

A GAME OF THRONES

Song of Fire and Ice Book I by George R.R. Martin

292,651 Words
73 Chapters
8 POV Characters

The Tragedy of Ned Stark, Man of Honor

A. *"...we hold to the belief that the man who passes the sentence should swing the sword. If you would take a man's life, you owe it to him to look into his eyes and hear his final words. And if you cannot bear to do that, then perhaps the man does not deserve to die."*

The defining moment of the book is when Ned is put to the sword. Ned. is the guy who should be the hero. The guy who put's it all right. But this isn't that kind of story.

B. *"My mother bids me let Lord Eddard take the black, and Lady Sansa has begged mercy for her father."*

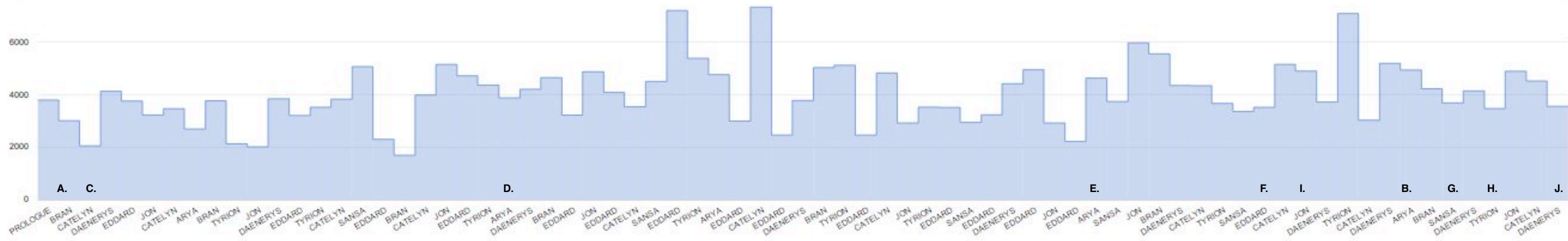
Martin temps us. Yeah, he could take the black. It'd be so cool.. He and Jon and his son Jon Snow taking the black, but no. There's the way you want things to be and there's the way it is. Game of Thrones is about how it is.

B. *"But they have the soft hearts of women. So long as I am your king, treason shall never go unpunished. Ser Ilyn, bring me his head!"*

When Ned dies, Martin tells us, in no uncertain terms. that this is not a happy ending, fairy tale kind of fantasy. Good guys don't win.



With eight different points of view, it might be easier to see this book as less of a novel and more as interlocking novellas. The sheer hugelitude of it makes it difficult to come to grips with, but here are the story arcs for each major character.*



Bran wants to be powerful and a power for good.

Catelyn = Cassandra

Arya wants to be a warrior.

The whole book in a phrase.

Sansa gets her prince

Tyion tries to redeem himself with is his father but realizes

Jon Snow becomes his own man.

Danerys, Mother of Dragons

A. *Bran was going to be a knight himself someday, one of the Kingsguard. Old Nan said they were the finest swords in all the realm."*

C. *"You knew the man," she said. "The king is a stranger to you." Catelyn remembered the direwolf dead in the snow, the broken antler lodged deep in her throat.*

D. *"I don't want to be a lady!" Arya flared. As cute as the lessons with the Dancing Master are, they come at terrible price. She must now fight to survive. And it's not fun.*

E. *Needle went through his leather jerkin and the white flesh of his belly and came out between his shoulder blades... When she took it out, he died.*

F. *"The High Septon once told me that as we sin, so do we suffer. If that's true, Lord Eddard, tell me... why is it always the innocents who suffer most, when you high lords play your game of thrones?"*

Varys talking to Ned.

G. *She drew the curtains around her bed, slept, woke weeping, and slept again.*

but, he turns out to be a father-killing monster. Turns out this is not a world where it pays to be a stupidly romantic girl.

H. *That was when he knew. You have given him up for lost, he thought. You bloody bastard, you think Jaime's good as dead, so I'm all you have left. Tyrion wanted to slap him, to spit in his face, to draw his dagger and cut the heart out of him and see if it was made of old hard gold, the way the smallfolks said.*

I. *"Gods save us, boy, you're not blind and you're not stupid. When dead men come hunting in the night, do you think it matters who sits the Iron Throne?"*

Mormont says the sanest thing in the whole damn book to get Jon to stay.

J. *The other two pulled away from her breasts and added their voices to the call, translucent wings unfolding and stirring the air, and for the first time in hundreds of years, the night came alive with the music of dragons.*

The way her magic is handled gives the conclusion of her story in this book tremendous impact. And it would have been so easy to overdo it.