

A Storm of Swords Study Guide

A Storm of Swords by George R. R. Martin

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Plot Summary

A Storm of Swords by George R.R. Martin is a fantasy novel, the third in the series, preceded by A Clash of Kings. It begins in the final months of the year 299 in the land of the Seven Kingdoms and concerns the aftermath of a war for the Iron Throne. Little battles are raging to settle where the rewards of the war will fall, for the one who holds the Iron Throne rules the kingdom.

Chett is a member of the Night's Watch, soldiers who guard the Wall. They make camp in Fist of the First Men, an ancient fort. Chett speaks with his friends about a plot to kill the officers. The Watch plans to ride and attack the Wildings. Before either plan can go into effect, the Others attack the camp. Jaime Lannister is a prisoner escorted by boat from Riverrun by Ser Cleos Frey and Brienne. Catelyn Stark helped Jaime escape from prison so he could get his brother, Tyrion, to release Catelyn's daughters. While fleeing, a river galley pursues them. Brienne pushes rocks onto the galley, sinking it.

Tyrion Lannister, a dwarf in King's Landing, visits his father, Tywin. Tyrion asks to have Casterly Rock, the family's land, but Tywin refuses. Davos Seaworth is a sailor on a small island after the war. He is rescued by a ship owned by Salladhor Saan. At King's Landing, Sansa is invited to dinner by Margaery Tyrell and Lady Olenna Tyrell. Margaery is to marry King Joffrey Baratheon. Sansa tells them Joffrey is a monster. Olenna tells Sansa she wants her to marry her grandson, Willas.

Jon Snow is captured and taken to Mance Rayder, king of the wildings. Mance tells Jon he joined the wildings because he wanted to live free and make his own choices. Jon, who wants to infiltrate the wildings, tells Mance he wants to join them. Daenerys Targaryen is hoping to claim the Iron Throne. She is sailing for Pentos with Ser Jorah Mormont. Ser Jorah visits Daenerys and tells her to change course to Astaphor and buy the Unsullied, highly trained fighters. Bran Stark travels with Meer and Jojen Reed and Hodor. Jojen wants Bran to go to the Wall to seek the three-eyed crow.

Davos learns few remain loyal to Stannis Baratheon. Davos tells Salladhor he wants to kill Melisandre, Stannis' advisor. When they land at Dragonstone, Davos is arrested. Jaime Lannister, Brienne and Ser Cleos stop at an inn and the innkeeper tells them to take a certain path to avoid hostile lands. Jaime is impressed when Brienne takes another path. Arya, Hot Pie, and Gentry escape from Roose Bolton. They hide when they hear someone coming, but outlaws discover them and take them to an inn. The group hears riders and Arya recognizes one of her father's men, Harwin. Catelyn Stark's son Robb returns home. She tells him she released Jaime Lannister. Robb introduces Catelyn to his wife, Jeyne Westerling. Catelyn tells Robb that the Frey family will now be angry, since Robb was supposed to marry a Frey woman.

Jon Snow and the wildings go to the Fist of the First Men. Mance Rayder questions Jon about the forces at the fort. Most of the Night's Watch is killed in the battle with the Others. Mance says he understands why the wildings were not attacked as they approached the fort. Sansa meets with Dontos, who is going to help her escape King's



Landing. Arya and Gentry go with the outlaws. Harwin tells Arya he and the other men became outlaws after the deaths of King Robert Baratheon and Eddard Stark. Arya discovers they are taking her to see Lord Beric. Sam Tarly is retreating from Fist of the First Men with other survivors. He falls and Grenn and Small Paul come by and help Sam. They are attacked by an Other. The Other kills Small Paul and Sam stabs it with his obsidian dagger and the creature dissolves.

Tyrion Lannister is told Petyr Baelish will marry Lysa Arryn to secure the Vale of Arryn for the Lannisters. Tywin wants Cersei to marry Willas and Tyrion to marry Sansa. Tywin tells them Robb Stark married Jeyne Westerling. Jaime Lannister, Brienne Tarth, and Cleos Frey are ambushed by archers. Cleos is killed and Jaime and Brienne chase the archers away. They are surrounded by Brave Companions (Bloody Mummers). Jaime and Brienne are taken before Vargo, who has Jaime's sword hand cut off. Arya, Gentry, and the outlaws are trying to find Lord Beric. Daenerys is in Astapor looking at the Unsullied. She is upset about the way slaves are treated. Bran and his companions are traveling to the Wall and Meera tells them a story.

Davos is imprisoned for wanting to kill Melisandre. Jon Snow has been traveling with Styr and Jarl, two of the wildings, and their group. Jon gives Styr information about the Night's Watch patrol of the Wall. Daenerys meets with slave traders of Astapor and tells them she wants the Unsullied. She tells the traders she will give them a dragon. She gives the dragon to the slaver, and orders him to unleash his fire. Daenerys frees all the slaves and conquers Astapor. Cersei tells Sansa she is to marry Tyrion. At the Wall, the wildings and Jon Snow climb the Wall. At Harrenhal, Jaime Lannister and Brienne are brought to Roose Bolton. Tywin shows Tyrion new swords he had made for Joffrey and Jaime. Pycelle comes in with a letter from Castle Black describing the Others' attack. Tywin will help if Lord Janos Slynt is elected as new Lord Commander.

Sam and other survivors are at Craster's Keep. Gilly, a daughter and wife of Craster, gives birth. The men kill Craster and Mormont. Sam escapes with Gilly and the baby. Arya and Gentry are in a cave. The Mad Huntsman brings his captor, Sandor Clegane. Lord Beric and Thoros decide Sandor will be tried by battle. Sandor kills Beric, but Beric comes back alive. Robb tells Catelyn that Sansa is married to Tyrion Lannister. Catelyn says they should make peace with the Lannisters, but Robb will not. Lothar tells them Lord Walder Frey will accept a new marriage alliance if Robb apologizes and Edmure marries Roslin Frey.

Davos Seaworth meets with Stannis Baratheon. He asks Davos why he wanted to kill Melisandre, and Davos tells him he believes she lit the fires that sank his ship. Stannis says Melisandre is faithful. He names Davos to be his Hand. Melisandre enters and Stannis tells Davos that Stannis will be the hero in the final battle against the Great Other, the god of darkness. Stannis throws three leeches into a fire and says the names Joffrey, Robb, and Balon Greyjoy. Melisandre asks Stannis to sacrifice Edric Storm, but Stannis will not listen. Roose tells Jaime Lannister and Brienne Tarth about Robb Stark's marriage to Jeyne Westerling and Edmure's to Roslin Frey. They are ready to leave, but Roose says he cannot take both of Vargo's prizes away, and the guards take Brienne.



Tyrion meets Prince Oberyn Martell. Oberyn caused Willas Tyrell to be crippled. The Tyrells hate the Dornishmen for it. Lord Beric lets Sandor Clegane go. Arya says she thought Sandor had killed him, but Beric says Thoros brought him back to life. Bran Stark, Hodor, Meera Reed and Jojen Reed, together with Bran's direwolf, Summer, reach Queenscrown. Jojen sees some men near the shore of the lake, and Bran enters Summer to scout them. The wildings are heading for Castle Black. Jon Snow tries to lie about the defenses, but he knows if the wildings do attack, the castle will fall. The group comes to the village of Queenscrown. Summer, Bran Stark's direwolf, attacks them and Jon flees to Castle Black.

Daenerys Targaryen conquers the slave city of Yunkai. One of the captains of the city's sellsword companies, Daario, joins his group with her army. The Yunkai slaves are free. Arya sneaks off from the outlaws, but is grabbed by Sandor Clegane. Jaime is going back to King's Landing and has a dream about Brienne. Jaime decides to rescue Brienne. When he gets there, he finds Vargo Hoat has put her in the bear pit. Jaime jumps in to hold off the bear while archers kill the bear. Vargo lets Jaime and Brienne go. Catelyn Stark, Robb, and Edmure Stark and Lothar Frey set out for the wedding at the Twins. Jeyne Westerling begs them to take her, but Robb sends her back to Riverrun. Robb chooses to name Jon Snow as his heir. Sam Tarly and Gilly come on foot to an abandoned village. They sleep in the inn, but are attacked in the night by the wight of Small Paul. Sam manages to get an ember from the fire and kill it. They run and meet a cloaked person.

Sandor Clegane has taken Arya Stark. He tells Arya he will take her to the Twins and ransom her back to her family. Jon Snow rides to Castle Black to warn them. Jon learns the wildings are attacking all along the Wall. Catelyn and Robb Stark and their party reach the Twins, where the wedding between Edmure Tully and Roslin Frey will take place. Catelyn and Robb meet with Lord Roose, Greatjon and other loyal men. Sandor Clegane and Arya Stark are traveling as traders to the Twins. At the wedding, the Freys spring a trap and kill Catelyn, Robb, and their allies. Arya Stark and Sandor Clegane arrive at the Twins. As they approach the castle, the Freys come out and attack Robb's army. Arya tries to find her mother, but Sandor hits her and knocks her out. Tyrion is summoned to his father, Tywin, who tells him of Robb Stark's death. Tywin orchestrated the slaughter at the wedding. He tells his son that Catelyn died.

Salladhor Saan reports to Davos Seaworth, Melisandre, Ser Axell, and Stannis Baratheon that Robb Stark is dead. Melisandre and Axell try to convince Stannis to sacrifice Edric. Stannis will still not give in. Davos is taking reading lessons from Pylos and they read a letter from the Wall. Jon Snow watches the wildings approach Castle Black. The Watch successfully defends the castle. Bran Stark, Hodor, Meera Reed and Jojen Reed reach the Nightfort. They meet Sam Tarly, Gilly and her son there. Sam says the stranger that saved them from the wights told them to come to the Nightfort. Daenerys is in the city of Meereen. Arstan reveals he is a knight, Ser Barristan Selmy. Barristan says Jorah is a spy for Varys, the head spy for King Joffrey. Daenerys is mad at them both, and sends them on a dangerous mission.



When Tyrion and Sansa walk into King Joffrey's wedding, Lady Olenna Tyrell straightens the hairpiece Donton gave to Sansa. Joffrey eats Tyrion's piece of pie, and chokes to death. Cersei has arrested Tyrion for the murder. Sansa leaves the throne room and Donton takes her away. She learns Lord Petyr Baelish was behind the attempt to get her out of the city. He kills Donton. Jaime Lannister learns that King Joffrey Baratheon is dead. Jaime goes to see Cersei, who tells him Tyrion killed Joffrey, and she wants Jaime to kill Tyrion. Jaime says he wants to be open about their relationship and marry. Cersei tells him to leave. Jaime visits Tywin. Tywin tells Jaime he is to leave the Kingsguard go to Casterly Rock, but Jaime will not. Davos Seaworth helps Edric Storm escape Dragonstone. Davos reads Stannis and Melisandre the letter from the Wall. The wildling army attacks the Wall.

Arya Stark enters Nymeria, her direwolf. They smell Catlyn's body in the river, and Nymeria pulls it out. The next day, Sandor realizes the passes to the Eyrie are too dangerous, and Sandor decides to take her to Riverrun again. Tyrion is on trial for the death of Joffrey. Cersei has paid off many witnesses to swear they saw Tyrion put poison in Joffrey's food. Prince Oberyn comes to Tyrion and tells him he will serve as his champion in a trial by combat. Jaime Lannister meets with the Kingsguard members. He speaks with Ser Loras and tells him to judge Brienne fairly. Lord Petyr Baelish takes Sansa Stark Lannister to his keep. He is going to marry Lysa Stark Arryn, Sansa's aunt.

The fighting between the Night's Watch and the wildlings continues. Janos Slynt accuses Jon of joining the wildlings. At the battle by trial for Tyrion's life, Oberyn manages to get Gregor down, but Gregor crushes Oberyn's head. Tyrion is condemned to die. Daenerys conquers Meereen. She asks Barristan why he served Robert, and Barristan reveals King Aerys and Prince Rhaegar, Daenerys' father and brother, were mad. Daenerys forgives him. Ser Jorah says he has done nothing wrong. She sends him away and decides to stay in Meereen as queen. Jaime gives Brienne the sword his father made and tells her to find Sansa and Arya Stark and protect them.

Lord Janos Slynt tells Jon that Maester Aemon is the only thing preventing Jon from being hanged. He is sending Jon as an envoy to Mance Rayder, ostensibly to parley. Jon is to kill Mance. While Jon is there, King Stannis and his men attack the wildlings and Mance is captured. Arya Stark and Sandor Clegane are attacked at an inn. Sandor is grievously wounded, and Arya leaves him in the forest. She heads for the Salt Pans and boards a ship. Sam is at Castle Black. He learns Stannis overcame the wildlings. The Night's Watch are voting for a new Lord Commander. Sam talks with other members of the Watch, and he thinks he may try to convince Cotter or Denys to concede and support the other one, since they do not want Janos as Lord Commander. Stannis offers Jon the position of Lord of Winterfell. Jaime Lannister comes to Tyrion in his cell and helps him escape. Tyrion climbs up to the tower and finds Shae in his father's bed. He kills her and Tywin.

Sam talks to Cotter and Ser Denys to get one to concede in the election for Lord Commander. He gets them to support Jon Snow. At the election, Jon is nominated and elected as Lord Commander. Sansa Stark is at the Eyrie, the home of Lysa Arryn. Petyr tries to kiss her. Lysa calls for Sansa and is angry and says Petyr is hers. Petyr shoves



Lysa out a door in the tower and blames it on a singer, Marillion. Merrett Frey is going to Oldstones to ransom back his relation, Petyr Pimple. The outlaws show him Petyr Pimple has been hanged and prepare to hang Merrett. He says he had nothing to do with the Red Wedding. The brotherhood says they have a witness. Merrett knows Catelyn Stark was killed at the wedding, but she is there. Merrett is hanged.

Chapter 1, Prologue: Chett

Chapter 1, Prologue: Chett Summary

Chett is a member of a hunting party that is trying to track a bear using dogs. They are part of a group of soldiers called the Night's Watch who guard the Wall, a stronghold in the North Lands. Three hundred of the Watch are riding north to find rangers who have gone missing and discover why the wildings were leaving their village. They have made camp in the Fist of the First Men, an ancient fort. Chett speaks with the other members of the party about their plot to kill the officers of the watch. Chett is bitter towards Jon Snow and his friend Sam Tarly. Chett was a steward to a man named Master Aemon before Jon Snow got Sam Tarly to take over as steward.

The members of the Night's Watch have not found the missing rangers, but have discovered the wildings have gone into the Frostfangs mountains. Soon after, approximately 30,000 wildings descend along the river Milkwater. The members of the Watch are not sure of the wildings' purpose, but the wildings' route will take them past the Watch's camp at Fist of the First Men. Thoren Smallwood, one of the Watch, wants to attack the wildings and convinces Ser Mallador Locke, one of the knights of the Watch. Together, they try to convince Lord Mormont, but Mormont wants to wait for his scouts. Chett believes all the scouts are dead.

The men cannot find the bear and turn back to camp. Chett thinks about the plot to kill the officers that they will put into action that night. He plans to kill Sam Tarly personally. The party returns to Fist of the First Men. As they make their way back, some of the men talk about fleeing to their homelands. Chett thinks about the town he grew up in, Hag's Mire. They get back to camp and Chett sees Sam Tarly and antagonizes him. Chett then reports to Lord Commander Mormont that his group could not find the bear and later connects with the members of the conspiracy.

The men assemble and Mormont tells them the wildings are drawing nearer. He tells the men they will ride at dawn to attack the wildings. They recite the oath of the Night's Watch and the men go to sleep. It begins to snow, and Chett thinks that will ruin his plans, as the members of the conspiracy will be easy to track over fresh snow. He decides to kill Sam Tarly and approaches his tent. Chett hears the guards at the front of the camp blow a horn three times, signifying the Others have come. Sam Tarly wakes up at the horns and says to Chett that there have not been Others for thousands of years. Chett feels his bladder let go.

Chapter 1, Prologue: Chett Analysis

The prologue is the only chapter narrated by Chett, and serves to introduce the reader to the world of the Seven Kingdoms. Chett is a common soldier of the Night's Watch. He feels slighted by two men, Jon Snow and Sam Tarly, who are responsible for Chett

losing a cushy position as Master Aemon's steward. Chett is bitter towards the two men and wants them both dead. Chett is also bitter about his upbringing. He was raised in a poor family and could never get a woman to be with him. He feels cheated by many things in life, and this is the catalyst for his plot to kill the officers of the Watch. He finds other soldiers who are also discontented with the officers' leadership, and who are willing to kill the officers so they can flee and begin new lives. Members of the Night's Watch must serve for life, so they feel this is the only way they can be free. The Others are first introduced in this chapter, although it is not revealed exactly what they are. By Sam and Chett's reaction, it is clear the Others have not been sighted for several thousand years, and the men are shocked that they have returned. This chapter sets the stage for a battle between the Knight's Watch and the Others.

Chapter 2, Jaime

Chapter 2, Jaime Summary

Jaime Lannister is a prisoner being escorted by boat from Riverrun by his cousin, Ser Cleos, and a woman named Brienne. Lady Catelyn Stark has helped Jaime escape from prison so he can get his brother, Tyrion to release Catelyn's daughters. Jaime asks Brienne to remove his chains, but she refuses and calls him Kingslayer. Jaime antagonizes Brienne and she calls him a monster. Jaime knows Brienne has heard about his attempt to kill Brandon Stark, a seven-year-old boy, by throwing him out a window. Brandon had seen something Jaime did not want him to see, and Jaime told his sister Cersei what he had done.

Jaime shaves his head so he is harder to recognize. While traveling on the Red Fork river, they see many empty villages and several women hung from a tree. They stop to bury the women, who were tavern wenches. Jaime infers Lord Jonos, an enemy of his family, killed the wenches for consorting with Lannister soldiers. Brienne climbs the tree and sees a boat coming. They flee in their boat, but the galley catches up. Ser Robin Ryger, captain of the guard at Riverrun, has come to get Jaime back. Brienne jumps from the boat as they pass an island. She climbs up a cliff and pushes rocks down onto the galley, causing it to sink. Brienne dives back into the river, and Jaime helps her into the boat.

Chapter 2, Jaime Analysis

Jaime has deep feelings for his sister Cersei, and he implies that they have had a sexual relationship. He says that she is the only woman he ever wanted. They seem to share everything, as Cersei knows Jaime tried to kill Brandon Stark. In contrast, Jaime is very antagonistic towards Brienne, a heavy-set woman. He makes fun of her while they are escaping. When she returns to the boat after sinking the galley, Jaime thinks about killing her, but instead helps her into the boat. He is still degrading towards her, but internally, he marvels at her strength and seems surprised a woman is so tough.

Chapter 3, Catelyn

Chapter 3, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn is confronted by Ser Desmond Grell and Utherydes Wayn, two of her father's men. They punish her for releasing Jaime by confining her to father's chambers until her brother, Ser Edmure, returns. Catelyn's father, Lord Holster Tully, is very sick, and Catelyn wants to be near him to take care of him. While with her father, Catelyn hears her father mumbling about blood and babies. She infers that her sister Lysa was pregnant before marrying Lord Jon Arryn and Lord Holster forced Lysa to have an abortion. Lord Holster made Lysa marry Lord Jon as his price for joining Robert Baratheon's rebellion.

A raven arrives at the castle with the news that Catelyn's son Robb Stark was wounded storming the Crag, but it is not serious. Catelyn writes a letter to Lysa urging her sister to come to see her. Their brother Edmure Stark returns to Riverrun. He informs Catelyn of Stannis's defeat and admonishes her for letting Jaime Lannister go. He also tells her he has sent ravens to Harrenhal to inform Lord Roose Bolton of Jaime's escape. Catelyn despairs because if Jaime is caught, she will not get her daughters back.

Chapter 3, Catelyn Analysis

Although Catelyn is a member of the Stark family, she still has to answer to her brother for letting Jaime go. Women do not have as much power as men in the Seven Kingdoms. Her family does not understand her reasoning. They do not realize the power of Catelyn's love for her daughters. Catelyn is a brave woman, however, who knows she took a chance by letting Jaime go. She has already lost her husband, Lord Eddard Stark, and she believes she has lost two of her sons, Bran and Rickon. She cannot bear to lose any more of her family. This is also shown in the care she gives her father while he is on his deathbed. Catelyn will do anything for her children and to keep her family together, as that is what means the most to her. Catelyn is also the most willing to declare peace. She is not in favor of a war that tears families apart.

Chapter 4, Arya and Chapter 5, Tyrion

Chapter 4, Arya and Chapter 5, Tyrion Summary

Arya Stark, Gendry, and Hot Pie escape from Lord Roose Bolton's stronghold at Harrenhal. Arya plans to find the Red Fork of the Trident River and follow it to Riverrun. They seem to get lost and stop and rest. While asleep, Arya dreams she is a wolf. She and other wolves attack four of the Bloody Mummies and kill them. Arya is not sure if it was just a dream.

Tyrion, a dwarf, is in King's Landing recovering from his wounds after the war for the Iron Throne. Ser Bronn, a former mercenary, has been knighted. Bronn updates Tyrion on the outcome of the battle. Bronn tells him Tyrion's army of mercenaries is either dead or have been paid off by Ser Kevan Lannister. Tyrion sends Ser Bronn to investigate Ser Mandon Moore and find out if Cersei tried to have him killed.

Chapter 4, Arya and Chapter 5, Tyrion Analysis

Arya is the daughter of Catelyn Stark. She has been held in Harrenhal by Lord Roose Bolton, although it seems her mother is not aware of this. When Catelyn released Jaime, she thought her daughters were both in King's Landing. However, Roose Bolton is supposed to be allied with the Starks, and this is the first clue that all is not as it seems. By her escape, Arya shows she is a tough, independent girl and she has the strength of will to venture into the wilderness and find her home. Arya's dream about the wolf indicates she has a direwolf. Special humans can communicate with direwolves, and it seems Arya has one, although it is not with her.

Tyrion is not respected by his father, Tywin. Tyrion played a big part in the war for the Iron Throne, but Tywin has downplayed his involvement to the public. Tywin clearly thinks more highly of his other children. He shows this by his refusal to give the family's home, Casterly Rock, to Tyrion, even though Jaime can never inherit it since he is a member of the Kingsguard. Tywin resents Tyrion because Tyrion is a dwarf and because Johanna, Tyrion's mother, died while giving birth to him. Tywin blames his son for the loss of his wife. Tyrion knows how his father feels and is hurt by it. However, Tyrion will not openly rebel against his father, but he does try to protect himself and Shae (Tyrion's prostitute).

Chapter 6, Davos and Chapter 7, Sansa

Chapter 6, Davos and Chapter 7, Sansa Summary

Davos Seaworth is a sailor who awakens on a small island in Blackwater Bay. His ship was lost in a battle during the War for the Iron Throne, and he believes he has lost his four sons in the battle. While on the island, he thinks about his sons and contemplates just dying on the island. During the war, he supported King Stannis. He is finally rescued by a ship owned by the pirate Salladhor Saan.

At King's Landing, Sansa is invited to dinner by Margaery Tyrell and Lady Olenna Tyrell. She is escorted there by Ser Loras Tyrell, Margaery's brother. They pass several knights sparing in the yard, including Ser Garlan, Loras's brother. Sansa brings up a tournament where Ser Loras unhorsed Ser Robar Royce, a bitter memory for him because he later killed Ser Robar at Storm's End. Ser Loras delivers her to the Tyrell chambers.

At the dinner, Olenna questions Sansa about Joffrey's true nature. At first, Sansa does not want to answer, but Olenna has a minstrel play a song so they can talk privately. Sansa eventually tells Olenna and Margaery that she believes Joffrey is a monster. Olenna asks her to visit Highgarden and tells Sansa she wants her to marry her grandson. Sansa initially thinks she means Loras, but Olenna clarifies that she is talking about Willas. Willas was crippled in a tournament, and Sansa does not know how she feels about marrying him.

Chapter 6, Davos and Chapter 7, Sansa Analysis

After the war, Davos is filled with despair. He knows all of his sons are probably dead, and his side has been unsuccessful at putting King Stannis on the throne. Davos feels as though he should just give up, and contemplates staying on the island to die, even when he sees a ship coming. He feels there is nothing left to live for, and he would be better off dead. In the end, however, he realizes he still has some things to be grateful for, and is proud of the role he played in the war. He decides to be rescued.

Sansa is very different from her sister, Arya. Sansa is more meek and womanly, whereas Arya is more of a tomboy. Sansa is reluctant to tell Olenna about Joffrey's true nature, as she fears it will get back to him and Joffrey will retaliate. She does not seem to be very brave. She is led through life by the wills of the people around her, and she does not seem very capable of making her own way. She is forced by Lady Olenna to marry Willas. When the subject of marriage comes up, Sansa immediately daydreams about what it would be like to marry Loras, even though as a knight he cannot be married. It seems she is charmed by the ladies at the dinner and her deepest ambition is to be accepted as one of them. She is not sure about marrying Willas, but she hopes he may turn out to be the true love she is waiting for.

Chapter 8, Jon

Chapter 8, Jon Summary

Jon Snow is captured and brought to the wildling camp by Rattleshirt. He is taken to Mance Rayder, king of the wildings. Mance tells Jon he has seen him twice, once when Mance was a member of the Night's Watch, and again when Mance snuck into the welcoming feast for King Robert Baratheon (now deceased). Mance also tells Jon he joined the wildings because after being wounded, a wildling woman healed him and patched his Night's Watch cloak with red thread. When he returned to the Night's Watch, they would not let him keep the cloak, and Mance decided he wanted to live free to make his own choices. Jon tells Mance he wants to join the wildings, because his father, King Robert, did not value him highly because he is a bastard. Mance accepts him in the wildings.

Chapter 8, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow is able to convince Mance Rayder that he wants to join the wildings, even though this is not so. Jon has felt like an outsider before because of his bastard status, so it is not hard to convince Mance that he is deserting the Night's Watch. Jon does not seem to know what he wants. Even though he does not have a place in the family of his father, Eddard Stark, Jon cannot find a place in the world. It is also clear that Chett's hatred of Jon (portrayed in the first chapter) may be unnecessary as Jon seems to be a noble man. He is willing to honor the promise he made to infiltrate the wildings.

Chapter 9, Daenerys

Chapter 9, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys Targaryen is hoping to claim the Iron Throne for her family. The Targaryens held the throne for some time before Robert Baratheon claimed the throne after King Aerys II's death. She is sailing for Pentos with Ser Jorah Mormont, a man named Arstan, and her three dragons. Arstan tells Daenerys about the Targaryen dragons of the old days. He also tells her about her father, King Aerys II, and brother, Prince Rhaegar. Ser Jorah tells her he believes Arstan is hiding something.

That night, Ser Jorah visits Daenerys in her room. He suggests they change course to Astaphor and buy the Unsullied, eunuchs who are highly trained, tough fighters. To convince her, he tells her of a battle four hundred years ago, when 3,000 Unsullied stopped over 50,000 Dothraki invaders from reaching the city of Qohor. Jorah tells her they can purchase the Unsullied using Illyrio's trade goods, since he supposedly supports Daenerys's mission. Daenerys agrees and Ser Jorah kisses her and asks her to take him as husband, but Daenerys puts him off.

Chapter 9, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys is hoping to claim the Iron Throne for the Targaryen family again. She is the last of the Targaryen dynasty, who ruled the Seven Kingdoms before Robert's Rebellion. Daenerys grew up in the latter years of the war, and is now hoping to return the throne to her family. She needs power to do so, and so she takes Ser Jorah's advice to pick up the Unsullied slaves. Daenerys does not think slavery is right, but she knows she needs an army to complete her goals. Daenerys has dealt with a lot of betrayal in her life, especially by men. She does not react well to Jorah's insinuation that Arstan is untrustworthy. Daenerys needs to figure out her path in life. She loves to hear Arstan's stories about her father, King Aerys II, and brother, Prince Rhaegar, reveling in their honorable deeds and never realizing Arstan may be tailoring the stories for her benefit.

Chapter 10, Bran and Chapter 11, Davos

Chapter 10, Bran and Chapter 11, Davos Summary

Bran Stark is connected to his direwolf, Summer. He is asleep, dreaming of running with her, when he is woken up by Hodor, the man who carries him. Bran and Hodor are traveling with Jojen and Meera Reed, two siblings. Jojen is afraid Bran will merge with the wolf and not come back, so he questions him every time he wakes up. Bran was crippled by Jaime Lannister when Jaime pushed him off a ledge. Jojen is able to have "green dreams" or premonitions, that guide him in what they should do next. Jojen wants Bran to go to the wall with him and seek the three-eyed crow to help Bran in the future. Jojen says there is nothing much else he can teach Bran, because Bran's third eye is opening and the guidance needed is beyond him. Bran agrees to go find the crow.

Davos speaks with the captain of the ship that rescued him, Khorane Sathmantes. He learns that few remain loyal to Stannis Baratheon, mostly only the members of the Florent family. Davos wants to see Stannis, but Stannis will not see anyone but Melisandre. Davos meets with Salladhor Saan, now Lord of Blackwater Bay. Salladhor tells Davos that his son Devan is still alive. While speaking with Salladhor, Davos says he thinks Melisandre is a traitor and wants to kill her. Salladhor advises him against it, but Davos will not be swayed.

They land at Dragonstone and Davos meets Edric Storm, a bastard son of Robert Baratheon and nephew of Stannis. Previously, Stannis had cut off some of Davos' fingers, and Edric now says he does not think Stannis should have done that. Ser Axell comes while they are talking and arrests Davos for plotting to kill Melisandre.

Chapter 10, Bran and Chapter 11, Davos Analysis

Bran Stark is thought dead by most of the people in the kingdom, which is what keeps him safe. Jojen is trying to help Bran train his inner eye to make him more powerful. Other than the quest to find the crow, they do not seem to have a clear agenda. Bran is most interested in merging with Summer's mind, which worries Jojen, as some people have gotten lost in the minds of animals and gotten stuck. Bran was crippled by Jaime Lannister and cannot walk, which explains his eagerness to be with Summer and run in his direwolf's body.

Based on what he has seen in the battle, Davos assumes Melisandre had something to do with the fire that overcame the ships. He knows she is skilled in that art, and he thinks she has gotten to Stannis and is the one who is really wielding control. He finds it very suspicious that Stannis will not see anyone but Melisandre. Salladhor thinks Davos is not thinking clearly, and is upset by the loss of his sons, but Davos is set on this idea. He plans to find a way to kill the red priestess and release Stannis from her hold.

Unfortunately, Melisandre is apparently more powerful than Davos thought, and he is arrested for the plot almost immediately.

Chapter 12, Jaime

Chapter 12, Jaime Summary

Jaime, Brienne and Ser Cleos stop at the Inn of the Kneeling Man to eat. They are greeted at the door by a boy with a crossbow, who lets them enter if they leave their swords outside. When the innkeeper learns they are traveling on the river, he says there is a blockage further down the river and they will not get through. The innkeeper tells them to leave their boat and travel by horseback to King's Landing. He also tells them to take a certain path to avoid hostile lands. Jaime is impressed when Brienne smells a trap and takes another path.

While they travel, Jaime reminisces about how he became a Kingsguard. He joined to be near his sister Cersei in King's Landing, but when he joined his father Tywin resigned as the Hand and took Cersei back to Casterly Rock, ruining their plans. A few years later, Tywin's army was admitted to King's Landing by King Aerys, and Aerys called for Tywin to be killed. Jaime killed the king instead. Tywin's men came in and thought Jaime was holding the throne for his father, but Jaime said he did not care who became King. He waited to see who would come. Eddard Stark (now deceased) was the one who claimed the throne. Jaime was then imprisoned by the Starks at Riverrun.

Chapter 12, Jaime Analysis

Jaime still disdains Brienne, but we see again that he is coming to respect her. He knows she was able to sniff out the trap set by the innkeepers and avoid their trap. Jaime is still dreaming of seeing his sister, Cersei, his love. The reason he joined the Kingsguard was to be close to her at King's Landing, where his father Tywin was Hand. Unfortunately, Tywin was upset with Jaime's decision to join and took Cersei back to Casterly Rock. Tywin also may have known what was going on between his children, and wanted to separate them because he did not approve of their relationship.

However, Jaime's position as Kingsguard may have saved his father. When Tywin came to invade the city, King Aerys wanted Jaime to kill him. Jaime would not fight against his father, and killed the king instead. If another guard had been there, Tywin might not have been able to avoid getting killed. Jaime truly did not care who became king next, as he just wanted to be rid of King Aerys. Despite Tywin's disapproval of Jaime's position, he does seem to care for Jaime on some level, more so than he does for Tyrion.

Chapter 13, Tyrion and Chapter 14, Arya

Chapter 13, Tyrion and Chapter 14, Arya Summary

Tyrion goes to Varys, a eunuch, to find out information about the kingdom. He asks Varys to bring him Shae, a whore, but also the woman he loves, and says he wants to send Shae away so she is safe from his father. After leaving Varys, he speaks with Ser Loras, asking him why he joined the Kingsguard when members cannot marry. Ser Loras says he has older brothers, so he is not needed to carry on the family line, and he was in love but it is lost, and nothing can replace it.

Varys brings Shae to the eunuch's chambers. Tyrion and Shae have sex and she asks to attend Joffrey and Margaery's wedding feast. Symon, a singer, has been telling her about all the fantastic events that will go on that day. Tyrion refuses, but agrees to let her stay. He thinks he should do something about Symon.

Arya, Hot Pie, and Gendry are picking food in a garden when they hear someone coming. They hide, but the outlaws discover their hiding place. They are captured by men who say they are loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased). Their names are Tom of Sevenstreams and Lem Lemoncloak. They take them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man, where Arya realizes they are outlaws and are in league with the innkeepers to rob passersby. They try to convince Arya to sell them their horses in exchange for a I.O.U. The group hears riders coming. Arya tries to get away, smashing Lemoncloak in the face with a cup. She recognizes one of them as her father's man, Harwin. He recognizes her as Eddard Stark's daughter and announces to the group that she is Arya Stark.

Chapter 13, Tyrion and Chapter 14, Arya Analysis

Tyrion uses Varys, the eunuch, for information about the happenings in the castle. Varys is an excellent spy, and it is hard to tell where his true loyalties lie. He seems eager to help Tyrion for the time being, and arranges a meeting with Shae for Tyrion. Tyrion thinks he is in love with Shae, while Shae just seems to be good at her job. She is able to flatter Tyrion, and while she may be truly genuine, it is hard to tell her true feelings. She is attracted to the trappings of the court, such as the wedding feast. Tyrion knows Symon the singer knows about them, and he needs to find a way to keep him quiet.

Tyrion's questioning of Loras is telling. Tyrion cannot understand how Loras, an eligible man, could become a Kingsguard and swear not to take a wife. Tyrion has been treated badly by his family and needs love, even if it is just from a whore. He also has an inadequacy complex about his appearance, since he is a dwarf. Loras speaks as someone who has truly found love, and knows there is no replacement for it. The concept appears foreign to Tyrion.

Arya Stark's run-in with the outlaws demonstrates the danger of living in the Seven Kingdoms. In the aftermath of the battle for the throne, there are many people who have resorted to thievery to get by. The innkeepers and the outlaws have set up a neat little scheme to rob travelers. They were planning to entrap Jaime Lannister, Brienne Tarth, and Ser Cleos Frey. Brienne's choice of a different path foiled them, as here they lament the lost chance.

Arya's mission is to get back to her mother, Catelyn, and she is dismayed to be waylaid from it. She is disdainful of the outlaws and their attempt to cheat her. She tries to be resourceful, but she is limited by the fact that she is young, and the adults do not take her seriously. She again shows her strong will by her fight to get away from the outlaws. She seizes her chance when they are distracted by the sound of riders, and they are surprised she can attack with such vigor. Luckily, Harwin arrives and recognizes her for who she is, and she feels she is saved.

Chapter 15, Catelyn

Chapter 15, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn's son Robb returns home. Catelyn meets with him and is surprised to see several new people with him. She tells her son that she has released Jaime Lannister in exchange for her daughters. Lord Rickard Karstark, a member of Robb's company, attacks her for doing this. Robb stops Karstark and tells his mother he understands why she did it. He says they cannot help what they do for love. Karstark is still angry and leaves. Catelyn notices Grey Wind, Robb's direwolf, is not around, and Robb tells her the direwolf growls around Ser Rolph Spicer and Jeyne is uneasy around the wolf. Catelyn tells him to send Ser Rolph away, because she wants Grey Wind to stay with her son and protect him.

Robb introduces Catelyn to Jeyne Westerling, his new wife. Catelyn is concerned because the Westerlings are loyal to the Lannisters, but knows she cannot object since Robb was understanding about Jaime's escape. Catelyn does tell Robb that the Frey family will now be angry, since Robb was supposed to marry a Frey woman to seal their alliance. Robb explains to his mother that he was wounded while he and Greatjon were storming the Crag, and Jeyne nursed him back to health. Greatjon wanted to attack the Freys then, but Robb thinks there may be a way to get the Freys back on their side. He needs them to win control of the northern lands. Catelyn says they need "someone" to get them back.

Chapter 15, Catelyn Analysis

When Robb Stark forgives Catelyn for her release of Jaime Lannister, she is relieved that he can be so understanding. He says that people cannot help what they do for love, and she feels like he understands her reasoning. However, he is foreshadowing his own admission that he has married Jeyne Westerling when he was supposed to be marrying a Frey woman. Catelyn is very neatly caught, and she cannot speak out against the marriage, as they have just agreed people will do anything for love. Catelyn does understand his reasons, but she sees him as her son, and she thinks he is acting very young. His choice to marry Jeyne Westerling is a parallel of Catelyn's decision to let Jaime go. Both Robb and Catelyn do it for love, in some form. It shows how much Robb is like his mother.

Robb's choice, however, may have put the family in jeopardy. The Freys are likely to be angry that Robb slighted the marriage alliance with them, and Robb now needs to work out a way to get them back on his side. By the family's accounts, the Freys are a tough family, and Robb will have to figure out the best way to get them back. Catelyn is worried, because she feels his decision to marry Jeyne was a bad decision diplomatically. It remains to be seen if her choice to release Jaime was a bad one as well.

Chapter 16, Jon and Chapter 17, Sansa

Chapter 16, Jon and Chapter 17, Sansa Summary

Jon Snow observes the wildling forces and they travel to the Fist of the First Men. The wildlings have mammoths and giants in their forces. Ygritte has made it clear she is interested in Jon, but he does not want to do anything with her because he does not want to father a bastard. When they arrive, Mance Rayder questions Jon about the forces at the fort, and Jon tells him the truth. The forces are all gone, most of the Night's Watch killed in the battle with the Others.

Mance says he understands why the wildlings were not attacked as they approached the fort. Rattleshirt wants to kill Jon now, but Jon is saved by Ygritte, who tells them she and Jon are lovers. The men believe her, although Rattleshirt is still antagonistic. Mance tells Jon and Ygritte to ride with Styr and Jarl to the Wall the next day. When they are alone, Ygritte tells Jon they must now sleep together so they are telling the truth.

Sansa is being fitted for a new dress that was ordered by Cersei. She has greatly enjoyed spending time with Margaery Tyrell and the other ladies, although she is still nervous about marrying Willas. She warns Margaery about Joffrey Baratheon again, but Margaery is not worried since her brother, Ser Loras, has joined the Kingsguard and will protect her. Sansa is not so sure this is a good idea, since Loras may end up killing King Joffrey if he does something bad to Margaery. Sansa meets with Dontos, who was supposed to help her escape King's Landing. She tells Dontos she will not escape since she is marrying Willas. Dontos tries to talk her out of it, saying the Tyrells are no better than the Lannisters. He tells her they will escape on Joffrey's wedding day and gives her a hairnet to wear to the wedding.

Chapter 16, Jon and Chapter 17, Sansa Analysis

Jon Snow is now with the wildlings, and he is using his position to observe their forces. He also sees the aftermath of the battle between the Night's Watch and the Others. It is clear the Watch was defeated. He is becoming acclimated to the wildling culture, but he is not sure if that is the best way to live. He finds himself liking some of the wildlings, and has a hard time reconciling his position with them. This is a parallel to how Jon feels about his family. He is a bastard and the son of a Stark, yet he has never been truly accepted. He is hesitant to sleep with Ygritte, because he does not want to have a bastard child and put that child through what he has been through. It seems he is doomed to always be on the outside, never quite fitting in.

Sansa is enjoying her time at the court. She feels she is learning a lot from the other ladies, and she enjoys being around them. Her mothering instinct is shown as she tries to protect Margaery by warning her about Joffrey. Margaery is not concerned, however, since Ser Loras is there. Sansa thinks this could be a bad situation, since if Loras goes

after Joffrey for hurting his sister, Loras would be killed since Joffrey is king. Sansa is a caring person, and she does not want anything to happen to her friends.

Sansa is not that pleased to be marrying Willas, although she hopes that they may fall in love. She is a fanciful girl, and love is the ultimate prize to her. However, she does have an escape plan in place. Dontos is willing to take her away from King's Landing on Joffrey's wedding day. She trusts Dontos and believes he wants to help her. She has some time to make a decision about if she wants to try for love with Willas, or if her freedom is more important.

Chapter 18, Arya and Chapter 19, Samwell

Chapter 18, Arya and Chapter 19, Samwell Summary

Arya and Gendry go with the outlaws, while Hot Pie stays at the inn to make bread. Harwin tells Arya how he and the other men became outlaws after the deaths of King Robert Baratheon and Eddard Stark. The group is called the Brotherhood without Banners, and they are hunted by Lord Tywin Lannister, the Hand of King Joffrey. They were loyal to Robert, but will not pledge loyalty to Joffrey. Instead, they choose to live as outlaws and protect the common people as best they can.

Arya thinks about Jagen H'ghar, a felon, and the iron coin he gave her. She clutches it and whispers the names of people she wishes were dead, including Ser Gregor, Cersei, and King Joffrey. While they travel, they also meet Greenbread, another outlaw, who tells them of Jaime Lannister's escape. While listening to them talk, Arya discovers they are not taking her to Riverrun, but to see Lord Beric. She tries to escape, but the men drag her back.

Sam Tarly is retreating from Fist of the First Men with the other survivors. Lord Commander Mormont is leading the men back to the Wall. He trips and falls to ground. He sits for a while thinking about the battle. Sam was in charge of the ravens and sent messages reporting the progress of the battle. He sent messages to Castle Black and Shadow Tower and some of those men came to help fight. He hears the fighting going on and knows the battle has gone badly for the men. When the order for retreat comes, he releases the ravens, but forgets to attach the messages he has written. Grenn and Small Paul come by and help Sam up. They fall behind the main group of survivors and are attacked by an Other. The Other kills Small Paul and Sam stabs it with his dragonglass or obsidian dagger. The creature dissolves and Grenn and Sam continue on to catch up with the rest of the fleeing men.

Chapter 18, Arya and Chapter 19, Samwell Analysis

Arya is very bitter about how the war has affected her family. At a young age, she has already seen much horror. It seems she wants to just be a child, and be able to play and have fun, but the deaths caused by the Lannisters and their allies are not easy to forget. Her touching of the iron coin indicates she wishes for those named to be dead. She fingers them as the worst of the offenders against her family. The phrase she mutters, "valar morghulis," may be a curse. She is glad to be among men who fought with her father, for she feels their cause was noble. However, when she realizes they are not as noble as they may seem and are not going to take her back to Riverrun, she tries to escape. She is more hurt by what she sees as their betrayal than their actual actions, as they do take care of her.

Sam Tarly does not have much faith in his ability as a soldier. When the Others attack, he panics and has a hard time keeping his mind on his task of sending messages. His position does not place him in the battle, but the fact that he is still so afraid speaks to the horror of the Others and Sam's own cowardice. Sam may be his own worst enemy, as he feels he cannot do anything right, making him more likely to bungle things. When the order for retreat is given, he forgets to put the messages on the ravens and beats himself up for it. Then he falls he feels there is no point to going on and would have certainly died if no one else had come along. However, Sam finds courage when he realizes his obsidian dagger is the only effective weapon against the Others.

Chapter 20, Tyrion

Chapter 20, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion is present at the council meeting, where Tywin and several other Lords discuss current events. Petyr Baelish will marry Lysa Arryn in order to secure the Vale of Arryn for the Lannisters. Tyrion learns that he will be promoted to master of coin. Lord Balon Greyjoy has declared himself King of the Isles, and wants to make an alliance with the Lannisters. Tywin does not want to make a decision on this yet. The council also allocates the awards from the battles.

When the council is over, Tyrion, Cersei, Kevin, and Tywin talk. Tyrion says he does not trust Petyr, but Tywin does. Petyr had just informed Tywin of the Tyrell's plan to have Sansa marry Willas. Instead, Tywin wants Cersei to marry Willas and Tyrion to marry Sansa, so the Lannister and Stark families are joined. He says it is time Tyrion was wed. Tyrion thinks that he already was wed and wonders if his father has conveniently forgotten. Tywin tells them Robb Stark has married Jeyne Westerling, and Tyrion is surprised his father is not angry, since the Westerlings are supposed to be allies of the Lannisters.

Chapter 20, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion's questioning of his father Tywin shows that he is not sure of his father's goals, and does not know if his father is going about things in the right manner. Tyrion wants to be involved in the running of the kingdom, but his father thinks he knows what is best. Tywin does not trust Tyrion enough to give him his reasons for the choices he makes as Hand. Since Joffrey is so young, Tywin is effectively the king, and his plans are above question. His attitude toward Tyrion marrying Sansa shows he views his son as a marketing ploy, just a way to create a link with the Lannisters' main enemy. Tywin views everything as a strategic battle, and his subjects are his to move where ever he pleases.

Chapter 21, Catelyn and Chapter 22, Jaime

Chapter 21, Catelyn and Chapter 22, Jaime Summary

Catelyn watches as the bodies of Willem Lannister and Tion Frey are brought in before them. Robb calls in the men, led by Lord Rickard Karstark, who are responsible for the deaths. Karstark says he killed them because Robb did not do anything to Catelyn when she let Jaime Lannister go free. Robb tells Greatjon to hang the men, except for Lord Rickard, who is executed by Robb himself. Robb considers them traitors, and knows it may cause problems politically if he hangs them. He feels that there is no other honorable choice, however. Lord Rickard curses Robb as he dies. Edmure says he should try to keep the deaths a secret, but Robb thinks word has already gotten out.

Jeyne comes to Catelyn to discuss how she can comfort Robb. Catelyn tells her to be there for Robb, and that Jeyne should try to have a child as soon as possible. Since Bran and Rickon are presumed dead and Arya and Sansa are in the hands of the Lannisters, Robb does not have a viable heir. Jeyne agrees, and tells Catelyn she is taking a mixture to make her fertile.

Jaime, Brienne, and Ser Cleos Frey are traveling to Duskendale. They are ambushed by archers, and Ser Cleos dies. Jaime and Brienne chase the archers away. Jaime and Brienne quarrel and fight. Brienne overpowers Jaime and puts his head underwater until he yields. They are surrounded by Brave Companions (Bloody Mummers). They tell Jaime the Starks have promised Vargo (Goat) Hoat, leader of the Brave Companions, that he will get Harrenhal if he fights for them.

Jaime and Brienne are taken before Vargo. Vargo has a stong lisp, and it is difficult to understand what he is saying. Jaime has told the companions that Brienne is of noble birth, so they will not rape her and think she is worth ransom. Vargo tells Jaime he needs to send a message to Lord Tywin, Jaime's father. He has one of his men cut off Jaime's sword hand. Jaime thinks he is joking until the man really does it.

Chapter 21, Catelyn and Chapter 22, Jaime Analysis

Catelyn cannot understand Rickard's reasoning for killing the squires, Willem Lannister and Tion Frey. Rickard is impetuous and quick-tempered. As soon as he finds out Catelyn will not be punished for letting Jaime go, he wants to strike a blow against the Lannisters. Since Rickard's sons were killed by Lannisters, he kills the squires. The Starks are horrified by his deed, and they seem to believe he has gone mad with vengeance. They cannot find any other reason a man would kill two sleeping, defenseless children. Robb executes Rickard himself, since Rickard is of noble birth and deserves that honor. Catelyn is especially deeply disturbed that anyone could be so

irrational and cruel. Robb wants to keep these deaths a secret, especially that of Tion Frey. There is already animosity between the two families over Robb's choice to marry a Westerling, and Tion's death can only make it worse.

Jaime's fondness for Brienne has grown, although he does not admit it to himself. He finds that he has never known another woman like her, and is intrigued by her. He and Brienne fight, and when she overpowers him, Jaime has to concede to her. When they are captured by Vargo's men, Jaime tells them that Brienne is a woman of noble birth so the men do not rape her. It appears he has more values than he lets on.

Jaime is annoyed that Brienne keeps calling him the Kingslayer. She is contemptuous with him, and considers him to be no better than a dog. She has no respect for one who would murder a king. Jaime killed King Aerys Targaryen, although it is not known why at this point. When Vargo's men refer to that as well, Jaime wonders if people will always throw that in his face. He finds he cannot escape the past or his deed.

Chapter 23, Arya

Chapter 23, Arya Summary

Arya, Gendry, and the outlaws are trying to find Lord Beric. They visit an old man and a woman called the Lady of the Leaves in order to find out where Lord Beric is. Both tell the outlaws that Beric was killed, but in different ways. They make camp for the night at a place called High Heart. Arya awakens during the night to see some of the outlaws talking to an old dwarf woman, who is telling them her dreams. She dreams of a shadow killing a stag, a man without a face and a drowned crow on a bridge, and a dead woman who was a fish with bloody tears on her cheeks. The outlaws pay her with a song. The next day, the outlaws tell Arya the woman has told them where Lord Beric is. They stop at Acorn Hall, where the Lady Ravella Smallwood is kind to Arya and gives her clothes. Arya is a little uncomfortable being treated like a lady. Smallwood tells the group that Lord Beric was there a few weeks ago and she knows where he has gone. She says she has seen some of Karstark's men, and Arya contemplates escaping to find them as they are allied with the Starks. They set out to search for Beric again the next morning.

Chapter 23, Arya Analysis

Arya is confused by the Brotherhood without Banners and their hunt for Lord Beric. At each stop, the questioned tell the brotherhood that they heard Beric was killed. The Brotherhood rebuff their claims and continue on their search. Arya is mystified that there have been so many reports of his death, yet they are all wrong. The Brotherhood seems to place some faith in fortune-telling. The dwarf woman they visit tells them of her dreams. The tableaux that she dreams of foreshadow future events, although it is not clear to whom they refer.

Arya is still on the lookout for a way to escape the outlaws. She has not forgotten her goal of reaching her mother. She is also baffled by Lady Smallwood's treatment of her. Arya has always been a tomboy, and is not used to being dressed up like a lady. She does appreciate how much Lady Smallwood seems to care.

Chapter 24, Daenerys and Chapter 25, Bran

Chapter 24, Daenerys and Chapter 25, Bran Summary

Daenerys is in Astapor looking at the Unsullied. She pretends she cannot speak their language and uses a slave girl as a translator. She hears the slaver say derogatory things about her, but she does not let on she understands. Arstan says he disapproves of using the Unsullied, since mercenaries or sellswords are available in most places. Daenerys is very upset about the way the slaves are treated. She returns to the ship to think, and Ser Jorah comes to see her. He tells her the Unsullied are not dishonorable and will not loot and will not kill women or children unnecessarily while at war. Daenerys wants to be honorable like her brother, and not use slaves. Ser Jorah says that her brother was honorable, but he also died and lost the kingdom.

Bran and his companions are traveling to the Wall to seek the three-eyed crow. Meera is a good huntress and hunts for them, although it is getting harder to find food. They meet one of the Liddles, a mountain clan, while they are seeking shelter from a storm. The next day, Meera tells them a story while they are walking. The story concerns a man who stopped at Harrenhal for a tournament. He wanted to join, but three squires teased him and beat him up. The man was rescued by a she-wolf, who took him back to her tent.

The man found out which knights the squires served, and prayed to the old gods. The next day, a mysterious knight, the Knight of the Laughing Tree, appeared and defeated those three knights in the tourney. Instead of getting a ransom of their armor, the Knight of the Laughing Tree told them to teach their squires honor. He disappeared before anyone found out his identity. Prince Rhaeger won the tourney. Bran has never heard this story before, which surprises Meera and Jojen. Meera says what happened next was an even sadder story that will be told at another time.

Chapter 24, Daenerys and Chapter 25, Bran Analysis

Daenerys is a strong woman, and she cannot imagine how the slaves lives must be. However, she is smart as well. She does not tell the traders she knows their language. This allows her to get to the truth of the situation as they say things they would not normally say if she could understand. The traders are insulting towards her, and Daenerys finds herself angry at all of them. She needs the Unsullied for her army, but she does not want to let the traders continue to raise slaves and practice their cruelty. She needs to find a way to solve her problem.

Meera Reed tells Bran Stark a story to pass the time while they are walking. The story is an allegory of a tournament that actually took place many years ago. Bran tries to figure

out who those in the story stand for. One of the three knights Bran recognizes as one of the Freys. He is not able to pick out anything else. Jojen is surprised that Bran had not heard this story from his father, signifying his father was one of the characters in the tale. Bran thinks about the magic of the tale and hopes that if the story is true, maybe there is some magic that can make him walk again.

Chapter 26, Davos

Chapter 26, Davos Summary

Davos is imprisoned for wanting to kill Melisandre. She visits him in prison and tells him that she is trying to keep the darkness at bay, and is a priestess of the light. She says she serves R'hllor, the god of light. She has been unable to make Stannis another son, and asks Davos if he wants to try. There is another god, the Great Other, who is the god of darkness. Davos asks how she knew of his plan, and she said she saw it in her flames. She says R'hllor is backing Stannis.

A few days later, Lord Alester Florent is thrown in the cell with Davos. Lord Alester thinks the war is lost, and was trying to send a letter to Tywin offering peace when he was caught. The alliance would have given up Stannis' claim to the throne, have his daughter, Shireen, marry Tommen Baratheon, and Stannis would be Lord of Dragonstone and the Florents would get Brightwater Keep. Davos thinks Stannis would never agree to this, and understands why Lord Alester is in prison. Alester rants about Melisandre and her beliefs about raising a stone dragon. He begins to cry.

Chapter 26, Davos Analysis

Davos learns from Melisandre that she is not a traitor as he thought, although he seems to doubt the truth of her story. When she offers to help him make another son, Davos retreats and says he wants no part of her. Despite what she says, he is still unsure of her ulterior motive as it concerns Stannis. Davos acknowledges her power when he learns she has seen his plot through her magic. He knows now that Melisandre and Stannis do not want him to die, but he cannot guess what they want from him. Davos is disgusted by Lord Alester. He feels Alester should have more faith in the king, and should have known better than to go behind the king's back.



Chapter 27, Jon and Chapter 28, Daenerys

Chapter 27, Jon and Chapter 28, Daenerys Summary

Jon has been traveling with Styr and Jarl, two of the wildings, and their group. When he gets a moment, Jon tells his direwolf, Ghost, that he is going over the Wall and Ghost cannot come. He tells him to go to Castle Black, and Ghost leaves. Jon gives Styr information about the Night's Watch patrol of the Wall. He makes it seem that there are more soldiers than actually there. Styr does not believe him about this. Jon goes to look for Ygritte, and finds her in a tunnel. She tells him he knows nothing, which she repeats many times. She tells him how the caves were made by Gendel and Gorne, legendary wildling twins. They have sex and Ygritte says she wants to spend forever with him in the cave.

Daenerys meets with the slave traders of Astapor and tells them she wants all the Unsullied, including the ones in training. She does not have enough money for all of them, so she tells the traders she will give them a dragon, Drogon. They also give her the slave girl, Missandei, whom Daenerys frees. In the night, Daenerys is visited in a dream by Quaithe, a woman from the shadowlands, and gives her a prophecy about going backwards to go forwards.

The next day, Daenerys goes to the city to claim the Unsullied. She gives the dragon to the slave, and says the deal is complete. The slaver is having a hard time controlling the dragon, and Daenerys orders Drogon to unleash his fire. At Daenerys's command, the Unsullied join in and help Daenerys free all the slaves and kill the slavers. She conquers Astapor.

Chapter 27, Jon and Chapter 28, Daenerys Analysis

As a member of the Night's Watch, Jon pledged to remain chaste. However, he and Ygritte have started a relationship, and Jon finds himself questioning his pledge. He cannot understand why it is necessary to remain chaste, or why sex is supposed to be off limits. His discovery of himself as a sexual being troubles and excites him. Ygritte also teaches him the ways of the wildings, and Jon is coming to see why people would want to live free.

Daenerys cannot stand to let the slavers of Astapor get away with their treatment of slaves. She tricks them with the dragon after purchasing the Unsullied, ensuring that when the revolt begins, the Unsullied will fight on her side. Daenerys has no respect for those who treat people cruelly. She wants to topple the slaver society. She succeeds in Astapor.

When Daenerys frees the slave girl Missandei, she tells her she is free, but if she stays with Daenerys, they are going to war and she may be hurt. Missandei says the phrase uttered by Arya Stark, 'valar morghulis,' and Daenerys translates it to mean 'all men must die.' The girl chooses to stay with Daenerys, as she is grateful she freed her and she has no where else to go.

Chapter 29, Sansa

Chapter 29, Sansa Summary

Sansa gets dressed in her wedding gown, thinking about Willas. When she is dressed, Cersei tells her she is to marry Tyrion instead. Sansa tried to refuse, but she realizes there is no way out. Joffrey comes and teases her until Tyrion comes out. Tyrion apologizes for them having to get married, saying it was his father's wish. During the ceremony, when Tyrion goes to put a Lannister cloak on her, Sansa refuses to kneel so he can reach. Joffrey makes Donto act as a stool for Tyrion.

At the wedding feast, Sansa dances with many of the men. Joffrey dances with her and tells her he will have her whenever he wants. When it comes time for the bedding, Tyrion wants to dispense with it, and threatens Joffrey when he insists. Tywin agrees. Later than night, Tyrion tries to sleep with Sansa, but tells her he cannot go through with it unless she wants to. He tells her about his first wife, Tysha, although he does not say what happened to her.

Chapter 29, Sansa Analysis

Sansa Stark is shocked that Tywin plans to marry her to Tyrion. She does not want to go through with it, but Tywin tells her she is his ward now. She must agree to his wishes. Sansa realizes that she is being used for political gain. Tywin wishes to give his family a claim to the Stark holdings. She is resentful, but she cannot find a way out of it. After the wedding, she is ready to submit to him in bed, but Tyrion does not want to force her. He tells her to come to him when she is ready. She does not know if she will every be ready, as he is very ugly.

Tyrion cannot bring himself to sleep with Sansa. He tries, but when he finds out she is not even thirteen, it deters him. He decides he will let her decide when she wants to come to him. Tyrion has compassion that is lacking in the rest of his family. He understands what it is like to be an outcast and knows he is not a good-looking man.

Chapter 30, Arya

Chapter 30, Arya Summary

Arya, Gendry, and the Brotherhood without Banners arrive at Stoney Sept. Harwin tells Arya about the Battle of the Bells, one of the major battles of Robert's Rebellion, which was fought at Stoney Sept. Arya's father, Eddard Stark and Lord Hoster Tully fought Lord Jon Connington, who was looking for Robert Baratheon. The townspeople were warned to stay indoors by the ringing of bells.

The captain of the gate tells them that the Mad Huntsman, a man who hates the Lannisters because they raped his wife and sister and ruined his farm, is hunting for Jaime Lannister. There are three men in cages in the center of the town, Karstark men who were looking for Jaime Lannister. They raped and murdered people when they could not find Jaime. Arya gives them water.

The group rides to an inn, which is also a brothel. One of the whores, Bella, tells them she may be a bastard of King Robert. She tries to tempt Gendry, but he stalks off. When an old man tries to coerce Arya, Gendry comes back to chase him away. That night, Arya dreams she is in her direwolf, Nymeria. The next morning, the huntsman returns with a captor. Arya is happy to see who he has caught.

Chapter 30, Arya Analysis

Arya Stark is shocked to learn the men in the cages were loyal to her brother Robb. The Karstarks are allied with the Starks. Arya does not understand how they could do such bad things, when her brother is such a good person. Arya is quickly becoming disenchanted with the idea that her family and their allies are always right and always good. She again thinks the phrase "valar morghulis." Later on, she again lists the names of those she would like to see dead, those who hurt her: Cersei, Joffrey, Ilyn, Meryn, Dunsen, Raff, Polliver, Tickler, Hound, Gregor. She will not forget their crimes.

Chapter 31, Jon and Chapter 32, Jaime

Chapter 31, Jon and Chapter 32, Jaime Summary

The wildings are preparing to climb the walls. Jon and Ygritte watch the race from below, as Mance Rayder has promised new swords to whomever reaches the top first. A section of wall gives way and Jarl and a few others fall and are killed. Some men finally reach the top and send down ladders to the others. Jon and Ygritte get to the top, and Ygritte says it is too bad they did not find the Horn of Winter, the Horn of Joramun. It would have brought the whole wall down, she tells Jon. She says that was what the wildings were looking for in the Frostfangs. They opened many graves while looking, letting out shades.

Jaime is forced to ride with Brienne since he lost his hand and cannot balance on a horse. His wound becomes infected, and the Bloody Mummies force him to wear his hand around his neck. Jaime tries to steal a sword and escape, but he is overpowered. He loses track of time, but he does learn that they are going to Harrenhal. Some of the Mummies come to rape Brienne, but Jaime cries out loud enough for Vargo to hear. Vargo puts guards around them to protect them. At Harrenhal, Jaime and Brienne are brought before Lord Roose Bolton and some men of the Frey family. Bolton is not happy at their treatment by the Bloody Mummies. He is also upset they tried to rape Brienne. Bolton has one of his men clean Jaime's wound.

Chapter 31, Jon and Chapter 32, Jaime Analysis

Jon watches the wildings try to scale the Wall. He thinks about the power of it. Many wildings have tried to climb it in the past, and some have succeeded, although not many. He wonders where Ghost is and hopes he went to Castle Black, where a garrison of the Night's Watch is stationed. When the men fall, he thinks the wall is its own best defense. When Ygritte tells them how the wildings looked for the Horn of Winter, she indicates they let shades out of graves. These shades may have been the Others which attacked the Night's Watch at Fist of the First Men.

Jaime is sick because of the loss of his hand. The men treat him and Brienne cruelly, making fun of them and insulting them. Jaime is too lost in the pain to do anything about it. He despairs until Brienne tells him to be brave and think of revenge, and he takes her advice. He thinks of Cersei and Tyrion, and tells himself that a Lannister always pays his debts. When the men come to rape her, he tells her to go away inside herself, but Brienne says she will fight them. He again saves Brienne from getting hurt or raped by yelling for help when the men come to rape her.

Chapter 33, Tyrion

Chapter 33, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion is not doing well. Rumors are circulating about Sansa still being a virgin. Sansa does not want to be near Tyrion at all. He is also upset because Shae does not care that he is married. Tyrion and Ser Bronn inspect the riverfront so they can rebuild the port. After they have finished, they go to meet Symon Silver Tongue. He tries to bribe Symon to leave, since Symon knows about he and Shae. Symon says he will not say anything if Tyrion arranges for him to sing at Joffrey's wedding, where there will be a singing contest. Tyrion agrees, but later tells Bronn to have him killed in a few days.

When Tyrion returns to the castle, his father, Tywin, wants to see him. Tywin shows him the new swords he has had made for Joffrey and Jaime. The blades are Valyrian, which pleases Tywin since they have not had a Valyrian blade in centuries. Tywin asks Tyrion about the port and tells him to get the work done. Tywin also asks why he has not slept with Sansa, and Tyrion refuses to answer. He asks why Cersei has not married Willas Tyrell, and he said Lady Olenna Tyrell would not let it happen. Pycelle comes in with a letter from Castle Black describing the Others' attack and asking for reinforcements. Lord Commander Mormont cannot be found, and he is assumed dead. Tywin sees an opportunity to gain a stronghold in the north. He says he will send help only if Lord Janos Slynt is elected as new Lord Commander of the Night's Watch.

Chapter 33, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion wants Sansa to love him, but she is young and unable to look past his exterior. He has Shae to fall back on, but he is surprised to learn she knows about Sansa and does not care. Tyrion starts to suspect she does not care for him as much as she says. He has no other choice if he wants sex, though, so he puts up with her. Tyrion is hurt when his father Tywin shows him the new blades for Jaime and Joffrey. Tywin says there was only enough metal for two blades, and tells Tyrion to get a dagger from the armory if he wants one. Tyrion sees again that his father does not care about him. Tywin only cares for glory, and Tywin, as a dwarf, cannot achieve much of that.

Chapter 34, Samwell

Chapter 34, Samwell Summary

Sam and the other survivors are at Craster's Keep. He listens to Gilly, a daughter and wife of Craster, give birth. The survivors number forty-four, and most are wounded. They are angry that Craster will not give them more food. Lord Commander Mormont comes and takes the obsidian dagger from him. Mormont says the Night's Watch used to know how to use obsidian against the Others, but they have forgotten. Craster comes out and announces he has a son. Sam suggests the Watch take the boy, but that only angers Mormont and Craster.

Bannen, a ranger, dies and the men hold a funeral for him. The next day, the men are leaving, and Craster holds a small feast for them. There is still not a lot of food, and the men begin to revolt. Craster lunges at a man and one of the men, Dirk, slits Craster's throat. Mormont tries to stop them, but Dirk stabs him. There is a riot. Sam sits on the floor with Mormont, who tells him to go back to the Wall and tell them what happened. He tells Sam he wants Ser Jorah Mormont to join the watch. Gilly comes out with the baby, and Craster's other wives tell him to take her away.

Chapter 34, Samwell Analysis

Sam Tarly is still rather cowardly. The other men make jokes about how he killed the Other. They call him Slayer, although they know it was more luck than purpose on Sam's part. When the men of the Night's Watch start to revolt against Craster, he can only stand by and watch. He does not attempt to take part or stop the men. When Lord Commander Mormont is hurt, Sam holds him and consoles him while he dies. Sam does not know what he is going to do now that the commanding officer is dead. Craster's wives urge him to flee and take Gilly to safety. Sam does not want to leave at first, but he knows the situation can only get worse.

Chapter 35, Arya

Chapter 35, Arya Summary

Arya and Gendry are blindfolded by Harwin and the other members of the Brotherhood without Banners. When the blindfolds are removed, they find themselves in a large cave. The mad Huntsman has also brought Sandor Clegane, an ally of the Lannisters, his captor. Sandor, also known as the Hound, antagonizes the other men, and when Lord Beric approaches, Sandor insults him. The brotherhood begins to list the people the Lannisters have killed in the war. Sandor says those deaths were not his fault personally. Arya tells them all how Sandor killed her friend, Mycah.

Lord Beric and Thoros decide Sandor will be tried by battle. Beric takes off his armor and shows his wounds from other attempts to kill him. He lights his sword on fire by running it across his hand, and he and Sandor fight. Beric manages to light Sandor on fire, but Sandor strikes Beric and kills him. Thoros removes the body. Sandor's burns are taken care of. Arya grabs a dagger to kill him, but cannot go through with it. Arya tells Sandor to go to hell. Beric comes back, alive, and says he already has.

Chapter 35, Arya Analysis

Sandor Clegane, is called the Hound. His name is on the list Arya Stark chants to remind herself of those who have wronged her. Arya is glad to see he is caught. She wants Lord Beric to kill him. When Sandor kills Beric instead, Arya tries to bring herself to kill Sandor, but she cannot do it. Sandor tries to antagonize her. He knows if he makes her mad enough, she will do it. One of the men grab the dagger before she can go through with it. They understand her fury, but Sandor has been judged innocent in the trial by combat. Arya realizes she is not as tough as she would like to be. Arya takes pleasure in dreaming about Nymeria, because as the wolf, she can kill and hurt those who have hurt her.

Chapter 36, Catelyn

Chapter 36, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn Stark's father, Lord Holster, has died. Those at Riverrun are preparing for his funeral. His body is placed in a boat with his shield, helmet, and horn. Two members of the Frey family are present at the funeral. They have come to try and schedule a meeting with Robb Stark and Lord Walder Frey to mend the alliance. Lord Edmure Tully tries to shoot a burning arrow to light the boat, but misses three times. Ser Brynden Tully lights it instead.

Catelyn and Robb meet with those who are giving condolences. Robb learns some of his men attacked at Duskendale without his permission, and lost a good amount of his army. Robb tells Catelyn that her daughter, Sansa, is now married to Tyrion Lannister. Catelyn says they should now make peace with the Lannisters, but Robb will not. Catelyn leaves him.

Much later, Lothar meets with Catelyn, Robb, Edmure, and the other Frey envoy. Lothar tells them that Winterfell was burned. He also says Lord Walder will accept a new marriage alliance if Robb comes to the Twins, the ancestral home of the Frey family, and apologizes. Edmure will marry Roslin Frey, Walder's daughter. Edmure wants to choose his own wife, but the others convince him that they need this to win back the Freys. Edmure relents and agrees to marry Roslin.

Chapter 36, Catelyn Analysis

Catelyn is very worried about her son, Robb. She thinks the burdens of being king are weighing heavily on him. His battles do not seem to be going as well as planned. She wants her children to be safe, so she suggests to Robb they swear loyalty to Joffrey. The Lannisters have succeeded in marrying Tyrion Lannister and Sansa Stark, and it seems like there is not much else the Starks can do. Robb is furious that she would suggest it, since the Lannisters are responsible for the death of his father. The Starks also have to settle the business with the Freys so they can make amends. The Freys offer Roslin as a wife for Ser Edmure. Edmure is resentful that he cannot choose his own bride, but the rest of the family convinces him it is for the good of all.

Chapter 37, Davos

Chapter 37, Davos Summary

Ser Axell Florent comes to claim Davos Seaworth from his cell to meet with Stannis Baratheon. On the way, Ser Axell says he thinks Davos is still a traitor and that he has seen in the flames that Stannis claims the Iron Throne. He also wants Davos to tell Stannis that Axell should be the Hand. He tries to bribe Davos with a ship for doing this. If he does not, Axell says he will kill Davos.

When Davos meets with Stannis, Stannis asks him what the punishment for treason is, and Davos says death. Davos realizes Stannis is talking about Lord Alester, and tries to defend him. They then discuss Axell's plan to continue the war by attacking Claw Isle, whose inhabitants went to Joffrey's side after the war. Davos thinks it is a stupid plan, as the people of Claw Isle did fight for Stannis in the war. Stannis tells Axell to leave and calls for Melisandre.

Stannis tells Davos he does not necessarily want to be king, but he is the legitimate heir after his brother, King Robert Baratheon, died. He wants to do his duty. He asks Davos why he wanted to kill Melisandre, and Davos tells him he believes she lit the fires that sank the ships and killed his sons. Stannis says Melisandre has always been faithful. He then names Davos to be his Hand. Davos tries to refuse, but Stannis will not hear it.

Melisandre enters and Stannis tells Davos of their vision that Stannis will be the hero in the final battle against the Great Other, the god of darkness and evil. She gives Stannis three leeches, and he throws them into a fire and says the names of the three false kings, which are Joffrey, Robb, and Balon Greyjoy. Melisandre says this will and will not work, and asks Stannis to sacrifice Edric Storm, as he has King Robert's blood and blood is needed to wake the stone dragon. Stannis does not wish to sacrifice the boy yet.

Chapter 37, Davos Analysis

Stannis Baratheon believes he is meant to be king. He tells Davos that it does not matter if he wants to be king. He fights King Joffrey on the principle that he should have inherited the throne since Joffrey was not the true child of Robert Baratheon. Stannis's beliefs are fostered by Melisandre, who envisions Stannis as a great hero come to save them all. She tells Stannis he is meant to save the people, and needs to claim the Iron Throne so he is in a position to fight on the side of R'hllor, the god of light.

When Melisandre gives Stannis the leeches to throw in the fire, she says this will and will not work. She seems to be saying that it may bring down the three kings, but will not be enough to put Stannis on the Iron Throne. Melisandre tries to convince Stannis to sacrifice Edric because one life is not too much to pay to save the kingdom. Stannis

wants to wait to sacrifice the boy because he is not convinced it is entirely necessary. He will wait to see if the three false kings fall.

Chapter 38, Jaime

Chapter 38, Jaime Summary

Jaime Lannister and Brienne Tarth are still at Harrenhal under Lord Roose Bolton. They sit in the bathhouse and insult each other until Jaime apologizes and calls for a truce. He tells Brienne the full story of why he killed King Aerys II.

King Aerys II realized that Robert Baratheon was serious in his attempt to take the Iron Throne. His son, Prince Rhaegar, tried to summon Lord Tywin, the former Hand, from Casterly Rock, but Tywin would not answer. Aerys had his pyromancers put caches of wildfire throughout King's Landing to have in case of attack. Aerys wanted to burn the city instead of letting it fall into Robert's hands. Aerys thought the fire would kill everyone else and make him a dragon. When the current Hand tried to stop him, Aerys had him killed and replaced him with one of the pyromancers, Rossart.

Jaime was the only member of the Kingsguard in King's Landing, since Aerys did not trust Tywin, Jaime's father. Tywin and his army finally came to King's Landing, and convinced Aerys that they were there to help. Aerys let them in, and Tywin's army began to attack the city. Aerys told Jaime to kill his father and bring him Tywin's head. Jaime killed Rossart and Aerys. He also killed the other pyromancers so no one would know what Aerys had planned.

Brienne asks why he never told this to anyone, especially Lord Eddard, who had claimed the throne for Robert Baratheon. Jaime said Kingsguard members are to keep the secrets of the king, and Eddard would not have cared either way. Jaime tries to get up and bumps his wound. She gets Qyburn to check his wound. They meet with Roose at dinner. Roose tells them about Robb Stark's marriage to Jeyne Westerling and Edmure's planned marriage to Roslin Frey. Brienne asks about Arya, and Roose says she has been found and is coming back.

Roose tells Brienne and Jaime of Vargo Hoat's problem. Vargo sent Jaime's hand to Tywin because he thought he was going to marry one of Lord Rickard Karstark's daughters. Lord Rickard offered his daughter as a prize for getting him Jaime Lannister, and Vargo was going to claim it. However, Robb Stark has beheaded Lord Rickard, so now Vargo is in trouble with Tywin and the Lannisters and has no one to protect him. Vargo then brought Jaime to Harrenhal so that Roose would be implicated and have to help him. Jaime says he will tell Tywin how Roose helped save his life. They are ready to leave, but Roose says he cannot take both of Vargo's prizes away, and the guards lead Brienne away.

Chapter 38, Jaime Analysis

Jaime Lannister shows his trust of Brienne Tarth by telling her the true story of why he killed King Aerys. Jaime actually acted as a hero by stopping the mad king before he

could destroy the city. Brienne is surprised he has not told anyone before, as it would show he acted in the best interest of the kingdom. Jaime says the Kingsguard does not reveal the king's secrets. He may be using this as an excuse because he did not want people to know how mad King Aerys truly was. Brienne seems to be touched that Jaime would tell her.

Roose Bolton is supposed to be loyal to Robb Stark, but he lets Jaime leave. He claims he does not want trouble with the Lannisters, but it may be that his alliances are shifting. He makes sure Jaime will tell his father Tywin that he is not responsible for Jaime's hand, as he does not want to anger the Lannisters. He lets Vargo keep Brienne and refers to her as a prize, showing that women are viewed as property by many men in the Seven Kingdoms.

Chapter 39, Tyrion and Chapter 40, Arya

Chapter 39, Tyrion and Chapter 40, Arya Summary

Tyrion is awaiting the arrival of Prince Doran, a prince of the southernmost of the Seven Kingdoms. He does not recognize the house banners that are coming, and has his squire, Podrick identify them. He realizes they are the strongest house of Dorne. When he greets the leaders, he realizes Doran is not there, but feigns ignorance. He is introduced to Doran's brother, Prince Oberyn Martell. Tyrion has heard stories about Prince Oberyn fighting with a poisoned blade. He is also the one who caused Willas Tyrell to be crippled.

As they ride to King's Landing, Oberyn tells Tyrion of when they first met, when Tyrion was born. Lady Johanna had just died giving birth to Tyrion, causing Lord Tywin to ignore his guests in his mourning. He also says Cersei, Tyrion's sister, used to torture him when he was a baby. Tyrion also asks when justice will be done, and says he intends to kill Gregor Clegane to find out who gave him his orders. Gregor raped and killed Oberyn's sister, Elia. Tyrion warns him that the Lannisters are more numerous and have the Tyrells on their side. The Tyrells hate the Dornishmen for what Oberyn did to Willas.

The Brotherhood without Banners attacks a group of Bloody Mummer. Arya Stark and Gendry watch from a nearby hillside as the brotherhood cuts down all the mummers. They let two live to carry word of what happened back to Harrenhal. They kill all the other prisoners. Lord Beric lets Sandor Clegane go. Later, Arya and Lord Beric talk. She thought Sandor had killed him, but Beric says Thoros is a good healer. Thoros says R'hllor, the god of light, is responsible for bringing Beric back to life six times. Beric has trouble remembering his life before this started happening.

Gendry joins the outlaws as a blacksmith, and is knighted by Lord Beric. Sandor Clegane reappears and makes fun of the rituals. He said he tracked the outlaws to their current position and killed the sentries. Sandor wants his gold back, but they will not give it back. He is ordered to leave. They decide to kill his horse if he follows them again. The sentry is discovered to only be asleep, not dead.

Chapter 39, Tyrion and Chapter 40, Arya Analysis

Tyrion Lannister is placed in the position of envoy to the Dornishmen. He is surprised when it turns out Prince Oberyn Martell has come instead of Prince Doran Martell. Oberyn has caused Willas Tyrell to be crippled, and the Tyrells hate Oberyn for it. Tyrion knows he will have to be careful to keep Oberyn and the Tyrells apart.

As the Tyrells want justice for Willas, Oberyn wants justice for his sister. He knows Ser Gregor Clegane, an ally of the Lannisters, is the one who raped and killed his sister and her children. He wants justice for these murders, and he wants to know who ordered

Gregor to do it. Tyrion does not want Oberynd to cause problems, so he warns him that the Lannisters and Tyrells are formidable foes.

Arya is upset that Gendry wants to join the outlaws. She feels like she is always being left by people, and wonders why no one wants to stick with her. Hot Pie has left her to stay at the inn. She tries to convince herself that she does not need anybody. When Gendry comes over to apologize for leaving, she tells him she does not care. Arya feels as though everyone is finding their place in life, but she does not know where she belongs.

Somehow, Thoros has the power to bring Lord Beric back to life. He is not sure of the origin of this power, or why it works. Beric explains to Arya that he has been brought back several times, but it does have an effect on his memory. Thoros thinks this power has some deeper meaning.

Chapter 41, Bran and Chapter 42, Jon

Chapter 41, Bran and Chapter 42, Jon Summary

Bran Stark, Hodor, Meera Reed and Jojen Reed, together with Bran's direwolf, Summer, reach an abandoned village on a lake. Bran says the place is called Queenscrown. He says there is a secret walkway that goes to a tower in the middle of the lake. Once they get in the tower, Bran asks Jojen how they will get through the Wall. Jojen wants to try to find an opening at one of the abandoned castles along the Wall, but Bran says the only openings are at the manned castles. He wants to go to Castle Black and ask Jon Snow for help, but Jojen says it is not a good idea.

It begins to storm and Hodor is frightened. Bran tries to calm him down and somehow takes control of him, as he does with his direwolf. Bran is initially frightened by this, as he has never been able to exercise this power before. Jojen sees some men near the shore of the lake, and Bran enters Summer to scout the men.

Jon Snow and Ygritte discuss the difference in their cultures. Ygritte thinks Mance will teach a lesson to the kings and order of the Seven Kingdoms, while Jon thinks the wildings will die. Jon is still looking for a way to escape, but Styr does not trust him and always has guards on him. The wildings are heading for Castle Black. Jon tries to lie about the defenses, but he knows if the wildings do attack, the castle will fall. The group comes to the village of Queenscrown and capture an old man. Styr wants Jon to kill him, but Jon cannot and Ygritte does it instead. Summer, Bran Stark's direwolf, attacks them and Jon takes the old man's horse and flees to Castle Black.

Chapter 41, Bran and Chapter 42, Jon Analysis

Bran finds that his ability to control others is growing. When Hodor becomes frightened, Bran is able to move into his mind. This scares Bran, who is not sure if this is a power he wants to have. The experience is a contrast to his experience with Summer, his direwolf. Bran loves to live through Summer, as it allows him to run and walk. The group is moving closer to the Wall. Bran doubts that Jojen knows what he is doing, but he trusts Jojen because of his power to dream the future.

Jon Snow faces a test to see if he is truly one of the wildings. When his group comes across the old man, Jon is disgusted that they want to kill him. The man has done them no harm, and there is not much risk if they leave him alive. Jon sees the wildings are a brutal people and he feels he must warn the Night's Watch against them. He knows there cannot be many men at Castle Black after the fight with the Others, and they will not be able to defend themselves. Jon gives up any chance he had of a life with Ygritte, as he sees how brutal she can be.

Chapter 43, Daenerys

Chapter 43, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys Targaryen and Ser Jorah Mormont are looking down at the Yunkish army, of the city of Yunkai. The army consists of the Yunkish and two sellsword companies. Jorah tells Daenerys they could take the Yunkish, but Daenerys does not want to waste the lives of her army needlessly. She asks the leaders of the army and the companies to meet with her. She rides to check her army, which consists of several former slaves and refugees from Astapor, who were afraid to stay in the city, and the Unsullied.

Daenerys meets with the three captains of the Stormcrow sellswords, who will not join her side. One of the captains, Daario, nods at her as he leaves. The Second Sons company captain will not switch sides, but requests wine, and Daenerys gives him a wagonful. The Yunkai envoys come with money to give Daenerys if she agrees to leave them alone, but Daenerys tells them they must free their slaves. They do not agree. When they leave, she tells her company they will attack during the night. Daario comes back to Daenerys with the heads of the other two captains of the Stormcrows, and promises to fight with her. Daenerys tells him to go back to the city and attack the Yunkai army when the attack begins.

Ser Jorah tells Daenerys she should not trust Daario, but Daenerys says she is sick of Jorah trying to keep every man away from her but him. She says she will not love him. She cannot sleep while the battle is going on, and calls Arstan to tell her more about her brother, Prince Rhaegar. Ser Jorah returns after the battle and tells Daenerys they were victorious. The Stormcrows did assist as planned, and the Second Sons were too drunk to fight well. The Yunkai slaves are freed and they call out in thanks to Daenerys as she rides among them.

Chapter 43, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys Targaryen is still on her quest to conquer the slave cities of Slaver's Bay. After her victory at Astapor, Daenerys feels she is on her way to being a queen. She studies the defenses of Yunkai, and tries to come up with the best strategy to take the city. She comes up with an ingenious plan to take away the allies of the Yunkai. Daario comes to help her willingly, and the wine she gives to the Second Sons puts them out of commission. With the help of Daario, she takes the city and proves she is able to control her army. Daenerys feels she is living up to her family's reputation by showing she can be a successful leader.

Chapter 44, Arya

Chapter 44, Arya Summary

Gendry tells Arya Stark that his old master said Thoros was a false priest, and Thoros says he once was. He tells them he never wanted to be a priest, so he never excelled, until he met King Robert Baratheon. Robert was impressed with Thoros' blazing swords. They meet with an old dwarf woman called the Ghost of High Heart, who tells them Balon Greyjoy, one of the claimants to the Iron Throne, is dead. She also describes her dreams. She examines Arya and tells her she smells of death. Beric tells the woman they are taking Arya to Riverrun to see Catelyn Stark, her mother. The woman says Catelyn is at the Twins for Edmure Stark's wedding to Roslin Frey.

Edric Dayne, a squire to Lord Beric, and Arya speak as they leave the hills. Edric tells her his wet nurse was Jon Snow's mother. He tells Arya that her father, Eddard Stark (deceased), was once in love with his aunt, Ashara, who later committed suicide because of a broken heart. Arya is upset until Harwin tells her it was before Eddard married Catelyn. They arrive at a ruined village, and Thoros lights a fire. He sees Riverrun in the flames and sees that it will soon come under attack by the Lannisters. He believes that the dwarf was right and Robb and Catelyn are at the Twins. Arya sneaks off that night, but she is grabbed by Sandor Clegane.

Chapter 44, Arya Analysis

Arya Stark has an idealistic view about her family. She values her father highly, and is upset to learn he had another woman. Harwin is only able to console her by telling her it was before Eddard married Catelyn. She thinks it is stupid of the woman to kill herself when Eddard breaks her heart. Arya knows Sansa would have thought it was a sorrowful example of true love, again illustrating the difference between the sisters. Arya thinks the Starks are honorable and in the right. She hates the Lannisters and all those who are allied with them. When she learns her mother is at the Twins, Arya decides to find her way there herself, but her plan is foiled by Sandor, one of the men she wishes was dead.

Chapter 45, Jaime

Chapter 45, Jaime Summary

Jaime Lannister is going back to King's Landing from Harrenhal, accompanied by Qyburn and Walton. Lord Roose Bolton is going to the Twins for the wedding between Roslin Stark and Edmure Tully. Roose tells Jaime to give his regards to Tywin, Jaime's father, and Jaime tells Roose to give his regards to Robb Stark. Qyburn tells Jaime that Brienne's father, Lord Selwyn Tarth, has offered 300 dragons for her return, but Vargo Hoat will not agree. Jaime wonders if Tywin has received his hand yet. That night, he has a dream about Tywin and Cersei trapping him and Brienne in the caverns beneath Casterly Rock.

Jaime decides to return to Harrenhal and rescue Brienne. When he gets there, he finds Vargo Hoat has put her in the bear pit with a small sword. This is her punishment for biting off Vargo's ear. Jaime jumps in to hold off the bear, while Walton's archers kill the bear. Vargo lets Jaime and Brienne go. Brienne asks why he came back, and Jaime says he dreamed of her.

Chapter 45, Jaime Analysis

Jaime Lannister is more honorable than he is willing to admit. He first concedes to Roose Bolton's will and lets Brienne Tarth be taken by Vargo Hoat. However, the next night, he has a dream about Brienne, and he feels he must go back to save her. The dream is symbolic of her actual plight, as she is trapped in a pit with a bear. Jaime admires her strong will again when he sees she has bitten Vargo's ear. He saves Brienne, and she is shocked by this. For the first time, Brienne uses his real name, Jaime, instead of calling him Kingslayer. This shows that the two have reached a level of mutual respect.



Chapter 46, Catelyn

Chapter 46, Catelyn Summary

Catelyn Stark, her son Robb, her brother Edmure, and Lothar Frey set out for the wedding at the Twins. Jeyne Westerling begs them to take her, but Robb sends her back to Riverrun. Catelyn suggests this since the Freys are mad at Robb for marrying Jeyne. Catelyn thinks about Robb sending Ser Rolph Spicer away so Grey Wind could be near him. Robb also has his army of 3,500 men. Robb plans to retake the north after the wedding.

The party reaches the village of Oldstones, and Catelyn recalls how the castle was when she was a little girl. They discuss the need for Robb to name an heir until Jeyne is with child. Robb chooses to name Jon Snow, making him legitimate and releasing him from the Night's Watch. Catelyn is unsure about this decision, fearing Jon Snow would kill the rest of the possible heirs. She asks him to consider his sister Arya instead, since Sansa is married to a Lannister. Robb is angry his mother does not support him.

Lord Jason Mallister joins the group and tells Robb that Balon Greyjoy, another claimant to the Iron Throne, has died. Euron Greyjoy, Balon's brother, has now claimed the Seastone Chair. Robb plans to send two of Euron Greyjoy's siblings to contest his hold on the throne. He also has his lords witness his decree naming Jon Snow his heir.

Chapter 46, Catelyn Analysis

Catelyn thinks about how her family has gotten to this place. The family has been through so much and come so far, but it is now time for Robb to look towards the future. Catelyn is surprised Robb is choosing to make Jon Snow his heir. She does not trust that Jon Snow will be faithful enough to the family to rule them fairly. Jon Snow is the bastard of Eddard Stark, so Catelyn is not his mother. She is resentful that he is choosing Jon over one of his legitimate siblings. However, Robb has faith in Jon, and believes he deserves to succeed him. Catelyn is depressed at the discussion of heirs, because it reminds her Robb is the only child she has left with her.

Chapter 47, Samwell and Chapter 48, Arya

Chapter 47, Samwell and Chapter 48, Arya Summary

Sam Tarly and Gilly come on foot to an abandoned village. They sleep in the inn, but are attacked in the night by the wight of Small Paul. He stabs this with the dragonglass dagger, but it does not work on wights, only the Others. Sam manages to get an ember from the fire and kill the wight. He goes outside and sees Gilly surrounded by wights. They are the spirits of the Night's Watch men who fell in the battle with the Others. A raven comes and tells Sam to go, while thousands more land in the trees. They run and meet a cloaked person who tells Sam to come with him. When he grabs Sam, the stranger's hand is black and cold as ice.

Sandor Clegane has taken Arya Stark. She attempts to kill him at night, but he catches her. They get to the Trident and get a ferryman to row them to the other side. He gives the ferryman a paper from Lord Beric promising Sandor gold after the war is over. Sandor talks about Sansa and realizes Arya does not have much use for her sister. He tells Arya he will take her to the Twins and ransom her back to her family, and maybe even join Robb's service.

Chapter 47, Samwell and Chapter 48, Arya Analysis

Sam Tarly starts to find bravery. When they are attacked by the wights, he tries to protect Gilly and the baby. He does panic when his dagger breaks, and he realizes the obsidian will not harm the wights. He manages to escape with Gilly when the stranger comes to rescue them. Sam does not know who the stranger is, but they will be killed if they do not go with him. The feel of the stranger's hand tells Sam that he is something supernatural, and Sam is not sure if they are being rescued or led into greater danger.

Chett, the narrator of the first chapter, is one of the wights. He does not survive the battle with the Others, and neither do most of the men in his conspiracy.

Sandor Clegane is only interested in what he can get for ransoming Arya. She stays with him because he will take her to her family, even if she is to be ransomed, although she is still on the look-out for a chance to escape. Sandor is amused when he realizes that Arya does not like her sister Sansa. Arya and Sansa do not get along as Sansa wants to be a woman and Arya is a tomboy. Arya also blames her sister for something Sansa did in the past, although she does not elaborate here.

Chapter 49, Jon

Chapter 49, Jon Summary

Jon Snow is riding to Castle Black to warn them the wildings are coming to attack. He meets members of the Night's Watch, who thought Jon had become a wildling. Jon learns the wildings are attacking all along the Wall, and the Watch is holding them back. He is tended to by Maester Aemon, who tells him about the mutiny and the death of Mormont. Jon tells Aemon about what he saw with the wildings, and admits he slept with Ygritte, breaking his vows as a member of the Night's Watch. Aemon tells him about Rickon and Bran's deaths at Winterfell when it was attacked. Jon remembers the wolf he saw at Queenscrown, and wonder if Bran is alive in the wolf.

Chapter 49, Jon Analysis

Jon is true to his honor as a Night's Watch. He returns to the Castle Black to warn them of the wildings' impending attack. He finds he cannot be a wildling, as they are merciless to those who are not with them. Jon feels guilty about sleeping with Ygritte, as it means he broke his vows. Aemon is understanding, because he knows Jon is truly an honorable man. Jon also gets the first hint that Bran Stark may be alive and be nearby.

Chapter 50, Catelyn and Chapter 51, Arya

Chapter 50, Catelyn and Chapter 51, Arya Summary

Catelyn and Robb Stark and their party reach the Twins, where the wedding between Edmure Tully and Roslin Frey is to take place. Catelyn tells Robb to secure guest right, but Robb thinks there is no need. Robb apologizes to Lord Walder Frey for taking another wife, and Walder makes him apologize to all the eligible women he might have married. The Freys seem angry that Jeyne, Robb's wife, has not come as well. Roslin is brought out before them. Catelyn remembers to secure the guest rights, and she and Robb ask for the bread and salt. Edmure and Catelyn look at the bridal suite, both suspicious about how well things seem to be going. Catelyn talks with the Freys and makes sure Roslin is not barren.

Catelyn and Robb meet with Lord Roose Bolton, Greatjon and other loyal men. They discuss what happened at Winterfell. Ramsey Snow, Roose's brother, is still battling with the people of the Iron Islands in the north. Many of the deaths can be blamed on Theon Greyjoy, and Ramsey Bolton, Roose's son, is holding him hostage. He also says he was attacked by Gregor Clegane at the Trident, and left men there to battle. Roose has brought the men most loyal to him to the wedding, and he says he is leaving others to guard the Trident so Gregor cannot cross.

Sandor Clegane and Arya Stark are now traveling as traders. They learn Catelyn and Robb Stark are indeed at the Twins. Sandor is hoping their disguise will get them into the Twins. He is still planning to ransom Arya to Sandor. Arya seems resigned to be with Sandor, but still thinks about escaping. When they get to the castle, they gain entry because of their disguise. A soldier tells them to go to the tents, but Sandor goes towards the castle.

Chapter 50, Catelyn and Chapter 51, Arya Analysis

Catelyn Stark is apprehensive about the coming wedding. She tells Robb Stark to make sure and secure guest right, but Robb is not worried because he has his army with him. Catelyn is a worried mother, and she knows better than Robb how treacherous people can be. She fears the Freys have not totally forgiven the Starks, and is worried about what they will make Robb do. After Lord Walder Frey makes Robb apologize, the atmosphere gets better, and Catelyn is able to relax a little. When they speak with Roose Bolton, Catelyn asks him how many men he has to protect her son. She does not trust Roose, and thinks he is a cold man.

Arya Stark has mixed feelings about her plight. She wants nothing more than to see her mother, but now that she is close, she is afraid that her mother will not want to see her.

She wonders what will happen to her if Robb Stark does not want to pay the ransom. Arya has been away from her mother for so long, she is unsure of the reception she will get.

Chapter 52, Catelyn and Chapter 53, Arya

Chapter 52, Catelyn and Chapter 53, Arya Summary

Catelyn Stark observes the happenings at the wedding feast. Many of the guests are very drunk. Grey Wind, Robb Stark's direwolf, is forced to stay outside by Lord Walder Frey. She watches Robb dance with several Frey women. When she learns some of the more trusted Freys are not at the wedding, she becomes a bit suspicious. Soon some of the men pound their cups on the table, and Lord Walder announces the bedding should begin. Edmure and Roslin, who is crying, are carried to the bedchamber. Catelyn and Robb stay behind. Roose excuses himself from the room.

The musicians begin to play, and suddenly Catelyn sees what is happening. She looks to Robb, who has been struck with several crossbow bolts. The musicians are actually assassins, and the wedding turns into a battle. Most of Robb's guards are killed. Some of Roose Bolton's men come in, and Catelyn thinks they are saved until they kill the last of Robb's guards. Catelyn grabs a dagger and tries to get to Walder Frey, who arranged the ambush. She holds one of the Freys hostage, and tells Walder she will kill the man if Walder does not let them go. Walder does not care, however. Robb manages to get up, and one of the northerners, dressed in a pink shirt, stabs him in the heart and tells him Jaime Lannister sends regards. Catelyn slits the man's throat, then scratches her face with her nails and cries. Someone grabs her and slits her throat.

Arya Stark and Sandor Clegane arrive at the Twins. As they approach the castle, the Freys come out and attack Robb's army. A few of the Frey's men come at Sandor and Arya, who manage to kill them. Arya wants to go in, but Sandor tells her her family is most likely dead. He says the Freys would not attack Robb's army, yet leave him alive. Arya tries to run to find her mother, but Sandor hits her in the head with the butt of his axe.

Chapter 52, Catelyn and Chapter 53, Arya Analysis

This chapter is the pivotal chapter of the novel. The balance of power shifts heavily in the Lannister's favor. The Freys' attack on the Starks show that they have not forgiven them for Robb's slight. The Freys seem to be easily offended if they go this far to punish the Starks. The honor code employed in the Seven Kingdoms mean the Starks had guest rights when Catelyn asked for bread and salt.

Catelyn is the only one to sense something wrong before the massacre begins. She is suspicious that Lord Walder is willing to marry one of his most beautiful daughters. She thought he would pick an ugly girl to punish the Starks. Roslin is tense throughout the wedding, and begins to cry when it is time for the bedding. It seems she knows about

the attack beforehand Catelyn puts the pieces together a few seconds too late, and she is unable to save herself or her son.

Roose Bolton excuses himself right before the attack. When the armored man comes to kill Robb, he tells him Jaime Lannister sends his regards. Jaime told this to Roose Bolton when he let Jaime go to return to King's Landing. Therefore, it can be inferred that Roose is probably the man who kills Robb. This means Roose has also changed his loyalties to the Lannisters.

Arya Stark and Sandor Clegane arrive at the Twins right after the Freys turn on the Starks and Tullys. Arya is worried for her mother and tries to run into the battle. Sandor knows Catelyn and Robb Stark must already be dead. When he hits Arya on the back of the head, he saves her life, for if she runs into the fray, she would most likely be killed. Whether Sandor does this just to save her or because he has no hope of ransom if she dies is unclear.

Chapter 54, Tyrion

Chapter 54, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion and Sansa Lannister are having dinner together. Tyrion is angry because of the trouble he is having with Prince Oberyn and the Dornishmen. After dinner, Tyrion goes over Petyr Baelish's ledgers, and finds Baelish has been involved in several shady dealings. He is summoned to his father, Tywin, who tells him of Robb Stark's death and that the war is almost over. Tywin was able to orchestrate the slaughter at the wedding through the letters he had been writing. He says he will pardon all those who come back to his side, and that it should be easy to kill the remaining rebels. They know that Ser Brynden Tully, left to guard Riverrun, will not move on them since Ser Edmure Tully is still being held hostage at the Twins.

Joffrey says he wants the heads of those who were killed at the Twins, and he will serve Robb's head to Sansa when he marries Margaery. Tyrion and he fight over this, and Tywin tries to discipline Joffrey. Joffrey calls Tywin a coward for leaving King's Landing when Aerys was king. When Joffrey leaves, Tywin tells Cersei she needs to control him better.

After Cersei leaves, Tyrion and Tywin discuss the problem with the Dornishmen. Tywin wants to tell Oberyn Martell that another knight killed his sister Elia Martell, not Gregor Clegane. He also tells his son that Catelyn died as well, and Lord Roose Bolton is Lord of the North. Roose will get Arya as a prize for his betrayal of Robb. Tyrion asks how Roose can have Arya, but Tywin says Petyr Baelish had something to do with it.

Chapter 54, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister is becoming more disillusioned and angry with his family. He is upset that Tywin, his father, has a hand in the murders at the Red Wedding. His wife, Sansa, has lost her mother and brother, and Tyrion does not know how she is going to take it. He realizes Sansa is a good person, and almost does feel protective towards her. Joffrey is continually hostile and disdainful of his uncle, and Tyrion is having trouble ignoring his monstrosity. Overall, Tyrion is tired of dealing with his family and their treachery.

Chapter 55, Davos

Chapter 55, Davos Summary

Salladhor Saan reports to Davos Seaworth, Melisandre, Ser Axell, and Stannis Baratheon that Robb Stark is dead. He says the wedding is already known as the Red Wedding, and the Freys sewed the head of Robb's wolf onto his body. Melisandre and Axell try to convince Stannis to now sacrifice Edric to the flames to wake the stone dragon. Stannis will still not give in, however. He wants to pardon any northmen or ironmen who swear fealty to him, but Melisandre says new kings will come where the old ones died. He talks about the crazy ways the Targaryens tried to raise dragons while they reigned. Davos defends Edric's life, saying King Joffrey Baratheon is not dead yet. Stannis is undecided, and sends them away.

Davos feels he is unworthy to be Hand. He seeks out Pylos, who has been teaching him to read. After a study session with Edric, Shireen, and Devan ends, Pylos and Davos meet. They read a letter that arrived from the Wall some time ago. Davos is surprised to hear of what happened at the Wall and the battle with the Others. He asks Pylos if Stannis knows about it, and Pylos says he gave it to Lord Alester, but he does not believe Stannis or Melisandre saw it.

Chapter 55, Davos Analysis

Davos Seaworth is trying to prove that he is worthy of being the Hand. He knows Stannis chose him for a reason, and he is determined to live up to his king's expectations. Davos is still not sure of Melisandre's assertions that Stannis is to be the hero of the war between the gods. However, he wants to help Stannis gain power, so he tries to do as he knows best. Davos thinks the best way for him to help Stannis is by educating himself. This leads him to the letter about the Night's Watch, which gives him an idea that may help Stannis.

Davos doubts that Melisandre is right about the need to sacrifice Edric Storm. He tries to protect Edric by telling her Joffrey is not dead, so there is no need to sacrifice him. Davos does not totally believe in Melisandre's visions. He hopes to act as a stabilizing influence for Stannis to counteract Melisandre.

Chapter 56, Jon

Chapter 56, Jon Summary

They are preparing to defend from Styr and his raiders. Jon thinks about the defenses of the castle, which are nonexistent, as the Wall was supposed to be the defense. The Watch members in the castle are trainees, older or infirm.

The wildings attack that night, and Jon shoots arrows on them from the top of the tower. Jon sees Ygritte kill one of the Watch, but Jon cannot bring himself to fire back at her. As the wildings break through to the castle, the Watch fire powder kegs to collapse part of the Wall. Jon goes down and finds Ygritte, who has been hit with an arrow. He tells her everything will be all right. She responds that he knows nothing and dies in his arms.

Chapter 56, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow is forced to face his lover Ygritte and the other wildings he has gotten to know. Jon knows that he must protect the people in the castle from the wildings. However, he cannot help hoping Ygritte will be spared. Jon does not hold back when the wildings attack, showing that his will is strong. When he commits to something, he makes every effort to follow through. When he finds Ygritte is hurt, he is saddened that she has not survived. Despite any feelings he has about the wildings, he made a connection with her and is sorry she is dying. Ygritte tells him they should have stayed in the cave they found. Both seem to wish they could have met under different circumstances.

Chapter 57, Bran

Chapter 57, Bran Summary

Bran Stark, Hodor, Meera Reed and Jojen Reed reach the Nightfort, one of the abandoned castles along the wall. Bran is scared because of the horror stories he has heard about the place, but Meera and Jojen are unafraid. Bran also experienced a dream of Summer's, and learns Robb and Grey Wind are dead. They find no way through to the other side of the Wall, but Jojen has had a dream that they will pass around there. Bran thinks they should have gone with Jon Snow after he escaped from the wildings. They camp for the night, and Bran is awakened by someone coming. He thinks it is one of the horrors from the castle, but it is Sam Turly, Gilly and her son.

Sam Turly says the stranger that saved them from the wights told them to come to the Nightfort, as there would be people there. He calls the stranger Cold Hands, and says the stranger is looking for someone, although it was not Sam. He tells Bran the Wall would not let the stranger pass. Sam knows who Bran is, but promises not to tell. They descend into the well and come to a gate. A face on the gate asks who they are, and Sam says the oath of the Night's watch. The mouth opens and lets them pass. As they pass, Bran feels a salty drop of water on him.

Chapter 57, Bran Analysis

Bran is still young, and is susceptible to fear. He is very nervous staying in the Nightfort, as he knows many horror stories about the castle. When he hears a noise, he is certain one of the stories he has heard has come to life. He is very relieved to find out it is only Sam Tarly and Gilly. It is lucky meet up, for Sam knows a way through the wall, and is willing to show them. Sam recognizes Bran, but he has his own problems to deal with and promises he will not tell that he saw him. Sam feels that he is not concerned with the bigger battles going on, and for Bran's safety, he will not tell that he is alive.

Chapter 58, Daenerys

Chapter 58, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys has now come upon the city of Meereen, which is enclosed by a large wall. Daenerys's army is now huge, and they need to claim the city in order to survive. Meereen sends out a champion who wants to challenge one of Daenerys's soldiers in single combat. The rulers of Meereen have placed dead slave children at intervals from the city with hands pointing to the city. She orders Belwas to fight the champion, and Belwas wins. They are still not let into the city. They hold a council to discuss what to do. Brown Ben, new leader of the Second Sons, tells her there is a way to get in through the sewers.

Daenerys finds herself falling for Daario. She finds herself thinking about marrying him. To clear her head, she goes for a ride with Arstan through the camps of those who have followed her. A man grabs her and she realizes it is Mero, the former head of the Second Sons sellswords. Arstan defends her and kills him with his staff. Daenerys goes back to Ser Jorah and asks why he did not tell her Mero had escaped. Ser Jorah says he did not want to worry her. He asks how Arstan could have defeated Mero with just a staff, and Arstan reveals he is a knight.

Ser Jorah now recognizes Arstan, and says he is really named Ser Barristan Selmy. Barristan admits it, and says Jorah is a spy for Varys, the head spy for King Joffrey. Daenerys is mad at them both, and is not sure what to do with them. She decides to send them on a dangerous mission.

Chapter 58, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys finds out she has been betrayed by both men she considered her advisors. Ser Barristan hides the fact that he is a knight that served under Robert Baratheon, who displaced Daenerys' father, King Aerys. Ser Jorah has been sending information about her to Varys, the head spy at King's Landing. Daenerys feels betrayed by both of them, and needs some time to think what to do. By sending them on a dangerous mission, she hopes one or both of them will not come back. This way she will not have to deal with making a decision about them.

Daenerys is starting to doubt her effectiveness as a leader. She finds herself falling for Daario, and is afraid that will cloud her judgment. She decides to ride through the camps to be reminded of why she is doing this, and why it is important for people to live free. Daenerys also shows that she can be vain, as for comfort she enjoys riding through the freed people and hearing them call her name.

Chapter 59, Tyrion and Chapter 60, Sansa

Chapter 59, Tyrion and Chapter 60, Sansa Summary

Tyrion Lannister wakes up with Sansa, who still will not submit to him. Tyrion has kept the more brutal details of Robb and Catelyn's death from her. He tries to be kind to Sansa as best he can. He goes to see Shae in a room where dragonskulls are kept and has sex with her. Shae is now Sansa's maid. Tyrion thinks about how risky it is to keep her around, and decides to try and marry her to another knight. This is the first day of the new century and the year 300.

Sansa Stark Lannister is grieving for her brother and mother, Robb and Catelyn Stark. She gets up and goes to breakfast with the rest of the castle's denizens. King Joffrey is given gifts by the court, as is the tradition. He does not like Tyrion's gift, a book, and chops it in half with Tywin's gift, a Valyrian blade. Joffrey says he is not a stranger to Valyrian steel, and Tyrion seems to realize something significant about it.

Tyrion and Sansa run into Oberyn and Ellaria Martell. Oberyn and Tyrion bicker about past kings from their respective dynasties. They discuss a mad king, who was bitten by vipers, and Oberyn asks how they account for Joffrey's madness. When alone again, Tyrion asks Sansa if there was any reason Joffrey would not like Bran, and Sansa says no. She says she does not want to know how Robb and Catelyn died, and Tyrion promises not to tell her.

Chapter 59, Tyrion and Chapter 60, Sansa Analysis

Tyrion Lannister has not made any headway in his relationship with his wife, Sansa. Any strides he might have made are hampered by the fact that Sansa is mourning her brother and mother, Catelyn and Robb Stark. Tyrion still turns to Shae to get the affection he needs. When he sees her, he feels more affection for her and realizes he must make sure she is safe. However, he cannot seem to get enough of her and it is questionable if he will ever be able to send her away.

Sansa Stark must put aside her grief to deal with Joffrey's wedding day. She goes to breakfast with the court. Joffrey continues to act like a monster, and Tyrion is mostly ignoring her. Still, she is starting to see that Tyrion is kind, and does not wish to hurt her. In fact, he seems to be trying to protect her, especially from his family. Sansa is still not happy with her husband, but she is beginning to see the relationship may be manageable.

Chapter 61, Tyrion

Chapter 61, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion is at King Joffrey Baratheon and Margaery Tyrell's wedding. He thinks about how Joffrey had to be the one to order Bran's killing. He thinks Joffrey did it to impress Robert. When the wedding ends, he watches the procession out. He and Sansa climb into their litter, and Tyrion tries to be nice to her, but Sansa rebuffs him. He gets ready for the feast then goes to visit Sansa. Shae is getting Sansa ready. She asks if she can serve at the feast, but Tyrion says no. When they enter the ballroom, Lady Olenna Tyrell comes up and straightens the hairpiece that Dontos has given Sansa to wear. She tells Sansa how beautiful she is.

Margaery and Joffrey ride in on horses, and the feast begins. Singers sing songs to entertain the guest, and Tyrion is annoyed when one about the battle of Blackwater does not have him in it. Joffrey calls for the jousts, which are dwarves, and Tyrion perceives this as an insult. He tells Tyrion he should fight them to see who is champion dwarf. They bicker, and Joffrey pours wine on Tyrion's head. The pie arrives and Joffrey goes to use a sword to cut it. He cuts it and pigeons fly out.

The servants begin to pass out actual pieces of pigeon pie. Joffrey comes over to eat Tyrion's piece, and starts coughing, unable to breathe. He chokes to death in front of everyone. Cersei screams and runs to her son. She orders the Kingsguard to arrest Tyrion for the murder.

Chapter 61, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion is in serious trouble. He and King Joffrey have a very antagonistic relationship. They fight at the wedding, and both show how much they hate the other. Tyrion knows Joffrey will take any chance to make fun of him, as evidenced by the dwarf jousts. Tyrion cannot hold himself back from insulting Joffrey. When Joffrey chokes, Tyrion is automatically in the forefront of everyone's minds, due to the animosity they witnessed between Joffrey and him. He is the most likely suspect, and will probably have quite a struggle to prove his innocence.

Chapter 62, Sansa

Chapter 62, Sansa Summary

Sansa Stark leaves the throne room before Joffrey Baratheon finished choking to death. Dontos arrives to take her away, and Sansa asks him if he used one of the amethysts from her hairnet to poison Joffrey. Dontos says no and tells her Tyrion has been arrested for the murder. They escape King's Landing on a small boat, which takes them to a bigger boat. She is shocked to find Lord Petyr Baelish, who was behind the attempt to get her out of the city. He kills Dontos. Sansa asks why he killed Joffrey, and Petyr says sometimes one does not need a motive. Petyr tells Sansa he loved Catelyn, her mother, and he will now take Sansa home.

Chapter 62, Sansa Analysis

Sansa Stark is happy King Joffrey Baratheon is dead. She has suffered at the hands of Joffrey in the past, and she is glad he gets what he deserves. She finds her emotions in turmoil, as Joffrey's death reminds her of her brother Robb, who was also killed at a wedding. She also feels sad for Margaery, who has now been widowed twice. However, she is glad Margaery is free of Joffrey.

She takes the opportunity to flee and escapes King's Landing with Dontos. Sansa has trusted Dontos to take her away safely, but Dontos has been working for Petyr Baelish all along. She does not understand why Petyr would want to save her. He says it is because he was in love with her mother, but Sansa is not sure of his motive. She thinks she should be happy that she is going away, but she does feel some regret since Tyrion had been kind to her.

Chapter 63, Jaime

Chapter 63, Jaime Summary

While traveling to King's Landing, Jaime Lannister learns that King Joffrey Baratheon, his true son, is dead. Jaime is more concerned about Cersei than the loss of Joffrey, however. Brienne is upset at the news about Robb and Catelyn Stark's deaths. Jaime offers to send Brienne home or give her a home at King's Landing. Brienne does not like either choice. They arrive at King's Landing the next day. Ser Loras Tyrell recognizes Brienne as the one who killed Renly Baratheon. Jaime stops him from killing her, but lets Ser Loras arrest her.

Jaime goes to see Cersei, who is grieving for Joffrey. She tells him Tyrion killed Joffrey, and she wants Jaime to kill Tyrion. Jaime wants to know more about what happened first. They have sex, and Jaime says he wants to be open about their relationship and marry. Cersei gets angry and tells him to leave.

Jaime goes to visit Tywin, his father. Tywin is shocked to see his hand cut off, and Jaime tells him about Vargos Hoat doing it. Tywin tells him Gregor found Vargo with an infected wound to his ear, and Gregor cut off his hands and feet. Tywin tells Jaime he is to leave the Kingsguard and take up his place at Casterly Rock. He also wants Cersei to marry Oberyn Martell. Jaime says he will not leave the Kingsguard, and Tywin tells him he is no longer his son.

Chapter 63, Jaime Analysis

Jaime Lannister finally returns home to King's Landing, but does not find himself as happy as he thought he would be. He reunites with his sister Cersei and tells her he is tired of keeping their relationship a secret. He is perturbed that Cersei will not agree. She says it is because Tommen will lose his claim to the throne, but Jaime starts to think she does not want to give up her position as mother of a king. Although Joffrey was his natural son, Jaime does not find himself wracked with grief, as he hardly knew him. Jaime was always more concerned with being with Cersei than being with the product of their union, especially since Robert Baratheon was supposed to be Joffrey's father.

Cersei tells Jaime she wants him to kill Tyrion, as she is certain Tyrion poisoned Joffrey. Jaime does not think his brother would do it, and wants to find out more about what happened. Jaime knows things are not always what they seem in the Seven Kingdoms. Jaime is also still protective of Brienne. He lets Loras arrest her, but saves her from being killed.

Chapter 64, Davos

Chapter 64, Davos Summary

Davos Seaworth watches Melisandre do an evening prayer service. Davos is now part of a conspiracy, which leaves during the service. They go to Pylos's rooms, where he is teaching Edric Storm. Davos takes Edric and they help him onto one of Salladhor Saan's ships. Davos returns to meet with Stannis and Melisandre. He hears Melisandre tell Stannis that Joffrey is dead, but Stannis wants to get confirmation. Davos tells them that Joffrey is dead, and Melisandre says it is time to sacrifice Edric. Stannis agrees, and tells her he will kill her if she is wrong. Davos tells them Edric is already gone. Stannis gets ready to kill him, but Davos says a king must protect his people and pulls out a piece of paper.

Chapter 64, Davos Analysis

Davos now feels he has a plan to help Stannis rise in power. He is sure of his plan, so he takes a chance and helps Edric Storm get away. He does not want Melisandre to sacrifice the child when he is not sure her plan will work. Davos wants to exhaust all options before conceding the sacrifice may be necessary. Davos takes a chance that Stannis will not kill him for being a traitor. However, Davos has studied in an effort to be the best advisor he can, and feels he has found the best route for the king.

Chapter 65, Jon and Chapter 66, Arya

Chapter 65, Jon and Chapter 66, Arya Summary

Jon Snow is sleeping when he hears horns signaling the wildling army is approaching. He goes to the Wall with the rest of the defenders. They launch fiery pitch at the attackers so they can see what is coming. They see the mammoths and giants Jon had noted when he was among the wildlings. The battle begins. Some wildlings have reached the gate, and Jon is left in charge on the top of the Wall while others go to defend the gate.

When dawn breaks, Jon sees the wildlings have a battering ram. When they get close, he orders the archers to fire on the ram bearers. They all go down and the ram falls. Jon goes down to inspect the gate, and finds the giants have broken through the outer gate and killed all the defenders. Maester Aemon says Jon is now in charge of the Watch while the battle goes on.

Arya Stark is depressed over the apparent deaths of Catelyn and Robb, her mother and brother. She only finds pleasure in her dreams, when she can run with her direwolf, Nymeria. She is still with Sandor, who plans to ransom her to Lysa now. During the night, Arya enters Nymeria. They smell Catelyn's body in the river, and Nymeria pulls it out. A group of men approach, and Nymeria must run. Arya finally accepts that Catelyn and Robb are truly dead. They realize the passes to the Eyrie are too dangerous. Arya tries to convince him to take her to the Wall, but Sandor says it is too far. Sandor decides to take her to Riverrun again.

Chapter 65, Jon and Chapter 66, Arya Analysis

Jon Snow has joined the rest of the Night's Watch in defending the Wall against the wildlings. He is haunted by the ghosts of his past, including memories of his childhood and his time with Ygritte. He is heavily involved in the battle and concentrates on repelling the wildling forces. When his acting commander is killed at the gate, Jon resumes leadership reluctantly and continues the fight.

Arya Stark uses Nymeria to pull her mother's body from the river. This act convinces her that Catelyn Stark really is dead, and she begins to truly grieve. She is still being dragged around by Sandor as he tries to figure out what to do with her. Arya is tired of traveling and just wants to be with someone who loves her. She tries to convince Sandor to take her to Jon Snow, as he is the only family she has left who can take care of her and would want her. Sandor rebuffs her, and Arya feels she has no hope left.

Chapter 67, Tyrion

Chapter 67, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion is in his cell, discussing his upcoming trial with Ser Kevan Lannister. Kevan says Tyrion will be judged by Tywin, but since he is Tyrion's father, he will have Lord Mace Tyrell and Prince Oberyn Martell judge with him. Kevan tells him he will be allowed trial by combat, but Gregor Clegane will be Cersei's champion. Kevan tries to help Tyrion find witnesses, but no one can help, except maybe Sansa. Kevan tells him Sansa is nowhere to be found. Ser Bronn cannot be a witness for Tyrion, as Cersei has already arranged for him to get married as a bribe.

At the Trial, Tywin asks if Tyrion killed Joffrey, but Tyrion says no. Cersei calls several witnesses, who all testify to the ongoing fighting between Joffrey and Tyrion. One incident cited is a time when Tyrion stopped Joffrey from beating Sansa, when Joffrey and Sansa were married. Pycelle tells how Tyrion must have stolen one of his poisons. When Tyrion is back in his cell, Kevan comes, but he now believes Tyrion is guilty. He tries to convince Tyrion to confess, but Tyrion refuses. After the next day of testimony, Prince Oberyn comes to Tyrion and tells him he believes Tyrion is innocent and will serve as his champion in a trial by combat.

Chapter 67, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion Lannister has been arrested for the murder of King Joffrey Baratheon. He knows that the whole court has seen the fights between him and Joffrey, and it looks bad for him. At first, some people still believe Tyrion is innocent, but Cersei quickly gets to them and pays them off. Tyrion cannot understand what reason Cersei has for being so deliberately cruel. He knows she has always disliked him, and that is exacerbated by the loss of the son. Cersei has always waited for an opportunity to be rid of Tyrion, and she is not going to pass this one up. Tyrion is despairing, but when Prince Oberyn Martell offers to be his champion, he has a glimmer of hope.



Chapter 68, Jaime

Chapter 68, Jaime Summary

Jaime looks through the White Book, which is the history of the Kingsguard. Ser Barristan Selmy is mentioned in the book. The Kingsguard assemble and Jaime asks who believes Tyrion killed Joffrey. Most do, although Ser Loras thinks Sansa did it. Jaime says Tommen Baratheon, Joffrey's brother, will now be king, and orders Ser Boros to act as food-taster for Tommen. Boros objects, but backs down when Jaime challenges him to a sword fight.

Jaime verbally attacks the rest of the knights there. He expresses disgust that Ser Osmund, a sellsword, is in the Kingsguard. He yells at Ser Meryn for beating Sansa at Joffrey's order. He questions Ser Balon's loyalty and makes him swear to be true to the crown. He talks to Ser Loras about Brienne. Ser Loras thinks she is guilty, but he does have some doubts. Jaime tells him to question Brienne and judge her fairly.

Chapter 68, Jaime Analysis

Jaime Lannister looks through the White Book, the history of the Kingsguard, and wonders when he lost his idealism. He realizes he has mostly been living a hedonistic life. He begins to take control of his life as best he can. He meets with the members of the Kingsguard to test them and make sure they are honorable enough for the job. No matter what else, Jaime has always taken his duty as Kingsguard seriously, and means to continue that tradition.

Chapter 69, Sansa

Chapter 69, Sansa Summary

Lord Petyr Baelish takes Sansa Stark Lannister to his keep. She thought he was taking her home to Winterfell, but he tells her it is burned and she will now live with him. He says he is going to marry Lysa Stark Arryn, Sansa's aunt. He tells Sansa no one must know she is there and she must go by the name Alayne Stone. Sansa asks about Dontos, and Petyr says he could not be trusted to poison King Joffrey. He says it was Lady Olenna Tyrell who did it and she took the amethyst when she pretended to fix Sansa's hair at the wedding. Petyr says he started rumors at Highgarden, the home of the Tyrells, when the marriage between Joffrey and Margaery Tyrell was being planned.

Lysa arrives some days later. She and Petyr are married, as Lysa wants him immediately. Lysa wants to make another child with him, since her father, Lord Holster Tully, made her abort the first one because Lysa was unmarried. They have sex. The next morning, Sansa is summoned to them and Petyr tells Lysa who Sansa is. Lysa does not want her around, but will wed Sansa to her son, Robert Arryn, as soon as they hear Tyrion has been executed.

Chapter 69, Sansa Analysis

Sansa has escaped from King's Landing, but is dismayed to learn she is not going home to Winterfell. Most of her family is dead or besieged by the Lannisters. She realizes that Petyr does not see her as a person, but as a chess piece to be moved where he wishes. He is a treacherous man who is only looking for a way to better his position. He does not care whom he hurts on his way to the top. Sansa is becoming more and more jaded as she learns the truth of the workings of the kingdoms.

Sansa is not close to her Aunt Lysa, and is apprehensive about living with her. Lysa wants Sansa to marry her son, Robert. Sansa has just gotten out of one marriage and is going to be forced into another. It seems everyone wants to marry her for her claim to the Stark throne. Sansa begins to doubt that she will ever be free to find love. She is also surprised that Petyr Baelish is marrying Lysa when he told her he was in love with Catelyst. Sansa is beginning to grow up and realize her ideal vision of love and marriage is not the norm in the Seven Kingdoms.

Chapter 70, Jon

Chapter 70, Jon Summary

The fighting between the Night's Watch and the wildings continues at the Wall. Jon Snow receives reports of something Mance is building. He uses a telescope to search the wilding camp and discovers Mance is building a giant, fortified turtle for the attackers to hide under as they approach the Wall. Jon is worried because the Watch is almost out of arrows, pitch, and other weapons. The wildings approach in the turtle, and nothing breaks it until Jon orders barrels of gravel and ice dropped on it. Jon goes to get some sleep.

When he awakens, he is taken to the commander's chamber, where Janos Slynt accuses him of joining the wildings. Jon explains how he was following orders from Qhorin, but Rattleshirt, the wilding who captured Jon, explains how Jon told him he killed Qhorin. Maester Aemon tries to speak on Jon's behalf, to no avail. Jon is considered a traitor and Janos orders him to be hanged.

Chapter 70, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow finally gets a chance to prove himself as a leader. He is successful at holding the wildings off, and he feels the battle may soon be over. When he is accused of being a traitor by Janos Slynt, Jon is baffled. He has just been in charge of holding the wildings off, and does not understand what grounds Janos Slynt has to call him a traitor. He does not understand why Janos is willing to take Rattleshirt's word over his. Janos' accusation is ironic because Jon has experienced the wilding life, and thought about what it would be like to live as them. However, he remained true to the Night's Watch in the end. Jon hopes that somehow someone will intervene and prove he is loyal.

Chapter 71, Tyrion

Chapter 71, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion considers confessing his guilt and joining the Night's Watch, but he is not sure he father will agree. It is time for the last day of his trial, and Shae is the last one to testify against him. She lies to the court that she heard Sansa and Tyrion plotting to kill Joffrey, and that Cersei, Tywin, and Tommen would be killed by them next so Tyrion could be King. Tyrion cannot take it and shouts that he did not kill Joffrey, and demands trial by battle. The battle between Ser Gregor for Cersei and Prince Oberyn for Tyrion will take place the next day.

Prince Oberyn meets with Tyrion that night and tells him more about the treachery of his family. Their mothers were supposed to have Jaime wed Elia and Cersei wed Rhaegar, but after Tyrion's mother died, Tywin refused the matches. Oberyn feels his family won, since Elia then wed Rhaegar. However, Tywin felt insulted at the slight to Cersei and had Elia killed. At the battle, Oberyn confronts Gregor with what Gregor did to Elia, as Gregor is the one who murdered and raped Elia for Tywin. Oberyn manages to get Gregor down, pinned to the ground with a spear, and tells him to admit what he did to Elia. Gregor grabs Oberyn, insults Elia and says he raped and killed her, and crushes Oberyn's head. Tyrion is now condemned to die.

Chapter 71, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion feels trapped by his situation. He stands accused of King Joffrey's murder, and no one seems to be willing to stand up for him. Tyrion feels rejected, as he has felt most of his life. He thinks everyone resents him and there is no reason anyone would want to defend an ugly dwarf. When he meets with Prince Oberyn, Tyrion feels that someone does understand how he feels, and he is grateful someone is willing to stand up for him. Oberyn is an opportunist, and uses this situation to get revenge on Ser Gregor. Although he fails to kill Gregor, Prince Oberyn ultimately wins because he gets Gregor to confess in public. Gregor will have to be punished by the court.

Chapter 72, Daenerys

Chapter 72, Daenerys Summary

Daenerys takes Meereen with the help of her army and the secret path into the city through the sewers. She stakes out the slave masters in the road, as they had done to the slave children. After the coup, Daenerys decrees the new laws of the city. Thieves lose a hand, murderers are hanged, and rapists lose their manhood. She orders the bodies to be cleared away.

She meets an envoy from King Cleon, a member of the council she left to rule Astapor. Cleon has killed the rest of the council and set himself up as king. He offers to set up an alliance with her against Yunkai, which is setting up new armies. A captain from a ship also comes, offering to buy slaves. Daenerys says there are none, but Daario tells her some people want to be bought as they can have higher status in other cities. Daenerys agrees as long as no children are sold and the slaves want to be sold.

Ser Barristan and Ser Jorah are brought before Daenerys. During the siege of Meereen, she had them lead a party through the sewers into the city. She asks Barristan why he served Robert, and Barristan reveals King Aerys and Prince Rhaegar, Daenerys' father and brother, were mad. He says he wanted to see if she was mad as well. Daenerys absolves him and takes him into her service. Ser Jorah says he has done nothing wrong, and will not apologize for sending messages to Varys, the head spy at King's Landing. She sends him away from the city.

Daenerys is very troubled at the truth about her father and brother being mad. She talks to Barristan about it some more before going to sleep. She thinks about all of those who have betrayed her over the years, and thinks she must learn to rule before claiming the Iron Throne. She decides to stay in Meereen as queen.

Chapter 72, Daenerys Analysis

Daenerys is beginning to have trouble controlling her army. There are many people with her after her two previous conflicts, and she is unable to take care of them for much longer. Daenerys is beginning to buckle under the strain. She doubts her ability to rule when she learns of her brother and her father being mad. She understands she is not from as illustrious a family as she thought. The betrayal of Ser Jorah hits her hard, and she does not want him around if he cannot be honest with her. She is discovering those searching for power are vulnerable to spies and she needs to figure out who she can trust.

Daenerys is also disillusioned by the news from the cities she previously liberated, Yunkai and Astapor. People there are going back to the old ways of slavery. Daenerys realizes it takes time for things and people to change. She is forced to confront reality and dismiss her idealistic view of how society should be. In the end, she realizes she

dreamed too big, and must learn how to control a city before she can hope to rule a continent.

Chapter 73, Jaime

Chapter 73, Jaime Summary

Jaime is watching King Tommen Baratheon, Joffrey's successor, sign papers given to him by Ser Kevan. They are documents that dole out the conquered lands, such as Riverrun, decrees of promotion, and royal pardons, some for the Westerlings, including Jeyne, Robb Stark's widow. Jaime has lost a sparring match and is upset he cannot fight without his good hand. Jaime leaves and sees men outside preparing to take a girl claiming to be Arya Stark to Lord Roose Bolton. Jaime believes she is not the real Arya. Jaime recalls that Ser Gregor's wounds are poisoned, and Pycelle is trying to heal him. Tywin wants Gregor healed so he can be executed for killing Elia Martell to placate Prince Doran, Elia's brother. Tywin has heard Stannis has left Dragonstone and Tywin is afraid Stannis will make an alliance with Doran.

When Jaime gets to his room Cersei visits him and asks him to intercede with Tywin, who wants to send her back to Casterly Rock. Tywin does not want her interfering with Tommen's upbringing. Tywin plans to have Tommen marry Margaery Tyrell, Joffrey's widow. Jaime asks if Cersei was the one who tried to kill Bran Stark, and she denies it. She says Robert, who was drunk at the time, had said in front of her and the children that someone should kill Bran out of mercy. Jaime infers that Joffrey was the one tried to have Bran killed. Jaime also believes that Sansa Stark killed Joffrey, and Tywin is covering for her.

Cersei begs Jaime to convince Tywin to let her stay, but he says he cannot. She tries to seduce him, but he denies her. He says he will not leave the Kingsguard to help her. Cersei gets angry and storms out. Jaime goes to meet with Ser Loras and Brienne. Loras believes Stannis may have been the one to kill Renly. He leaves and Jaime gives Brienne the sword his father made, naming it Oathkeeper. He tells her the Arya Stark sent to Lord Roose was not the real one, and he tells her to find Sansa and Arya and protect them. Brienne agrees. Jaime then takes the White Book that tells the history of the Kingsguard and writes of his adventures.

Chapter 73, Jaime Analysis

Jaime Lannister has lost some of his love for his sister. It seems he is starting to see how she truly can be a cruel person. Jaime wonders what happened to him to make him so jaded. He doubts her assertion that Tyrion killed Joffrey. Jaime is concerned that he is losing his honor, which spurs him to recommit to the Kingsguard and send Brienne to complete their mission. He realizes he has done many dishonorable things, and wants to set things to rights. He is disillusioned with the way things are going in the kingdom. He is starting to see the truth behind the scenes, such as the fact that Joffrey tried to have Bran killed for a trivial reason. He decides to take charge of the things he can control and gain some honor back.

Chapter 74, Jon

Chapter 74, Jon Summary

Lord Janos Slynt has Jon Snow brought before him. Lord Janos tells Jon that Maester Aemon is the only thing preventing Jon from being hanged. He is sending Jon as an envoy to Mance Rayder, ostensibly to parley. Jon is to kill Mance. Jon meets with Mance, who knows the Watch is almost out of provisions. He wants the Watch to give up, as the wildings have found the Horn of Winter, which can bring the Wall down. He says the wildings do not want to conquer, they just want to get away from the Others. If the Wall comes down, there is nothing to stop the Others from coming all the way into the Seven Kingdoms. Mance offers to give the horn to the Watch if they let the wildings pass by.

A horn sounds from outside, and Mance goes out to see what is going on. The wildings are being attacked by a new group of soldiers. Jon discovers it is King Stannis and his men. Mance is captured, and Jon waits to see what will happen.

Chapter 74, Jon Analysis

Mance Rayder tells Jon Snow the true mission of the wildings is to get away from the Others. He offers the horn to Jon as a token of his honesty. Before Jon can answer, Stannis's army arrives, and fate steps in again. Jon is led more by the actions of others than by himself. He is a brave, honorable man who always ends up in the place where the tide is turning. He was there when the wildings came by and was captured. He was able to get away from the wildings, with the help of Bran's direwolf. He is thought to be a traitor. He is forced to react to things that happen more than putting things into action himself.

Chapter 75, Arya

Chapter 75, Arya Summary

Arya Stark and Sandor Clegane stop at an inn, where they learn the news from the south, including King Joffrey's death. Everyone at Harrenhal was killed, and Riverrun is under siege. Sandor fights with the men at the inn, and Arya helps by stabbing one in the belly. She stabs one of the other men when they fall. They manage to kill all the men, but Sandor is wounded.

They do not get far before Sandor succumbs to the wounds. Arya tries to heal him, but it does not work. He tries to antagonize her so she will kill him quickly, but she decides he does not deserve mercy and leaves him. She heads for a town called the Saltpans, where she sells her horse to buy passage. She does not get much, and the captain does not want to let her on. She shows him an iron coin Jaqen H'ghar, a felon, gave her, and says the words "valar morghulis." The captain replies "valar dohaeris" and lets her on board.

Chapter 75, Arya Analysis

Arya is finally able to escape from a long line of captors. She is still angry at those who hurt her. At the inn, she stabs one of the men over and over until Sandor is stopped. She takes out her frustration on him as she wants to kill those who have done her wrong. She leaves Sandor to die because although he has treated her relatively well as they traveled, he is still responsible for killing her friend. Since her mother and brother, Catelyn and Robb Stark, are dead, Arya feels she has no home to go to. She decides to board a ship to the free cities. She uses her iron coin and the phrase "valar morghulis," meaning all men must die, to get on the boat. It is not clear what the man infers from this or if the phrase is some sort of code.

Chapter 76, Sam

Chapter 76, Sam Summary

Sam is at Castle Black with Gilly, her baby, and Mance Rayder's baby. Sam learns that Stannis landed his ship at the port near the end of the Wall and came along the ranger's roads to fight the wildings. Sam and Gilly had just returned to Castle Black when Stannis's soldiers got there. Stannis's army has defeated the wildings, and their survivors have fled into the forest. Sam is happy to see Jon Snow, but troubled to learn Jon is now a prisoner of Stannis. Sam tells Jon he is considering claiming Gilly's son is his, so they will be taken care of. Jon is still considered a traitor since he did not kill Mance, but not too many actually believe it.

The Night's Watch are voting for a new Lord Commander, but no one has a majority yet. Lord Janos, Ser Denys, and Cotter Pyke have the most votes. When the next vote is taken, Janos has gained a few more votes. Sam talks with other members of the Watch, and he thinks he may try to convince Cotter or Denys to concede and support the other one, since they do not want Janos as Lord Commander. If only he was not so afraid of them.

Chapter 76, Sam Analysis

Sam Tarly takes Gilly back to Castle Black. They join the rest of the Night's Watch after the battle with the wildings. Sam is finding he is very protective of Gilly. He ponders claiming Gilly's son as his own, so he can arrange for her to be taken care of. He knows this will mean saying he broke his vow as a Night's Watchmen to remain chaste. However, Sam is not as scared as he used to be. When the vote for Lord Commander is still in a stalemate, Sam thinks that someone should do something about it. He begins to think that someone should be him, showing he is not so willing to sit back and watch the world go by.

Chapter 77, Jon

Chapter 77, Jon Summary

Jon Snow and Satin, a trainee of the Night's Watch, are practicing when Melisandre comes. She says Stannis wants to see Jon. Stannis tells him he does not believe Jon is a traitor, since he knows how Janos is and how Eddard, Jon's father, was in regards to their true natures. He says Jon was the one who gave Sam the dagger that killed the Other, and who got the Horn of Winter and captured Mance Rayder's son. Jon thinks he did not have much to do with this directly. Stannis asks Jon if Mance and the wildings can be honorable, and Jon says yes.

Stannis tells Jon he wants him to be loyal to him and be the new Lord of Winterfell. Since Roose Bolton was named Warden of the North, Stannis needs a loyal man in that area. Jon says he is already a member of the Night's Watch, but Melisandre tells him his vows mean nothing. They offer Val as a wife to gain an alliance with the wildings. Jon says he needs to think things over, and Stannis agrees.

Chapter 77, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow does not view his deeds as heroic, only as coincidental events that he happened to fall into. Stannis praises him for his deeds, but Jon thinks they are actually the result of things done by other men. Stannis wants to reward Jon by giving him the position of Lord of Winterfell, something Jon has always wanted. He would acknowledge Jon and give him rights not given to bastards. Jon sees this as the possible fulfillment of his desires, but buys time by telling Stannis he will think about it. Jon wants to be sure this is where he is supposed to be. It bothers him that he would have to again renege on his Night's Watch vows, as he did when he joined the wildings.

Jon Snow shows that his time with the wildings has changed his opinion of them. He does not agree with their methods, but he tells Stannis they can be an honorable people. He was not able to become one of them, but he knows that their motives may be good.

Chapter 78, Tyrion

Chapter 78, Tyrion Summary

Tyrion is in his cell. He thinks his execution time has arrived when he hears the door opening, but it is his brother Jaime, who has come to rescue him. Jaime has arranged for him to escape because he says it is a debt he owes. Tyrion asks him to clarify, and he said Tysha, Tyrion's first wife, was not a whore. Tywin made Jaime lie and tell Tyrion she was as a punishment. Jaime said he did not know Tywin would give the girls to the guards to be raped. Tyrion is angry and punches Jaime. He says he will get revenge on Jaime, Cersei, and Tywin.

Jaime asked if Tyrion killed Joffrey, and Tyrion claims he did. He also tells Jaime that Cersei has been sleeping with other men, and that Joffrey was a monster. Jaime leaves, and Tyrion finds Varys. Varys takes him to a secret room beneath the Tower of the Hand. Tyrion climbs up to the tower and finds Shae in his father's bed. He strangles her with the chain around her neck. He finds Tywin in the bathroom, who tells him he is going to send Tyrion to the Wall. Tyrion asks his father what happened to Tysha, and Tywin says he does not know. Tyrion fires a crossbow into his father's stomach.

Chapter 78, Tyrion Analysis

Tyrion feels as though everyone in his family has betrayed him. Cersei has always hated him, and has now accused him of murder. Tywin has had nothing but contempt for Tyrion. Now, Jaime, the only one he gets along with, tells him he has also betrayed him. Jaime and Tyrion have always had a good relationship. Jaime has only ever hurt his brother once, by telling him his wife Tysha was really a whore. Tyrion is extremely upset at this betrayal. He loved Tysha and cannot believe his father could be so deliberately cruel.

When Tyrion escapes, he goes to his father's chambers and confronts him about Tysha. Tyrion has never stood up to his father before, but this news pushes him to the breaking point. He kills his father, an act which will probably have great repercussions in the kingdom, as Tywin was the real power behind the throne. Tyrion also tells Jaime he did kill King Joffrey, however, it is not clear if he is telling the truth. Petyr Baelish tells Sansa Lady Olenna Tyrell is the one who poisoned Joffrey. At this point, it may have been either of them who actually did it, or both of them without knowing the other one was.

Chapter 79, Samwell

Chapter 79, Samwell Summary

Stannis is pressing the Watch to select a new commander. Janos wants Stannis to endorse him, but Stannis sees through him. Stannis plans to take all the abandoned castles along the Wall for his forces, once a new commander is selected. Stannis will also claim the land of the Night's Watch that is known as the gift. Melisandre and Maester Aemon speak of the War of the Dawn, the fabled war Melisandre has been predicting. Stannis questions Sam Tarly about the dagger that killed the Other. Aemon has Sam describe Lightbringer, a legendary sword, wielded by Stannis, to him.

Sam talks to Cotter and Ser Denys to try to get one of them to concede in the election for Lord Commander. Cotter will not listen, but Sam tells Ser Denys that there may be another man who can take the position, Jon Snow. Sam tells him Cotter will be named as Lord Commander if one is not chosen by the end of the day. He goes to Cotter and says that Stannis will place Ser Denys as Lord Commander if a decision is not made.

Chapter 79, Samwell Analysis

Sam Tarly's experiences have changed him. Before the Others' attack, he was a weak, easily frightened man. His comrades teased him about his lack of bravery, and Sam felt he would never do anything right. However, when the time comes for the elections, he is able to stand up himself and masterminds a scheme to get Jon Snow elected as Lord Commander. If successful, he will singlehandedly keep Tywin Lannister from getting control of the Wall. Sam knows Jon is a good man and deserves to lead the company.

Chapter 80, Jon

Chapter 80, Jon Summary

Jon Snow is practicing with another member of the Watch. He remembers fighting with Robb when they were younger, and Robb saying Jon could not be Lord of Winterfell because he was a bastard. Jon cannot decide whether to accept Stannis's offer. He hears members of the Watch trying to convince others to vote for Ser Janos Flynt. They cite a letter from Tywin Lannister supporting Janos as head of the Watch. Jon goes beyond the Wall. Ghost, his direwolf, comes out of the woods, and Jon realizes he cannot become Lord of Winterfell.

Jon walks into the hall, where the election is being held for the new Lord Commander. Men are shouting and arguing, and Aemon tells Jon that he has been recommended for the position. Janos is still saying Jon is a traitor, but Ser Denys and Cotter say it is legitimate. The former Lord Commander Mormont's talking raven flies out of the voting kettle when it is opened, lands on Jon's shoulder, and says his name. Some of Janos' supporters say it is a trick, but Jon is still elected as Lord Commander. Sam Tarly is given credit, and the men tell him he is lucky the raven did not fly to someone else. Sam says he had no part in it, and is as confused as the rest of them. Jon goes to tell Stannis what happened.

Chapter 80, Jon Analysis

Jon Snow must decide whether he wants to stay with the Night's Watch or accept King Stannis's offer to become Lord of Winterfell. Robb has already named Jon as his heir, but Jon is not aware of it. Jon thinks that if he accepts Winterfell, he will finally be accepted and fit in. However, when he sees Ghost, he realizes his place is not in a castle, but in the wild and in the Night's Watch. He is happy at this realization. When the time comes to vote for the new Lord Commander, Jon is shocked that he is being considered. He accepts the post, knowing this is his place in the world.

Chapter 81, Sansa

Chapter 81, Sansa Summary

Sansa Stark is at the Eryie, the home of Lysa Arryn, her aunt. She is not happy there, especially in light of the recent happenings throughout the kingdoms. She wakes up and sees it is snowing. She goes outside to the garden, and Ser Petyr Baelish finds her there. He helps her build a snow castle, and Sansa finds she is having fun. Petyr tries to kiss her. Sansa is outraged. Robert Arryn, Lysa's son, comes in and tries to knock down the castle with his doll. Sansa grabs the doll and rips its head off, causing Robert to have a fit. He is taken to be cured, and Sansa puts the doll's head on a stick in front of her castle.

Lysa calls for Sansa and is very angry that Petyr kissed her. She threatens to throw Sansa out the Moon Door, a high opening in the Eryie. She says Petyr had been infatuated with her sister Catelyn, and that once he had made a play for Catelyn. Catelyn rebuffed him and Lysa went to his bed, but Petyr was drunk and thought it was Catelyn. She will not let Sansa steal him like Catelyn did. Lysa also says she helped Petyr as much as she could, and she poisoned her husband, Jon Arryn, at Petyr's request. Petyr calms Lysa down, and takes her in his arms. He tells her he has always only loved one woman, Catelyn, and shoves Lysa out a door in the tower. He tells Sansa to call for the guards and tell them that Marillion, a singer at the house, is the one who killed Lysa.

Chapter 81, Sansa Analysis

Sansa Stark has been through a lot, and has trouble containing her emotions. She lashes out at her nephew, Robert, who goes into a fit. She is disgusted that Petyr Baelish would kiss her when he is married to Lysa Arryn, even though she has no real feelings for her aunt. Lysa is not fond of her niece, and only lets her stay there so she can marry Robert. Lysa is a jealous woman, and she shows this when she threatens to push Sansa out the Moon Door. Lysa feels that Catelyn led Petyr on, and it is Catelyn's fault Lysa was not able to marry Petyr until now. Unfortunately, Lysa does not know what kind of man Petyr really is.

Chapter 82, Epilogue: Merrett Frey

Chapter 82, Epilogue: Merrett Frey Summary

Merrett Frey is going to Oldstones to ransom back his relation, Petyr Pimple, from a group of outlaws. Merrett muses over his many failures and life, and hopes if he does this job well, his luck will change. When he gets there, he meets the Brotherhood without Banners. They take the gold and take him to claim Petyr Pimple, who has already been hanged. Merrett is prepped to be hanged as well.

The Brotherhood ask him if he knows where Sandor Clegane is, but Merrett does not. He says he had nothing to do with the Red Wedding, and there are no witnesses to prove they did. The brotherhood says they have one, and a woman comes forward. Merrett knows she was killed at the wedding, that her throat was cut and she was thrown in the river, but she is there. She nods when the brotherhood ask if Merrett was involved, and Merrett is hanged.

Chapter 82, Epilogue: Merrett Frey Analysis

Catelyn Stark's body was pulled onto shore by Nymeria, Arya Stark's direwolf. The wolf fled when men approached, and it seems those men were the Brotherhood without banners. Thoros has resurrected Catelyn, as he resurrected Lord Beric. Catelyn Stark wants to take her revenge on those who are responsible for her death and the death of her son, Robb Stark. She is no longer the woman who felt peace was the best way to keep her family safe. The Freys were the ones who lured the Starks into the trap at the Red Wedding, so she begins with them.

Characters

Jon Snow

Jon Snow is the illegitimate son of Eddard Stark (deceased). He has a direwolf, Ghost. He is hated by Chett because Snow helped Sam Tarly take Chett's position as steward to Maester Aemon. He is captured by the wildings and brought before Mance Rayder, king of the wildings. He convinces the wildings he wants to join them because his father did not respect him as much as his legitimate children. He is accepted by the wildings.

Jon Snow observes the wilding forces as they travel to the Fist of the First Men. When they arrive, Mance Rayder questions Jon about the forces at the fort, and Jon tells him the truth. Mance wants to kill him anyway because he thinks Jon is lying, but he is saved by Ygritte. She tells Mance she and Jon are lovers. Jon goes with some of the wildings scouts over the Wall. When the wildings are moving to attack Castle Black, Jon gets away and warns the castle. The members of the Night's Watch at the castle manage to defeat the wildings, with the help of Stannis Baratheon's forces.

When the wildings forces attack the wall, Jon finds himself in charge of the Night's Watch. The Watch is victorious, but Jon is accused of treason because he had been with the wildings. Eventually, this is proven to be untrue. The Night's Watch needs a new Lord Commander. They are unable to elect a new leader with a clear majority. Sam Tarly talks to some of the members and gets them to throw their support behind Jon. The plan works and Jon is elected as the new Lord Commander of the Night's Watch.

Jaime Lannister

Ser Jaime Lannister is the son of Tywin Lannister and brother of Tyrion and Cersei Lannister. He is a member of the King's guard. He and Cersei have an incestuous relationship and they have two sons, Joffrey and Tommen, and a daughter Myrcella Baratheon, although they pretend King Robert Baratheon (deceased) is their father. Jaime also tries to kill Brandon Stark, because the boy catches Jaime and Cersei having sex. He pushes Bran off a ledge and the boy is crippled.

Jaime is escorted to King's Landing by Brienne of Tarth and his cousin, Ser Cleos Frey. Jaime is imprisoned at Riverrun by Robb Stark. In the past, he also killed King Aerys, the former ruler of King's Landing, and is known as Kingslayer, even though he is pardoned by King Robert Baratheon, Aerys's successor. Catelyn Stark releases him so Tyrion will release Catelyn's daughters, Sansa and Arya.

They stop at the Inn of the Kneeling Man to eat. The innkeeper tells them to leave their boat and travel by horseback to King's Landing. The innkeeper's husband tells them to take a certain path, and Jaime is impressed when Brienne smells a trap and takes another path. While they travel, Jaime reminisces about how he became a Kingsguard.



He joined to be near his sister Cersei, but when he joined his father Tywin resigned as the Hand and took Cersei to Casterly Rock, ruining their plans.

A few years later, Tywin's army is admitted to King's Landing by King Aegs, and Aegs calls for Tywin to be killed. Jaime kills the king instead. Tywin's men come in and think Jaime is holding the throne for his father, but Jaime says he does not care who becomes King. Eddard Stark (now deceased) is the one who claims the throne. Jaime is then imprisoned by the Starks at Riverrun.

Jaime has decided he will return Sansa to Riverrun, and Arya if he can find her. They are traveling for Duskendale when archers attack them. Jaime and Brienne chase off the archers and fight each other. Brienne overpowers Jaime and holds his head in a stream until he yields. They are surrounded by the Bloody Mummers, Roose Bolton's men. He saves Brienne from being raped by telling their captive Brienne is noble. The Mummers take Jaime before Lord Vargo (Goat) Hoat, who cuts off his hand to send to Tywin.

The Mummers take Jaime and Brienne to Lord Roose Bolton, who is upset at the way they have been treated. He releases Jaime, but says Vargo has earned Brienne as a prize. Jaime leaves, but after he dreams about Brienne, he goes back and rescues her. They travel together to King's Landing, where Jaime resumes his post in the Kingsguard. He is reunited with Cersei, but their relationship is strained. He wants to declare their relationship publicly, but Cersei will not do it. When Tyrion is accused of murdering King Joffrey, Jaime helps his brother escape. He is trying to pay back his debts for all the evil things he has done. Since they never find Sansa and Arya Stark, Jaime asks Brienne to find them so he can honor his promise to Catelyn Stark.

Tyrion Lannister

Tyrion Lannister of King's Landing is the brother of Jaime and Cersei Lannister and son of Tywin Lannister. Catelyn Stark releases Jaime so so Tyrion will release Catelyn's daughters, Sansa and Arya. Tyrion is in King's Landing recovering from his wounds after the war. He sends Ser Bronn to investigate Ser Mandon Moore and find out if Cersei tried to have him killed. Cersei tries to hold Tyrion captive in Maegor's Holdfast, but Tyrion leaves and visits his father. Tyrion helped save the city during the Battle of Blackwater, but his father has downplayed his involvement. Tyrion asks to have Casterly Rock, the family's ancestral land, but his father refuses.

Tyrion goes to Varys to find out information about the kingdom. He asks Varys to bring him Shae, the woman he loves, and wants to send Shae away so she is safe from his father. However, he cannot bear to let her leave. The council meets to discuss the war. Peter (Littlefinger) Baelish is told to marry Lysa Arryn, and Tyrion takes his place as master of coins. Tyrion warns Tywin not to trust Littlefinger, but Tywin said Littlefinger has informed them of a plot to marry Willas and Sansa. Tywin tells Tyrion to marry Sansa instead. They are married, but Tyrion will not sleep with Sansa until she permits it.



Tyrion and Sansa attend King Joffrey's wedding. Tyrion and Joffrey fight at the wedding, and when Joffrey is poisoned, Cersei accuses Tyrion. He is jailed and has a trial. Cersei has paid many witnesses to say Tyrion did it, but Tyrion demands trial by combat. When his champion, Prince Oberyn Martell, dies at the combat, Tyrion is condemned to death. However, his brother, Jaime, helps him escape. Before leaving, Tyrion kills his father Tywin, finally realizing his father will never respect him and is an evil man.

Catelyn Stark

Catelyn Stark of Riverrun is the widow of Eddard Stark (deceased), mother of Brandon, Robb, Arya, and Sansa Stark, daughter of King Robb, and the sister of Ser Edmure Tully and Lysa Arryn. She releases Jaime Lannister so his brother, Tyrion, will release Catelyn's daughters. Ser Desmond Grell confines her to her father's rooms after he finds out what she has done. Catelyn's son Robb returns home with a wife, Jeyne Westerling. Catelyn is concerned because the Westerlings are loyal to the Lannisters. Catelyn convinces Robb to send Ser Rolph Spicer away, because Robb's wolf, Grey Wind, growls when Ser Rolph is near, and Catelyn wants her son to keep the wolf near.

Catelyn is upset at her son's choice of wife because he was supposed to marry a woman of the Frey family, and the Freys will not take this well. The Freys demand Robb apologize to them, and Ser Edmure Tully, Catelyn's brother, is to marry Rosalin Stark. Robb brings his army with him to the wedding. The wedding goes as planned until the bedding. Catelyn realizes a second too late that the wedding is turning into a bloodbath. Robb is killed, along with all his guards. The Freys attack Robb's army. Lord Roose Bolton has betrayed Robb, and is now siding with the Lannisters. Catelyn's throat is cut, and her body is dumped naked in the river.

Arya Stark, Catelyn's daughter, can see through her direwolf Nymeria. One night, while in the wolf, they find Catelyn's body. Nymeria pulls it out of the river, where a group of men find it. They are the Brotherhood without Banners, and Thoros uses the same technique he has used to bring Lord Beric back to life. He brings Catelyn back to life, and she travels with the brotherhood. They hang Merrett Frey for his part in the Red Wedding, and he is shocked to see Catelyn alive and able to identify him.

Samwell Tarly

Samwell Tarly is Jon Snow's friend. He is hated by Chett because he took Chett's position as steward to Master Aemon. Tarly is in charge of keeping the ravens for the Night's Watch while they are stationed at the Fist of the First Men. When the Others attack, Sam sends messages back to the main fort at the Wall about the status of the battle. Sam is one of the few survivors after the battle with the Others. The survivors flee south, but Sam falls down and falls behind. Grenn and Small Paul help him up, but an Other comes and kills Small Paul. Sam stabs the Other with a dragonglass dagger he received from Jon Snow, and the Other melts away.



Sam meets with the other survivors, but they mutiny and kill Lord Commander Mormont. Sam flees with Gilly and Gilly's newborn son. They are attacked by a wight, and are saved by a stranger with black skin and hands like ice. Eventually they return to Castle Black. When the time comes to vote for a new Lord Commander, the Watch is in a stalemate. Sam convinces two of the candidates who are running to vote for Jon Snow, and they agree. Jon Snow is elected new Lord Commander. Sam considers saying Gilly's child is his so they will be taken care of.

Bran Stark

Brandon Stark, known as Bran, is the son of Eddard Stark (deceased) and Catelyn Stark and brother of Arya, Robb, and Sansa Stark. Jaime Lannister tries to kill him when Bran sees Jaime and Cersei having sex and Bran is crippled. His family currently believes he is dead. Bran is alive, however, and has a direwolf named Summer. He is able to open his third eye and become Summer. He is traveling with Jojen and they are trying to stay hidden because it is safer if Bran is thought dead. Jojen and Bran are making for the Wall. They stay overnight at Queenscrown, and through Summer, Bran helps Jon Snow escape the Wildings. They also run into Sam Tarly and Gilly at the Nightfort. Sam helps them get through the wall. He recognizes Bran but says he will keep the secret.

Arya Stark

Arya Stark is the daughter of Eddard Stark (deceased) and Catelyn Stark, and sister of Sansa, Robb and Brandon Stark. She steals Roose Bolton's map and escapes with Gendry and Hot Pie. They try to find the Red Fork of the Trident in order to return to Riverrun. While on the run, Arya falls asleep and dreams she is a wolf attacking the Bloody Mummies who are coming after the escapees. She is not sure if the dream was real.

The three are eventually captured by men who say they are loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased). The men take them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man, where Arya realizes they are outlaws. Soon her father's man, Harwin, arrives and recognizes her as Eddard Stark's daughter. They tell Arya they will set out for Riverrun. Harwin tells Arya how he and the other men became outlaws after the deaths of King Robert Baratheon and Eddard Stark. The group is called the brotherhood without banners. Arya realizes the men are actually taking her to see Lord Beric.

They get to Lord Beric's camp. A farmer called the Mad Huntsman has captured a man named Sandor Clegane, who is loyal to the Lannisters, and brings him to Beric. Beric says Sandor will have a trial by combat. They fight, and Sandor is wounded, but he kills Beric. Thoros takes Beric's body away, but he comes back with Beric alive. They later tell Arya Thoros has raised Beric from the dead six times. Arya eventually escapes from the brotherhood, but she runs into Sandor again, who wants to ransom her to her mother, Catelyn.



Sandor takes Arya to the Twins, because they have learned Catelyn will be at the wedding there. They arrive just as the Freys are killing Robb, Catelyn, and all of the Stark allies. Sandor knocks Arya out and they flee. Arya has a dream that she enters her direwolf and they pull Catelyn's body out of the river where the Freys threw it. Some men come upon it, and her direwolf Nymeria flees. Arya and Sandor stop at an inn, and three men fight them. Sandor and Arya kill them, but Sandor is wounded. When he cannot go any farther, Arya leaves him and boards a ship to a free city.

Sansa Stark

Sansa Stark is the daughter of Catelyn Stark and sister of Arya and Brandon Stark. At King's Landing, she is invited to dinner by Margaery Tyrell and Lady Olenna Tyrell. At the dinner, Sansa tells Olenna and Margaery that she believes Joffrey is a monster. Olenna asks her to visit Highgarden and tells Sansa she wants her to marry her grandson, Willas. Margaery later tells her she is not afraid to marry Joffrey, since her brother, Ser Loras, will be named a member of the Kingsguard as part of the marriage deal.

Sansa tells Ser Dontos about marrying Willas, and Dontos tells her not to. He says they will escape on King Joffrey and Margaery's wedding day. On the day she is supposed to marry Willas, Cersei tells her she will marry Tyrion instead. They go through with it, although Tyrion will not sleep with her until she gives him permission. On the day of Joffrey's wedding, Dontos gives Sansa an amethyst studded hairnet to wear. Lady Olenna slyly removes one of the amethysts at the wedding feast. Joffrey is poisoned, and Sansa knows the amethyst might be what poisoned him. She flees the castle.

Dontos takes her to a ship, where Sansa learns Ser Petyr Baelish is behind her escape. He takes her to her aunt, Lysa Arryn. Lysa has been in love with Petyr for years, and they get married. They all return to Lysa's home, the Eyrie. Sansa is not happy there. She is playing in the snow one day, and Petyr comes to talk to her. He kisses her, and Sansa gets mad. Lysa calls Sansa in and yells at her, saying Sansa is just trying to steal Peter like Catelyn used to. Petyr tells her to calm down, and he only loves one woman—Catelyn. He pushes Lysa out the door and blames it on Marillion, a singer at the Eyrie.

Davos Seaworth

Davos (The Onion Knight) Seaworth is a sailor who awakens on a small island in Blackwater Bay. His ship is lost in a battle, and he believes he has lost his four sons in the battle. He is rescued by a ship owned by the pirate Salladhor Saan. He learns that his son Devan is alive and that the Florents are almost the only ones who remain loyal to King Stannis. Many men who fought with Davos have given up and hailed Joffrey as their king. He tells Salladhor he plans to kill Melisandre. When put ashore, he meets Edric Storm, the illegitimate son of Robert Baratheon (deceased). He is arrested by Ser Axell for his plot to kill Melisandre.



Davos is imprisoned, and Melisandre comes to speak to him of the gods of new and evil. She leaves and Lord Alester Florent is thrown in the cell for being a traitor. Stannis calls for Davos and explains how loyal Melisandre is to him. He makes Davos his new Hand. Melisandre wants to sacrifice Edric Storm, Robert Baratheon's bastard son, because his death will make Stannis a hero in the coming war. Davos feels he is not worthy to be the Hand, and takes reading lessons. One day, he reads a letter requesting reinforcements at the Wall. Davos does not want to see Edric sacrificed and helps him escape. When Stannis and Melisandre confront him, Davos shows them the letter. Stannis mobilizes his forces and takes them to the Wall by sea. They arrive just in time to help throw down the Wildling attack.

Daenerys Targaryen

Daenerys (Dany) Targaryen is sailing for Pentos with her Arstan and Ser Jorah. She also has three dragons. She is the daughter of King Aerys II and sister of Prince Rhaegar.

The Targaryens ruled the Seven Kingdoms before the Baratheons, and Daenerys wants to claim the throne. Ser Jorah tells her not to trust Arstan and advises her to sail for Astapor and buy the Unsullied, trained fighters. Ser Jorah tries to kiss her on the ship, but she denies him. When they get to Astapor, Daenerys is upset at the way the slaves are treated. Although she understands their language, she gets a slave girl to interpret. She tells the traders she wants to buy all the Unsullied, even those in training. She offers all their goods, and one of her dragons, Drogon, as payment. The slavers agree. When she comes the next day to claim them, she gives the slaver Drogon, then commands him to breathe fire, burning the trader. Her men and the Unsullied join in a revolt and kill the traders. Daenerys conquers Astapor.

Daenerys and her new army of Unsullied move on to the city of Yunkai. The city is defended by an army and two sellsword companies, the Second Sons and the Stormcrows. Daenerys meets with the heads of each, but neither will bend to her will. She gives the Second Sons a wagonful of alcohol. One of the Stormcrow captains, Daario, later returns with the heads of the two other Stormcrow captains, and promises allegiance. That night, Daenerys' army attacks and the Stormcrows turn on the Yunkai army. The Second Sons are too drunk to be much help, and Daenerys conquers her second city and again frees the slaves.

Daenerys next moves onto Meereen, which is guarded by a formidable wall. She is unsure how to proceed. She counsels with Ser Jorah, Arstan, Daario, and Brown Ben, the new head of the Second Sons. She finds herself falling for Daario. Ben tells her of a way through the sewers into the city. Daenerys rides through her camps to clear her head and think about how to proceed. Maro, the old head of the Second Sons, has snuck into the camp and attacks her, but Arstan kills him with his staff. Arstan is revealed as the knight Ser Barristan. He says he did not tell her who he was because he had served under Robert. He tells Daenerys that Jorah has been spying on her for Varys, the head spy at King's Landing. Daenerys is disgusted by both men, and sends



them into the sewer to find a way to overcome the city. She is surprised that they succeed, and she claims Meereen and frees the slaves.

Daenerys lets Ser Barristan and Ser Jorah explain themselves before she decides what to do with them. Ser Barristan apologizes and says he did not want to tell her how mad her father, King Aerys II, was. Daenerys forgives him and lets him stay. Jorah says he has done nothing wrong, and only wanted to protect her. Daenerys cannot accept that and turns him away. She is soon visited by an envoy from Astapor, who tells her the slavery has started up again. She also learns some of those who followed her are offering themselves as slaves, for it is the best opportunity to get to one of the free cities. Daenerys is disillusioned about what she has done, and decides to stay in Meereen and learn how to rule.

Robb Stark

Robb Stark is the son of Eddard Stark (deceased) and Catelyn Stark, and brother of Brandon, Arya, and Sansa Stark. He has a wolf named Grey Wind. He returns to Riverrun and his mother is brought before him. When Lord Rickard Karstark confronts Catelyn about releasing Jaime Lannister, Robb sends him away. Robb was wounded and nursed back to health by Jeyne Westerling, whom he marries. His mother is concerned because the Westerlings were loyal to Casterly Rock and the Lannisters. Catelyn convinces Robb to send Ser Rolph Spicer away, because Grey Wind growls when Ser Rolph is near. Robb is supposed to choose a wife from the Frey family, and Catelyn worries what the Frey family will think about Robb marrying someone else. Robb plans to return North but must first make amends with the Frey family.

Lord Rickard Karstark commands the deaths of Willem Lannister and Tion Frey to avenge the deaths of his two sons, and Robb must deal with him. Robb sentences Rickard Karstark to death and carries out the sentence himself. The Freys demand Robb apologize to them, and Ser Edmure Tully, Catelyn's brother, is to marry Rosalin Stark. Robb brings his army with him to the wedding. The wedding goes as planned until the bedding. Catelyn realizes a second too late that the wedding is turning into a bloodbath. Robb is killed, along with all his guards.

Mance Rayder

Mance Rayder is the King-beyond-the-Wall, the king of the wildings. He was once a member of the Night's Watch. He speaks with Jon Snow after Snow is captured by the wildings. He left the Night's Watch because after being treated by a wilding woman, he realized he wanted to live freely. His wife, Della, dies after giving birth to his son. Gilly takes care of his son while Mance is imprisoned by the Night's Watch. Mance leads the attack on the Wall, but is captured when Stannis Baratheon arrives to help the Night's Watch defeat the Wildings.

Chett

Chett is a member of the Night's Watch, stationed at the Fist of the First Men beyond the Wall. He conspires with Lark the Sisterman and several other men to kill Lord Commander Mormont and desert the Night's Watch. The night they plan to desert, it begins to snow and Chett fears their plans are ruined. He still tries to kill Sam Tarly but before he can, the lookouts blow a horn three times, signifying the Others have come.

Lord Commander Mormont

Lord Commander Jeor Mormont is the head of the Night's Watch. He is the father of Ser Jorah Mormont. Chett and his friends plot to kill Mormont and call him the Old Bear. The plot is ruined with the Others' attack. Mormont survives the attack, but is killed at Craster's Keep when some of the remaining members of the Watch revolt. His dying wish is for his son, Ser Jorah Mormont, to join the Watch.

The Others

The Others are undead beings. They have not been seen in the Seven Kingdoms for thousands of years. Their comeback forces the wildlings to leave their homes and come towards the Wall. The Others attack the fort called the Fist of the First Men, where the Night's Watch is stationed. They overcome the fort and the Night's Watch men are forced to flee. Sam Tarly is the only one to kill an Other. He does this with an obsidian dagger given to him by Jon Snow.

Brienne Tarth

Brienne Tarth is charged with returning Jaime Lannister to King's Landing after Catelyn Stark releases him from prison. When they are attacked by a galley on the Red Fork of the Trident River, Brienne climbs a cliff and throws rocks down to sink the galley. They stop at the Inn of the Kneeling Man. The innkeeper tells them to leave their boat and travel by horseback to King's Landing. The innkeeper's husband tells them to take a certain path, and Jaime is impressed when Brienne smells a trap and takes another path.

They are traveling for Duskendale when archers attack them. Jaime and Brienne chase off the archers and fight each other. She overpowers Jaime and holds his head in a stream until he yields. They are surrounded by the Bloody Mummers, Vargo Holt's men. Jaime saves her from being raped by telling their captives Brienne is noble. They are taken to Vargo, who cuts off Jaime's hand. Brienne and Jaime are taken to Roose Bolton, who decides to let Jaime return to King's Landing, but he feels Vargo has earned Brienne. Jaime leaves, but he comes back to save Brienne after he dreams about her. When he gets there, he finds Vargo has thrown Brienne in a pit with a bear



for biting off his ear when he tried to rape her. Jaime jumps in and holds off the bear until they can be rescued.

Brienne and Jaime go to King's Landing. Ser Loras sees Brienne when they get there and wants to kill her for killing Renly. Jaime stops him, but lets her be arrested. He tells Loras to treat Brienne fairly and judge if she is guilty or not. Loras agrees, and after interrogating her, he believes she is innocent and lets her go. Jaime gives Brienne his sword named Oathkeeper and asks her to follow through on their promise to recover Arya and Sansa Stark. Brienne agrees, now seeing a different side of Jaime's nature.

Tywin Lannister

Lord Tywin Lannister of King's Landing is a dwarf and the father of Jaime Lannister and Tyrion Lannister. He is the Hand to King Joffrey Baratheon. He downplays his Tyrion's involvement in saving the city during the Battle of Blackwater, and refuses to give his son the family's ancestral land, Casterly Rock. In the past, his army was admitted to King's Landing by King Aerys, and Aerys called for Tywin to be killed. Jaime killed the king instead. Tywin's men came in and thought Jaime was holding the throne for his father, but Jaime said he did not care who became King. Eddard Stark (now deceased) was the one who claimed the throne. Jaime was then imprisoned by the Starks at Riverrun.

Tywin plans for Tyrion to marry Sansa Stark to join the Stark and Lannister families. He also plans the ambush at the Red Wedding that takes the lives of Robb and Catelyn Stark. Tywin feels he has eliminated the Starks as a threat. King Joffrey's wedding day comes, and Tywin gives him a Valyrian sword. At the feast, Joffrey is poisoned, and Cersei accuses Tyrion. Tywin must act as judge. Prince Oberyn offers to champion for Tyrion in the trial by battle, but he is overcome by Ser Gregor. Tyrion is condemned to die. However, Jaime Lannister frees Tyrion, and Tyrion climbs the Tower of the Hand to his father's chambers. He finds Shae, the whore he loved, in his father's bed and strangles her. Tywin is in the bathroom, and Tyrion bursts in on him. Tywin tells his son he was not going to let him die, just send him to be part of the Night's Watch. Tyrion is sick of his father's treachery and kills him with a crossbow.

Stannis Baratheon

Stannis Baratheon is a claimant to the Iron Throne and brother of King Robert Baratheon (deceased). After the war for kingship, he will see no one but Melisandre. When Davos returns to shore, Stannis accepts his council and names him the Hand. Stannis and Melisandre both believe a great war is coming between the god of light and the god of darkness. They believe Stannis will be the champion for the god of light once the other false kings are dead. After the deaths of Joffrey, Balon Greyjoy, and Robb Stark, Stannis thinks it is time to sacrifice Edric Storm so Stannis can become the hero.

Davos has already sent Edric away, but to placate Stannis he shows him a letter from the Night's Watch requesting help. Stannis goes to assist the Watch and helps them

bring down the wildling attack. He claims the unused fortresses and the land around the Wall as his own. He wants to have a stronghold in the north in preparation for the upcoming war.

Lady Olenna Tyrell

Lady Olenna Tyrell of Highgarden is the Queen of Thorns, mother of Lord Mace Tyrell, and grandmother of Margaery, Ser Loras, Ser Garlan and Willas Tyrell. She invites Sansa Stark to a dinner. Olenna tells Sansa that her son, Lord Mace Tyrell, is stupid for making an alliance with the Lannisters, and asks Sansa to tell her the truth about Joffrey. Sansa tells Olenna and Margaery that she believes Joffrey is a monster. Olenna says the wedding will still go on. She wants Sansa to marry her grandson, Willas. Tywin has Sansa marry Tyrion, however. Sansa is given a hairnet by Dontos to wear to Joffrey and Margaery's wedding. Lady Olenna fingers the hairnet and removes an amethyst, which is poisonous. She uses it to kill Joffrey, whom she knows is a monster. Joffrey dies and Tyrion is blamed for the murder.

Joffrey Baratheon

Joffrey Baratheon is the son of King Robert Baratheon (deceased) and Queen Cersei Lannister, although Jaime Lannister is his real father. He is the product of an incestuous relationship. He is the brother of Tommen Baratheon. He is crowned king after King Robert dies. He is a rude and selfish king. He is killed on the day of his wedding to Margaery Tyrell by Lady Olenna Tyrell, who slips a poisonous amethyst into his food or drink. Tyrion is blamed for his murder.

Margaery Tyrell

Margaery Tyrell of Highgarden is the granddaughter of Lady Olenna Tyrell and sister of Ser Loras and Willas Tyrell. She is set to marry King Joffrey Baratheon, although she is not afraid because her brother, Ser Loras, will become a member of Kingsguard as part of the marriage arrangement. She marries Joffrey, but he is poisoned on their wedding day by Lady Olenna. After his death, arrangements are being made for Margaery to marry Tommen Baratheon, Joffrey's brother and the new king.

Ser Jorah Mormont

Ser Jorah Mormont is the son of Lord Commander Mormont. He sails for Pentos with Daenerys. He tells her not to trust Arstan and advises her to sail for Astapor and buy the Unsullied, trained fighters. He tries to seduce Daenerys on the ship, but she denies him. Daenerys finds out Ser Jorah has been feeding information about her to Varys, the head spy in King's Landing. When Jorah will not apologize for this, Daenerys sends him away.

Lord Walder Frey

Lord Walder Frey is a member of the Frey family. He agreed to ally with the Starks if Robb Stark marries one of his daughters. Robb marries a Westerling girl instead, breaking the alliance. The Freys pretend they want to work it out, only to lure Robb to his death. They lay a trap at Ser Edmure Tully's wedding to Roslin Frey.

Cersei Lannister

Cersei Lannister is the daughter of Tywin Lannister and the sister of Jaime and Tyrion Lannister. She has an incestuous relationship with her brother, Jaime, and they have children, Joffrey, Tommen, and Myrcella Baratheon, although they pretend Robert Baratheon (deceased) is their father. She was married to King Robert Baratheon and is a queen. When Joffrey is poisoned, she blames Tyrion and bribes witnesses to testify against him.

Lark the Sisterman

Lark the Sisterman is a member of the Night's Watch, stationed at the Fist of the First Men beyond the Wall. He conspires with Chett and several other men to kill Lord Commander Mormont and desert the Night's Watch. They do not attempt their plan due to the attack of the Others.

Small Paul

Small Paul is a member of the Night's Watch. He is part of a plot to kill the Lord Commander Mormont of the Night's Watch. He is killed when the Others attack the Fist of the First Men.

Rickon Stark

Rickon Stark is the son of Catelyn Stark and Edmure Stark, and the brother of Robb, Arya, Sansa, and Bran Stark. Everyone believes he dies at Winterfell when it is attacked.

Ser Cleos Frey

Ser Cleos Frey is Jaime Lannister's cousin. He helps Brienne escort Jaime to King's Landing. He is the brother of Tion Frey, who is killed at Ser Rickard Karstark's command. Ser Cleos is killed when archers attack their group near Duskendale.



Tommen Baratheon

Tommen Baratheon is the son of King Robert Baratheon (deceased) and Queen Cersei Lannister, although Jaime Lannister is his real father. He is the product of an incestuous relationship. He is the brother of Joffrey Baratheon. When Joffrey is poisoned, Tommen succeeds him as king. Cersei acts as Queen Regent since Tommen is young.

Vargo Hoat

Lord Vargo (Goat) Hoat has Jaime's hand chopped off as a message to Lord Tywin. He fought for Tywin during the war but now fights for the Starks, since they promised Harrenhal to him. He is found by Ser Gregor, who cuts off his feet and hands in retaliation for Jaime's wound.

Robert Baratheon

King Robert Baratheon (deceased) is the supposed father of Joffrey Lannister, although Joffrey is actually the product of an incestuous relationship between Cersei and Jaime Lannister, sister and brother. He is the brother of Stannis Baratheon. He is the heart of the rebellion against the Targaryen dynasty, and becomes king after they are overthrown.

Ser Kevin Lannister

Ser Kevan Lannister of King's Landing is a knight and the father of Willem Lannister. He is present at the council meeting when Tyrion is told to marry Sansa. His son is killed by Lord Rickard Karstark. He initially believes Tyrion Lannister is innocent of killing King Joffrey Baratheon, but after false evidence is given, he believes Tyrion is guilty.

Shae

Shae is a whore and the lover of Tyrion. He tries to send her away from King's Landing, but cannot bear to be apart from her. When Tyrion is accused of killing King Joffrey, Shae is paid to give false evidence against Tyrion. When Tyrion escapes and finds her in his father's bed, he strangles her.

Roose Bolton

Lord Roose Bolton sends the Bloody Mummies after Arya Stark, Gentry, and Hot Pie after the three escape. When Vargos Hoat brings Jaime Lannister to him, Roose lets Jaime go back to King's Landing. Roose is part of the plan to betray and kill Robb Stark, and most likely is the one who actually kills him.



Jojen Reed

Jojen Reed is traveling with Brandon (Bran) Stark. He is the brother of Meera Reed. They are trying to stay out of sight because Bran is believed dead and they are safer if this continues. He tells Bran they should go to the Wall since Jojen cannot teach Bran any more.

Ser Edmure Tully

Ser Edmure Tully is Catelyn Stark's brother. He sends Ser Robin Ryger to capture Jaime Lannister after Catelyn lets Jaime escape. He is supposed to marry Roslin Frey, but is held hostage after the Freys turn on the Starks and Tullys at the wedding.

Eddard Stark

Eddard Stark (deceased) was the husband of Catelyn Stark, and father of Brandon, Robb, Arya, and Sansa Stark. He was executed by Joffrey before the events of the novel. While he was alive, he was the Hand of King Robert Baratheon.

Lord Holster

Lord Holster Tully is the father of Catelyn Stark, Ser Edmure Tully, and Lysa Arryn. Catelyn is confined to her father's room by Ser Desmond Grell when he discovers she has released Jaime Lannister. Lord Holster is dying. While Catelyn watches over her father, he mumbles about blood and babies. She assumes this means Lysa was pregnant before her marriage and her father made Lysa abort the baby. Lord Holster dies naturally.

Gentry

Gentry escapes with Arya Stark and Hot Pie from Roose Bolton. The three are eventually captured by men who say they are loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased). The men take them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man, where Arya realizes they are outlaws. Harwin, another outlaw, arrives, and takes Arya and Gentry to see Lord Beric, head of the outlaws, a group is called the brotherhood without banners. Gentry stays with the brotherhood.

Harwin

Harwin is a soldier loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased) and Eddard Stark (deceased). He becomes an outlaw after their deaths, a part of a group led by Lord Beric. The group is called the brotherhood without banners. He finds Arya at the Inn of the Kneeling Man and takes her to Lord Beric.

Lord Beric

Lord Beric is the head of a group of outlaws loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased) and Eddard Stark (deceased). The group is called the brotherhood without banners. Lord Beric has been killed several times, but somehow comes back to life, with the help of Thoros, the red priest. The brotherhood finds Catelyn Stark's body, and brings her back to life.

Hot Pie

Hot Pie escapes with Arya Stark and Gentry from Roose Bolton. The three are eventually captured by men who say they are loyal to King Robert Baratheon (deceased). The men take them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man, where Arya realizes they are outlaws. Hot Pie decides to stay at the Inn with Sharna, the innkeeper.

Brynden Tully

Ser Brynden Tully is Lord Holster Tully's brother. He lights Lord Holster's funeral pyre with a flaming arrow at the funeral. He is left behind at Riverrun during Edmure and Roslin's wedding.

Sharna

Sharna is an innkeeper at the Inn of the Kneeling Man. Jaime, Brienne and Ser Cleos stop at the inn to eat. Arya, Hot Pie, and Gentry are captured by outlaws and brought to the inn. Sharna and her husband are working with the outlaws to capture travelers.

Ser Loras

Ser Loras Tyrell of Highgarden is the grandson of Lady Olenna Tyrell and the brother of Margaery, Willas, and Ser Garlan Tyrell. He escorts Sansa to dinner with Margaery and Lady Olenna Tyrell. He becomes a member of the Kingsguard to protect Margaery. When he sees Brienne, he wants to kill her for killing Renly, but Jaime urges him to judge her fairly. Loras does and releases her when he realizes she did not do it.

Lem Lemoncloak

Lem Lemoncloak is an outlaw with Tom of Sevenstreams who captures Arya, Hot Pie, and Gentry and takes them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man. Arya breaks his nose with a cup in an attempt to escape.



Varys

Varys is a Master of Whispers, or spy for the king, in King's Landing. Tyrion uses him to get information. He is Ser Jorah's contact while Jorah is spying on Daenerys. He also helps Tyrion escape after Jaime frees him. Varys has many hiding places and many spies, and knows almost everything that goes on at King's Landing and beyond.

Robin Ryger

Ser Robin Ryger is captain of the guard at Riverrun. He commands a galley that comes after Jaime Lannister after Catelyn Stark releases Jaime. He is sent by Ser Edmure Tully to bring Jaime back to Riverrun. His galley is sunk when Brienne, who is traveling with Jaime, climbs a cliff on a nearby island and throws boulders onto the galley. Ser Edmure Tully of Riverrun sends Ser Robin Ryger to get Jaime Lannister back after Catelyn Stark releases him.

Daario

Daario is a captain of the Stormcrow sellsword company in Yunkai. He joins Daenerys' army before she attacks the city. She finds herself infatuated with him.

Ser Gregory Clegane

Ser Gregory (Mountain) Clegane is the brother of Sandor Clegane. He is very large and formidable. When Tyrion is accused of killing King Joffrey, Ser Gregory serves as the champion for Cersei. He kills Prince Oberyn, the champion for Tyrion. However, he is later executed for raping and killing Prince Oberyn's sister, Elia.

Prince Oberyn Martell

Prince Oberyn Martell is a prince of Dorne, the southernmost of the Seven Kingdoms. He is the champion for Tyrion when Tyrion is accused of killing King Joffrey. He desires vengeance against Ser Gregory, who killed his sister Elia. He is killed by Ser Gregory Clegane.

Elia Martell

Elia Martell is the sister of Prince Oberyn Martell. She is killed by Gregor Clegane.

Walton

Walton is a soldier serving Lord Roose Bolton. He returns Jaime to King's Landing.



Gilly

Gilly is a woman who gives birth at Craster's Keep. She flees the keep with her newborn son and Sam Tarly.

Thoros

Thoros is a red priest and a member of the brotherhood without banners. He is able to raise certain people, mainly Lord Beric, from the dead.

Hodor

Hodor is a stableboy who carries Bran around since he has been crippled.

Meera Reed

Meera Reed is traveling with Bran Stark. She is the sister of Jojen Reed.

Jon Arryn

Lord Jon Arryn (deceased) is the husband of Lysa (Stark) Arryn. He led a revolt against the monarchy of King Aerys Targaryen (deceased), after which King Robert Baratheon (deceased) ruled.

Rhaegar Targaryen

Prince Rhaegar Targaryen is the son of King Aerys II Targaryen and brother of Daenerys' Targaryen. He is killed by Robert Baratheon, who becomes King (now deceased).

The Unsullied

The Unsullied are eunuchs and highly trained fighters. Daenerys sails to Astapor to buy them for her army.

Arstan/ Ser Barristan Selmy

Arstan travels with Daenerys to Pento. He is really Ser Barristan Selmy, although he hides this from Daenerys. When she finds out, he says he did not want her to know he had served under King Robert. Daenerys sends him on a dangerous mission, and when returns, she accepts him into her army.



Salladhor Saan

Salladhor Saan is a Lyseni pirate. One of his ships picks up Davos from where he is stranded on an island. He also helps Edric Storm escape.

Melisandre

Melisandre, also known as the Red Woman, is a priestess of R'hllor, the Lord of the Light. She is religious advisor to Stannis, and predicts a great war is coming. She wants to sacrifice Edric Storm so Stannis can become the hero of the war, but Davos helps Edric escape.

Lord Mace Tyrell

Lord Mace Tyrell of Highgarden is the son of Lady Olenna Tyrell and the father of Margaery and Ser Loras Tyrell. His mother feels he is stupid for making an alliance with the Lannisters.

Willas Tyrell

Willas Tyrell of Highgarden is the grandson of Lady Olenna Tyrell and the brother of Margaery, Ser Loran, and Ser Garlan Tyrell. Olenna wants him to marry Sansa.

Tom Sevenstreams

Tom Sevenstreams is an outlaw with Lem Lemoncloak who captures Arya, Hot Pie, and Gentry and takes them to the Inn of the Kneeling Man.

Edric Storm

Edric Storm is the bastard son of Robert Baratheon (deceased). Melisandre wants to sacrifice him to R'hllor, the god of light, but Davos helps the boy escape.

Ser Rickard Karstark

Ser Rickard Karstark is the Lord of Karhold. He is loyal to Robb Stark. He commands the deaths of Willem Lannister and Tion Frey, and is executed for it.

Jonos

Lord Jonos is an enemy of the Lannister family. He kills several tavern wenches because they consort with Lannister soldiers.

Aerys II Targaryen

King Aerys II Targaryen (deceased) is the ruler of King's Landing before King Robert Baratheon. He is murdered by Jaime Lannister.

Grenn

Grenn is a member of the Night's Watch at the Fist of the First Men. He escapes the Others' attack on the fort with Sam Tarly.

Thoren Smallwood

Thoren Smallwood is a ranger of the Night's Watch, stationed at the Fist of the First Men. He sees the wildings' army, and tries to convince his superiors to attack them.

Direwolves

Direwolves are wolves that humans can connect with and act through. Jon Snow, Bran Stark, and Arya Stark all have direwolves.

The wildings

The wildlings are people who live outside the control of the Seven Kingdoms in the extreme north of the continent. Mance Rayder is their leader.

Tormund

Tormund Giantsbane is a wildings fighter.

Ben Stark

Ben Stark is a ranger who has gone missing. Three hundred Night Watch soldiers are hunting for him and other rangers at the beginning of the novel.



Waymar Royce

Waymar Royce is a ranger who has gone missing. Three hundred Night Watch soldiers are hunting for him and other rangers at the beginning of the novel.

Ottyn Wythers

Ottyn Wythers is a ranger of the Night's Watch, stationed at the Fist of the First Men.

Ser Addam Marbrand

Ser Addam Marbrand is named Commander of the City Watch after Lord Jacelyn is killed.

Bronn

Ser Bronn of King's Landing is a mercenary and a friend of Tyrion Lannister. He does some spy work for Tyrion. When Tyrion is accused of murdering King Joffrey, he asks Bronn to stand up for him, but Bronn has already been bribed by Cersei, Joffrey's mother.

Tyrek

Tyrek is the cousin of Tyrion, Jaime and Cersei Lannister. He is feared dead after the Battle of the Blackwater.

Willem Lannister

Willem Lannister is the son of Ser Kevan Lannister. He is killed by the command of Sir Richard Karstark.

Tion Frey

Tion Frey is the brother of Ser Cleos. He is killed by the command of Sir Rickard Karstark.

Ser Desmond Grell

Ser Desmond Grell of Riverrun confines Catelyn Stark to her father's rooms after Catelyn releases Jaime Lannister in exchange for her daughters' freedom.

Ser Axell

Ser Axell arrests Davos for plotting to kill Melisandre. He tells Davos to recommend him to Stannis for his Hand, but Stannis chooses Davos to be his Hand.

Jarl

Jarl is a wildling fighter. While scaling the Wall, he falls and is killed.

Dalla

Dalla is a wildling and the wife of Mance Rayder. She dies giving birth to Mance's baby.

Bloody Mummers

Brave Companions, also known as Bloody Mummers, are a group of mercenaries led by Vargo Holt.

Rattleshirt

Rattleshirt is a wildling leader who brings Jon Snow to the wildling camp.

Lord Alester

Lord Alester Florent was the Hand to Stannis. He is thrown in prison for trying to make an alliance with Lord Twyin.

The Mad Huntsman

The Mad Huntsman is a farmer at Stoney Sept. He captures Sandor Clegane.

Pycelle

Pycelle is the grand maester of the Seven Kingdoms. He is loyal to the Lannisters. When Tyrion Lannister is accused of murdering King Joffrey, Pycelle claims Tyrion stole one of his poisons.



Janos Slynt

Lord Janos Slynt is commander of the City Watch at King's Landing. He thinks Jon Snow is a traitor. He campaigns for the position of Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, but Jon Snow is chosen instead.

Revella Smallwood

Lady Revella Smallwood lives at Acorn Hall. She meets Arya when the girl is traveling with the brotherhood without banners.

Viserion

Viserion is a dragon owned by Daenerys.

Drogon

Drogon is a dragon owned by Daenerys.

Rhaegal

Rhaegal is a dragon owned by Daenerys.

Missandei

Missandei is a slave girl freed by Daenerys in Astapor.

Roslin Frey

Roslin Frey is the daughter of Lord Walder Frey. She marries Edmure Tully, but the wedding is just a plot by the Lannisters and Freys to lure Robb Stark to his death.

Lothar Frey

Lothar Frey is a member of the Frey family. He comes to Riverrun when Lord Holster Tully dies.

Dirk

Dirk is a member of the Night's Watch. He kills Craster and Lord Commander Mormont.



Lady Johanna Lannister

Lady Johanna Lannister is the mother of Cersei, Jaime, and Tyrion Lannister, and the wife of Tywin Lannister. She dies giving birth to Tyrion.

Edric Dayne

Edric Dayne is a squire for Lord Beric and a member of the Brotherhood without Banners.

Selwyn Tarth

Lord Selwyn Tarth is the father of Brienne Tarth. He offers 300 gold dragons for her return when she is captured by Vargos Holt.

Jason Mallister

Lord Jason Mallister is loyal to Robb Stark. He meets with Robb when Robb is on the way to Edmure's wedding at the Twins, and tells him of Balon Greyjoy, another king claimant, and how he died.

Ramsey Snow

Ramsey Snow is the brother of Roose Bolton.

Brown Ben

Brown Ben is the head of the Second Sons sellsword company, which is part of Daenerys' army. He takes over after Mero is defeated at Yunkai.

Robert Arryn

Robert Arryn is the son of Lysa Stark Arryn and Jon Arryn (deceased). Lysa wants to marry him to Sansa Stark, but Lysa is killed before she can arrange it.

Marillion

Marillion is a singer at the Eyrie. Petyr Baelish blames her for killing Lysa Arryn after he pushes Lysa out a window in a tower.



Renly Baratheon

Renly Baratheon is the brother of Robert Baratheon. Ser Loras believes he was killed by Brienne Tarth.

Mero

Mero is the head of the Second Sons sellsword company, until Daenerys' army defeats them at Yunkai. He tries to attack Daenerys' at the next city she goes to, but Ser Barristan protects her.

Belwas

Belwas is a eunuch traveling with Daenerys' army. He defeats the champion of Meereen.

Utherydes Wayn

Utherydes Wayn is steward at Riverrun. He is present when Ser Desmond Grell punishes Catelyn.

R'hllor

R'hllor is a god, the Lord of the Light.

Illyrio Mopatis

Illyrio Mopatis is the magister of Pentos, a free city. He gives Daenerys three ships to use.

Khorane Sathmantes

Khorane Sathmantes is the captain of the ship that rescues Davos.

Symon Silvertongue

Symon Silvertongue is a singer. Tyrion Lannister wants him killed, because he knows about Tyrion and his whore, Shae.



Captain Groleo

Captain Groleo is the captain of the Balerion, which Daenerys sails to Astapor.

Grey Wind

Grey Wind is Robb Stark's direwolf. He is killed by the Freys.

Qyburn

Qyburn is a member of the Brave Companions. He nurses Jaime Lannister back to health at Harrenhal.

Ghost of High Heart

The Ghost of High Heart is a dwarf woman who lives near High Heart, a sacred place.

Greatjon

Jon (Greatjon) Umber is a member of Robb Stark's force. He is killed at the Red Wedding.

Lord Rossart

Lord Rossart is the last Hand of King Aerys II, and is killed by Jaime Lannister.

Doran Martell

Prince Doran Martell is a prince of Dorne, the southernmost of the Seven Kingdoms.

Mallador Locke

Ser Mallador Locke is a knight of the Night's Watch.

Rolph Spicer

Ser Rolph Spicer is with Robb when he returns to Riverrun.



Podrick Payne

Podrick Payne is Tyrion Lannister's squire.

Devan Seaworth

Devan is the son of Davos Seaworth.

The Crannogman

The Crannogman are people who live in the marshes.

Balon Greyjoy

Balon Greyjoy is a claimant to the Iron Throne. He dies when he falls off a bridge in his castle.

Euron Greyjoy

Euron Greyjoy is the brother of Balon Greyjoy. When Balon dies, Euron claims the sea throne.

Grey Worm

Grey Worm is the leader of Daenerys' Unsullied Army.

Theon Greyjoy

Theon Greyjoy is the son of Balon Greyjoy. He fights the Stark and Tully forces.

Objects/Places

Westeros

Westeros is the continent on which the Seven Kingdoms reside. They are ruled by the King on the Iron Throne.

The Gift

The Gift is land near the Wall that has been granted to the Night's Watch. Stannis claims this land when he comes to the Wall.

The Seven Kingdoms

The Seven Kingdoms are on the continent of Westeros. They are ruled by separate kings, but the king on the Iron Throne rules them all.

The Wall

The Wall is a large wall in the north that divides the civilized lands from the wild north and the wilding lands. The Night's Watch is in charge of guarding the Wall. After the Others attack the Night's Watch at Fist of the First Men, the Watch flees back past the Wall. The wildings scale the Wall to invade the Seven Kingdoms.

Harrenhal

Harrenhal is where Lord Roose Bolton holds Arya Stark before her escape. The Starks promise it to Lord Vargo (Goat) Hoat if he joins them.

Casterly Rock

Casterly Rock is the Lannister's family ancestral land. Jaime Lannister should have inherited it, but cannot because he is a member of the Kingsguard. Lord Tywin Lannister refuses to give it to his son, Tyrion.

Milkwater

The Milkwater is a river in the Frostfangs mountains.



Fist of the First Men

Fist of the First Men is a fort where the Night's Watch camp in the northernlands.

King's Landing

King's Landing is the main city of the Seven Kingdoms. It is the seat of the Iron Throne.

Trident River

The Trident River is a river near Riverrun. The Red Fork is the section of the Trident River traveled by Jaime, Cleos, and Brienne. The Green Fork is a section of the Trident River.

Astapor

Astapor is a slave trader's city on Slaver's Bay. Daenerys attacks the city with her army of Unsullied.

Yunkai

Yunkai is a slave trader's city on Slaver's Bay. Daenerys attacks the city with her army of Unsullied.

Meereen

Meereen is a slave trader's city on Slaver's Bay. Daenerys attacks the city with her army of Unsullied.

Karhold

Karhold is where Lord Rickard Karstark is lord until he is executed.

The Balerion

The Balerion is a ship owned by Illyrio Mopatis that Daenerys sails to Astapor.

The Crag

The Crag is the place where Robb Stark is wounded. It the home of the House of Westerlings.



Storm's End

Storm's End is the ancestral home of the Baratheon family.

Duskendale

Duskendale is where Jaime, Brienne and Ser Cleos are traveling to when Ser Cleos is killed.

Castle Black

Castle Black is a castle outside the Wall. The men of the castle help the Night's Watch battle the Others. The wildings make for the castle to attack once they get past the Wall.

High Heart

High Heart is a place where the Brotherhood without Banners come while taking Arya and Gentry to Lord Beric. After they join Beric, the group returns there.

Riverrun

Riverrun is the home of the Tullys and Starks. Catelyn helps Jaime escape from here.

Brightwater Keep

Brightwater Keep is the home of the Florents.

Dragonstone

Dragonstone is the seat of Stannis Baratheon.

Stoney Sept

Stoney Sept is a city in the riverlands. Arya and Gentry are taken there by the brotherhood without banners.

Craster's Keep

Craster's Keep is the home of Craster. The Night's Watch who survive the attack by the Others flee here. They revolt while here, and Craster and Lord Commander Mormont are killed.

Hollow Hill

Hollow Hill is a secret base of the brotherhood without banners.

Dorne

Dorne is the southernmost of the Seven Kingdoms.

Winterfell

Winterfell is the ancestral home of the Stark family.

Oldstones

Oldstones is a desolate castle in the Riverlands.

The Twins

The Twins is the ancestral home of the Frey family.

Queenscrown

Queenscrown is an abandoned village where Bran Stark and his companions seek shelter on their journey to the Wall.

The Iron Throne

The Iron Thone is the position of king of all the Seven Kingdoms.

The Seastone Chair

The Seastone Chair is the position of the king of the Iron Islands.

The Nightfort

The Nightfort is one of the abandoned castles along the wall. Bran Stark visits this castle.

The Eyrie

The Eyrie is the home of Lysa Arryn, sister of Catelyn Stark. When Catelyn Stark is killed at the Twins, Sandor Clegane takes Arya Stark to the Eyrie to ransom her to her aunt, Lysa.

Themes

War

The main conflict of the novel is the war between different factions who want to claim the Iron Throne for themselves. While there are kings of different kingdoms throughout Westeros, there can only be one king of the entire continent. The war has mostly concluded at the time of the novel, but the final battles are still being played out. The surviving claimants to the throne have not given up their fight.

Each of the factions feel they have a legitimate right to the throne. Robert Baratheon starts the war for the throne when he overthrows King Aerys II Targaryen. The Targaryens have ruled for centuries, but King Aerys is mad, and Robert wants to usurp him and make the continent if not safer, more sane. After King Robert dies, his son, King Joffrey Baratheon, comes to power. However, Joffrey is actually Jaime Lannister's child, and not Robert's, giving Robert's brother, Stannis, a claim to the throne. Robb Stark, son of Robert's Hand, Eddard Stark, feels he has a right to the throne because of his father's ties with Robert. Balon Greyjoy of the north rose up against Robert as King of the Iron Islands.

Throughout the novel, the effects of war on the people of the Seven Kingdoms is evident. Jaime Lannister and Brienne Tarth come across a brothel where all the women have been killed for consorting with Lannisters. Arya Stark sees the Frey army destroy her brother Robb's army after they have killed Robb and her mother Catelyn. Sansa Stark is forced into a marriage for purely political reasons. Many of the travellers come across ruined inns, abandoned villages, or destroyed castles. The war has scorched the land and the people who live in it. No matter which side a person chooses, there is a chance the power balance will swing the other way and death will come for them.

The protagonists of the novel all have different reactions to the war, and their experiences of the aftermath are very different. Tyrion Lannister, who is a member of King Joffrey's court, becomes disillusioned with the fighting and his father's attempts to raise their family's power. Jaime Lannister, who causes much death in the war, learns that there are more important things than getting whatever you want, and he tries to repay his debts. Catelyn Stark has been separated from her children, and all she wants is peace so she can have them back. Many characters have lost their family members, their land and their riches. The war takes something from everyone, and the world it leaves behind is a much harder and dangerous place.

Betrayal

As the struggle for power continues, betrayal becomes commonplace. Mercenaries switch sides to whoever is paying the most. Families align themselves with one side or another, but will change alliances if the need arises. Betrayal is a common theme of



war, as one side tries to encroach on the other. If one side is honorable, it only makes it easier.

The largest incident of betrayal in the novel is the Red Wedding. Robb Stark is a noble man, and he marries Jeyne Westerling because he took her virginity, and to not do so would be to dishonor her. His nobility causes him to offend the Freys, as he promised to marry one of their daughters. The Freys take this as a betrayal, and respond with a bigger one. They ally with the Lannisters to lure Robb Stark and his men to the Twins, ostensibly for Edmure Stark's wedding to Roslin Frey. The Starks have guest rights, which according to the honor code of the Seven Kingdoms, means they will not be harmed. However, the Freys still attack and kill the Starks. They betray not only the Starks, but also the fidelity of the Kingdom by violating the right of guests.

Within the betrayal by the Freys, Rob is betrayed by Roose Bolton, a supposed ally. His betrayal is foreshadowed when Arya Stark escapes from his camp, for if Bolton was an ally of the Starks, there would be no need for him to hold Arya and not return her to her mother. Also, when Jaime Lannister is brought to Roose, he lets him go back to King's Landing. Jaime is not aware of the betrayal plot, but he tells Roose to give his regards to Robb. At the Red Wedding, an armored knight stabs Robb and says these words, indicating Roose is the one who actually kills Robb. In effect, Roose also betrays Jaime Lannister, as saying Jaime sends his regards indicates Jaime masterminded the plot. While Jaime might have liked Robb dead, this is not true and may have repercussions.

Betrayal is also evident among the Night's Watch. At the beginning of the novel, Chett plans to betray his comrades and deserts, stopped only by the Other's attack. While Jon Snow is acquitted of betraying the Night's Watch, he does betray the wildings. When he is captured, he gains their trust and becomes one of them, or so they think. When the wildings plan to move on Castle Black, Jon cannot be disloyal to the Night's Watch and warns them, but he betrays the wildings in turn. Even though he does not fully consider himself a wilding, Jon leads Mance Rayder to believe he is committed to their cause, and betrays their trust. He honors the code of the Night's Watch, but his honor is what leads him to betrayal, much as in the case of Robb Stark.

Revenge

Many characters in the novel seek revenge for real or imagined slights. The victimized fight back to regain their honor, even if they are not particularly honorable in the first place. The idea of retribution is ingrained in most of the people of the Seven Kingdoms. When someone harms something they value, they feel it is only right to strike back.

Chett, the narrator of the initial chapter, hates Jon Snow and Sam Tarly. Sam Tarly has taken Chett's plum job as steward of Maester Aemon, in charge of the crow messengers. Chett does not know the reason behind this, all he knows is he feels cheated. For Chett, motive is not as important as the actual deed done. He plans to take revenge by killing Sam when he and his conspiracy desert the Night's Watch. However, he is thwarted when the Others attack their camp. Sam does not know how close he



comes to death; otherwise it is possible he might feel the need for revenge against Chett.

Many of the characters are seeking retribution for harm done to one of their family members. Prince Oberyn Martell comes to King's Landing for the wedding of Joffrey and Margaery, however his real agenda is to get close to Ser Gregor Clegane, who raped and killed his sister, Elia Martell. Lord Rickard Karstark kills two squires of the Lannister alliance in an unstable scheme to get vengeance for his sons. He blames their deaths on Catelyn, saying if she had not let Jaime Lannister go, he would not have needed vengeance. At the close of the novel, Catelyn is resurrected and seeks vengeance on one of the Freys, a startling turn of attitude since Catelyn had been the one who most advocated peace. It is clear that the death of a loved one is the motivation for many of the characters to enact vengeance.

As the balance of power shifts, those in power take revenge on those who are not allied with them. At the council in King's Landing, Tywin and the other knights of the council order the deaths of the Lords who do not stand with them. When Daenerys buys the slaves of Astapor, the slaves rise up against the slave masters and slay them for their brutal treatment. They consistently feel retribution is deserved against those who have harmed them or have not stood with them.

Honor and Dishonor

One of the main contrasts in the novel is between the Lannister and the Stark family. Both families are formidable and have claims to the Iron Throne. However, their methods to ascend the power structure are very disparate. While not many characters are truly good or evil, the level of regard that they have for honor shows how they are aligned.

The Stark family is portrayed as an honorable family. Catelyn respects the power of an oath enough to hope that Jaime Lannister will free her daughters from his father's clutches. She honors her father by staying with him during his last moments. Her son, Robb, marries a woman whom he deflowered because it was the honorable thing to do. Jon Snow, a bastard of Eddard Stark, tries to honor his pledge to the Night's Watch and he resists truly joining the wildings. However, their honor also can lead them into death. Robb and Catelyn are trying to honor their pledge to the Freys at the wedding between Edmure and Roslin Frey when they are betrayed and killed. Honor may not be a protection against those who are willing to do anything to get what they want.

Several members of the Lannister family are highly dishonorable. Tywin schemes and plays with his subjects as if they were chess pieces. He does not respect anyone, especially his son Tyrion, and is not afraid to engage in slaughter if the need seems pressing. Cersei only cares about what pleases her. She dishonors King Robert by pretending her children are his when they are actually her brother Jaime's. She is willing to do whatever it takes to get what she wants. King Joffrey is spoiled and monstrous, and would have become worse than Tywin if he had not been assassinated. Dishonor



also has its payback, as Tywin finds out when he is killed by his son Tyrion, when Tyrion finds out his father schemed against him. King Joffrey is poisoned because he is showing signs of the monster he will become.

Jaime Lannister, however, undergoes a change in character throughout the novel. He is cocky and sure of himself at the beginning of the novel, and thinks he will not hesitate to betray someone if the need arises. When he gives his word to Catelyn Stark, he does not plan to honor her wishes, but his journey with Brienne shows his true character. Several times throughout their travels, he has the opportunity to kill Brienne or let her die, and he does not take it. As he tells Brienne the story of why he killed King Aerys, he finds that he can trust other people. He learns that his word is something of value, and decides to honor his promise to find Catelyn's daughters. At the end of the novel, he gives Brienne his sword and charges her with this mission, showing how his priorities have shifted.

Alliance

In the Seven Kingdoms, families act as hubs of military units. The stability of the Kingdoms depend on which families are aligned with which, and which side has the greater numbers. Much importance is placed on allies. Typically, certain families pledge allegiance to one of the claimants to the throne. For example, after the war, only the Florent family is allied to Stannis Baratheon. The Lannisters are allied to the Tyrells, the Starks are aligned to the Freys until the Red Wedding. The size of families on either side greatly determines the amount of power one has.

The most common way to make an alliance with another family is by a wedding. Throughout the novel, weddings are used more as political connections than the joining of two people in love. Tywin Lannister makes his son Tyrion wed Sansa Stark, the sister of one of his primary opponents. His motive is to link the two families, so that if Robb Stark dies, the Lannisters have a claim to his kingdom. King Joffrey Baratheon, Tywin's grandson, is arranged to marry Margaery Tyrell, joining those two families together as allies. It seems few marriages are actually made for love, as power is so important in the political climate it trumps all other concerns.

Alliances between houses of families are not permanent, however. The switching of an alliance can have great repercussions. When Robb Stark marries a Westerling instead of a Frey as he had promised to, the Freys secretly switch their allegiance to the Lannisters and betray Robb to his death. This effectively ends the threat to the Lannister from the Starks and the Tullys, at least until those families can regain power and more alliances. In the battle for the Iron Throne, loyalty can be just as important as the size of an army.

Style

Point of View

Description

Setting

Description

Language and Meaning

Description

Structure

Description

Quotes

"In a swordfight, a man's surest defense is the swift stroke that slays his foe, not cringing behind a shield," Chapter 1: Prologue, p. 4.

"Swear that you will never again take up sword against Stark nor Tully. Swear that you will compel your brother to honor his pledge to return my daughters safe and unharmed. Swear on your honor as a knight, on your honor as a Sworn Brother of the Kingsguard. Swear it by your sister's life, and your father's, and your son's, by the old gods and the new, and I'll send you back to your sister. Refuse, and I will have your blood," Chapter 2: Jaime, p. 20.

"The best we can hope for is to die with swords in our hands," Chapter 2: Jaime, p. 28.

"'Blood,' she thought. 'Must it all come back to blood?'" Chapter 3: Catelyn, p. 38.

"The dwarf has risen from the dead, Tyrion thought. And look, he's uglier than ever, run tell your friends," Chapter 5: Tyrion, p. 59.

"How can I live when they are dead? So many brave knights and mighty lords have died, better men than me, and highborn," Chapter 6: Davos, p. 72.

"She's to be queen now, she's beautiful and rich and everyone loves her, why would she want to sup with a traitor's daughter?" Chapter 7: Sansa, p. 75.

"Then you saw us all. Prince Joffrey and Prince Tommen, Princess Myrcella, my brothers Robb and Bran and Rickon, my sisters Arya and Sansa. You saw them walk the center aisle with every eye upon them and take their seats at the table just below the dais where the kin and queen were seated... And did you see where I was seated, Mance?... Did you see where they put the bastard?" Chapter 8: Jon, p. 104.

"He was a fool about that, and so much else, Dany thought. If he had been wiser and more patient, it would be him sailing west to take the throne that was his by rights," Chapter 9: Daenerys, p. 106.

"He liked Summer's skin better than his own. What good is it being a shapechanger if you can't wear the skin you like?" Chapter 10: Bran, p. 127.

"Thousands sailed up the Blackwater Rush, and hundreds came back, Davos reflected. My sons did not die alone. May the Mother have mercy on them all," Chapter 11, Davos, p. 142.

"They all die when you shove a sword through them," Chapter 12: Jaime. p. 151.



"Whatever you wear, you're still a dwarf. You'll never be as tall as that knight on the steps, him with his long straight legs and hard stomach and wide manly shoulders," Chapter 13: Tyrion, p. 167.

"Love's not always wise, I've learned. It can lead us to great folly, but we follow our hearts... wherever they take us," Chapter 14: Catelyn, p. 192.

"It is swords you need, not gentle hearts. How could you do this, Robb? How could you be so stupid? How could you be... so very... young?" Chapter 14: Catelyn, p. 195.

"It was easy to lose your way beyond the wall. Jon did not know that he could tell honor from shame anymore, or right from wrong," Chapter 15: Jon, p. 218.

"'I'll ride peaceful,' she said sullenly. For now," Chapter 18: Arya, p. 235.

"The dead have no mercy left in them, and the Others... no, I musn't think of that, don't think, don't remember, just walk, just walk, just walk," Chapter 19: Samwell, p. 239.

"Too many strange faces, Tyrion thought, too many new players. The game changed while I lay rotting in my bed, and no one will tell me the rules," Chapter 20: Tyrion, p. 255.

"Jaime had decided he would return Sansa, and the younger girl as well if she could be found. It was not like to win him back his lost honor, but the notion of keeping faith when they all expected betrayal amused him more than he could say," Chapter 22: Jaime, p. 287.

"Knights were captured and ransomed all the time, and sometimes women were too. But what if Robb won't pay their price? She wasn't a famous knight, and kings were supposed to put the realm before their sisters. And her lady mother, what would she say? Would she still want her back, after all the things she'd done?" Chapter 23: Arya, p. 301.

"The war has been waged since time began, and before it is done, all men must choose where they will stand. On one side is R'hllor, the Lord of Light, the Heart of Fire, the God of Flame and Shadow. Against him stands the Great Other, whose name may not be spoken, the Lord of Darkness, the Soul of Ice, the God of Night and Terror. Ours is not a choice between Baratheon and Lannister, between Greyjoy and Stark. It is death we choose, or life. Darkness, or light," Chapter 26: Davos, p. 348.

"He had never truly been a Stark, only Lord Eddard's motherless bastard, with no more place at Winterfell than Theon Greyjoy. And even that he'd lost. When a man of the Night's Watch said his words, he put aside his old family and joined a new one, but Jon Snow had lost those brothers too," Chapter 27: Jon, p. 356.

"Tyrell or Lannister, it makes no matter, it's not me they want, only my claim," Chapter 29: Sansa, p. 385.



"Queen Cersei, King Joffrey, Ser Ilyn, Ser Meryn. Dunsen, Raff and Polliver. The Tickler, the Hound, and Ser Gregor the Mountain." She liked to mix up the order of the names sometimes. It helped her remember who they were and what they'd done. Maybe some of them are dead, she thought. Maybe they're in iron cages someplace, and the crows are picking out their eyes," Chapter 30: Arya, p. 403.

"I'm crying because we never found the Horn of Winter. We opened half a hundred graves and let all those shades loose into the world, and never found the Horn of Joramun to bring this cold thing down!" Chapter 31: Jon, p. 412.

"I am stronger than they know, he told himself. I am still a Lannister. I am still a knight of the Kingsguard... And I will pay this debt with interest," Chapter 32: Jaime, p. 418.

"'You go to hell, Hound,' she screamed at Sandor Clegane in helpless empty-handed rage. 'You just go to hell!'" Chapter 35: Arya, p. 473.

"They took Ned, and your sweet brothers. Sansa is married, Arya is lost, my father's dead... if anything befell you, I would go mad, Robb. You are all I have left. You are all the north has left," Chapter 36: Catelyn, p. 481.

"I am king. Wants do not enter into it," Chapter 37: Davos, p. 496.

"Only a king's blood can wake the stone dragon," Chapter 37: Davos, p. 501.

"Jaime almost felt sorry for Robb Stark. He won the war on the battlefield and lost it in a bedchamber, poor fool," Chapter 38: Jaime, p. 511.

"Ride with them, eat with them, fight with them. Did that mean he must stand mute and helpless while they slit an old man's throat?" Chapter 42: Jon, p. 563.

"I am going home, he told himself. But if that was true, why did he feel so hollow?" Chapter 42: Jon, p. 570.

"The freed slaves parted before her. 'Mother,' they called from a hundred throats, a thousand, ten thousand," Chapter 43: Daenerys, p. 589.

"'You will give my warm regards to your father?' 'So long as you give mine to Robb Stark,'" Chapter 45: Jaime, p. 604.

"'Brienne, the maid of Tarth. You are still maiden, I hope?' Her broad homely face turned red. 'Yes.' 'Oh, good,' Jaime said. 'I only rescue maidens,'" Chapter 45: Jaime, p. 618.

"Only when he grasped the offered hand did he realize that the rider wore no glove. He had was black and cold, with fingers hard as stone," Chapter 47: Sam, p. 647.

"Was there ever a wedding less joyful?" Chapter 52: Catelyn, p. 696.



"A man in dark armor and a pale pink cloak spotted with blood stepped up to Robb. 'Jaime Lannister sends his regards.' He thrust his longsword through her son's heart, and twisted," Chapter 52: Catelyn, p. 704.

"The king turned to Grand Maester Pycell. 'And I want Robb Stark's head, too. Write to Lord Frey and tell him. The king commands. I'm going to have it served to Sansa at my wedding," Chapter 54: Tyrion, p. 714.

"'And when do you imagine Sansa will be at her most fertile?' Tyrion asked his father in tones that dripped acid. 'Before or after I tell her how we murdered her mother and her brother?'" Chapter 54: Tyrion, p. 721.

"You know nothing, Jon Snow," Chapter 56: Jon, p. 754.

"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. I am the shield that guards the realms of men," Chapter 57: Bran, p. 773.

"If I let Meereen's old brick walls defeat me so easily, though, how will I ever take the great stone castles of Westeros?" Chapter 58: Daenerys, p. 782.

"I survived the Green Fork and the Blackwater, I can bloody well survive King Joffrey's wedding," Chapter 59: Tyrion, p. 798.

"'Black amethysts,' he swore. 'There was magic in them.' 'There was murder in them!'" Chapter 62: Sansa, p. 835.

"It is all lies, forever and ever, everyone and everything," Chapter 62: Sansa, p. 839.

"The king is dead, they told him, never knowing that Joffrey was his son as well as his sovereign," Chapter 63: Jaime, p. 842.

"I am a knight of the Kingsguard. The Lord Commander of the Kingsguard! And that's all I mean to be!" Chapter 63: Jaime, p. 855.

"Give me the boy... and I will give you your kingdom," Chapter 64: Davos, p. 865.

"The white thing lay facedown in the mud, her dead flesh wrinkled and pale, cold blood trickling from her throat. Rise, she thought. Rise and eat and run with us," Chapter 66: Arya, p. 889.

"And me, that boy I was...when did he die, I wonder? When I donned the white cloak? When I opened Aerys's throat?" Chapter 68: Jaime, p. 916.

"Winterfell has been taken, burned, and sacked. All those you knew and loved are dead," Chapter 69: Sansa, p. 929.



"The dragon has three heads. There are two men in the world I can trust, if I can find them. I will not be alone then. We will be three against the world..." Chapter 72: Daenerys, p. 981.

"But how can I rule the Seven Kingdoms if I cannot rule a single city?" Chapter 72: Daenerys, p. 995.

"Would you have us ripped apart, as Mother did that time she caught us playing? Tommen would lose his throne, Myrcella her marriage... I want to be your wife, we belong to each other, but it can never be, Jaime. We are brother and sister," Chapter 73: Jaime, p. 1004.

"I'm the bloody Kingslayer, remember? When I say you have honor, that's like a whore vouchsafing your maidenhood," Chapter 73: Jaime, p. 1006.

"I have made kings and unmade them. Sansa Stark is my last chance for honor," Chapter 73: Jaime, p. 1009.

"Robert, Jon thought for one mad moment, remembering poor Owen, but when the trumpets blew again and the knights charged, the name they cried was 'Stannis! Stannis! STANNIS!'" Chapter 74: Jon, p. 1026.

"You don't deserve the gift of mercy," Chapter 75: Arya, p. 1038.

"Jaqen said to say the words too. Arya crossed her arms against her chest. 'Valar morghulis,' she said, as loud as if she'd known what it meant. 'Valar dohaeris,' he replied, touching his brow with two fingers. 'Of course you shall have a cabin,'" Chapter 75: Arya, p. 1041.

"I loved Robb, loved all of them... I never wanted any harm to come to any of them, but it did. And now there's only me," Chapter 77: Jon, p. 1059.

"A Lannister always pays his debts," Chapter 78: Tyrion, p. 1065.

"'You shot me,' he said incredulously, his eyes glassy with shock. 'You always were quick to grasp a situation, my lord,' Tyrion said. 'That must be why you're the hand of the king,'" Chapter 78: Tyrion, p. 1073.

"Would I sooner be hanged for a turncoat by Lord Janos, or forswear my vows, marry Val, and become Lord of Winterfell?" Chapter 80: Jon, p. 1091.

"The Wall was his, the night was dark, and he had a king to face," Chapter 80: Jon, p. 1097.

"'She doesn't speak,' said the big man in the yellow cloak. 'You bloody bastards cut her throat too deep for that. But she remembers.' He turned to the dead woman and said, 'What do you say, m'lady? Was he part of it?' Lady Catelyn's eyes never left him. She nodded," Chapter 82: Epilogue, Merritt Frey, p. 1128.

Topics for Discussion

Except for Daenerys, the claimants to the Iron Throne are all men. What does this say about the society of the Seven Kingdoms? How is Daenerys unique?

Compare and contrast the narrators of the novel. What does each bring to their sections? Which are the most important? The least important? How does the changing of narrators at each chapter affect the plot as a whole?

Many of the characters in the novel are intertwined through familial relationships. What does this say about the state of the the Kingdoms? Why are the different Houses and House loyalties so important? How does this affect those who are trying to claim the throne?

Jaime and Cersei Lannister are twins, yet they have a sexual relationship and have children. How is this viewed in the world of the novel? Is their relationship accepted or is it viewed as taboo? How does this affect their relationship with the rest of the family? How does Jaime and Brienne's relationship compare to his relationship with Cersei? Did his time with Brienne effect his relationship with Cersei? Why or why not?

Much of the novel revolves around characters getting revenge for something done to them or their families. Name some of the instances. Are they justified in wanting revenge? What effect does their vengeance have on others?

Daenerys works to free the slaves in three cities, Astapor, Yunkai, and Meereen. Is her mission ultimately successful? What does she learn after she has conquered the cities? Can slavery ever be right?

Many characters are willing to die to see their king in the Iron Throne. What does this say about loyalty? Is it a futile fight? How does the war affect the common people? Do they see any benefits from the battle between kings?

The wildings are a people who wish to live free. How are their ideals different from those of the Seven Kingdoms? How does Jon Snow's experience with the wildings change or not change his views and beliefs? Should the wildings have been turned back? Did they have a valid reason for attacking the wall? Why or why not?

By the end of the novel, Jaime Lannister is concentrating on paying his debts. Has his attitude changed since the beginning of the novel? From what we learn of his exploits, does this seem to fit his character? Why or why not? Why is his word to Catelyn that he will recover her daughters so important?