

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *A Feast for Crows*
AUTHOR George R.R. Martin
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COVER ART Stephen Youll

Précis While the war may be over, the question of who rules the seven kingdoms is still lingering. Stannis rules the North, but is not advancing, Euron Greyjoy (he Crow's Eye) is now king of the Iron islands and is bent on conquest. Queen Cersei plots and schemes to hold onto her power in the name of eight year old Tommen her son who is king, her brother Jaime is still coping with the loss of his sword hand and by the end, his relationship with his sister Cersei hits bottom.

Also in this volume, Brienne of Tarth continues her quest to find the Stark girls and fulfill her oath to the now dead Catelyn Stark. Samwell Tarly finally gets to Oldtown where things are not as expected and a ruthless bandit leader known as Lady Stoneheart is decorating the roads of the kingdom with hangings.

Protagonist Jaime Lannister
Antagonist Cersei Lannister

What I liked The continued depth of the characters revealed, the twists and turns that Martin's plot weaves, and the wonderful descriptions of events, people, and the world around them. It was good to find out more about some previously minor characters such as the Iron men and Samwell Tarly.

What I didn't like The fact that we only got half the story (more in the comments). The pacing was slow in spots and the story was not as cohesive as the previous volumes.

Final Comments I was disappointed that many of the key characters such as Dany, Tyrion, and Jon Snow were not in the book other than references. Martin addresses this in the notes at the end saying he has written many chapters for them but that if he had included all that he would have had a book too large to publish. Therefore, instead of writing half the story of all the character, he chose to write all the story of half the characters. Had he delivered the second half in a year or so as he hoped, this would have worked, but now that it is going on four years later, it creates a problem.

I also can't believe he is done with the characters in this book; many have story lines that need completion. I heard that the fifth book was to be the end of the story. If it is, he must either write some final chapters for Cersei, Jaime and others or include their final fate in the chapters of Tyrion, Jon Snow and Dany. Of course, that may be the problem, wrapping all this up in the next book in a satisfying way.

Considering how many people have been waiting so long, I hope Martin can pull it off. In the end this is the least interesting of the four books with only a few characters in the spotlight, but it is still a good story and a piece of the puzzle that must be read.

Rating 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌