a favorable influence on Stannis? How do the people feel about her influence? Would her presence have changed the outcome of the final battle? Explain your reasoning.

Wildfire is a dangerous substance and an even more dangerous as a weapon. Why does Tyrion, who tries to be noble, use such a weapon against the invading forces? Is the use of such a weapon ethical? Why or why not? Do the benefits outweigh the cost of using it? Why or why not?

Many of the main protagonists in the novel are from the same core families. How does this familial relationship affect their actions towards each other? Which characters seem to value their families, and which don't? Why or why not? With the country at war, are there any benefits to being a member of a noble family? Why or why not?

In the society of the Seven Kingdoms, men have sexual freedom, and most have bastard children. Women, however, do not have this freedom, and their virginity is seen as something special. What does this say about gender roles in the Seven Kingdoms? Are women allowed to be sexual creatures? Why are men allowed to be? Explain your reasoning.