

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *A Storm of Swords*
AUTHOR George R.R. Martin
PUBLISHER Bantam Spectra
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COVER ART Stephen Youll

Précis

Four are now vying for the throne of the Seven Kingdoms and at the end only two remain. The deal making, double-crossing and betrayals come fast and furious. The battle for the Wall has begun and the wildlings are a force to be reckoned with. New heroes rise up and old heroes die. Tyrion Lannister is accused of regicide and is rescued by an unlikely ally. Mixed in the story are a few unwanted marriages and a surprise ending that rivals the one in the first book in the series.

Protagonist - Tyrion Lannister

Antagonist - Cersei Lannister

What I liked

The intensity of the story as the book concluded kept me turning the pages and the ending blew me away (again).

The maturity of many of the characters like Jon Snow, Sansa and Arya Stark, and Samwell Tarly was very enjoyable.

The growth of Tyrion also is amazing - I mean here is a character who I really did not like in the first book who now, even with all his faults, is someone I care about.

The complexity of the story and the way Martin keeps it interesting without allowing boredom to creep in.

What I didn't like

The deal making and alliances in the beginning were a bit dragging, the graphic descriptions of death and carnage were a little over the top for my taste, and George's penchant for killing off characters I really like.

Final Comments

As I indicated above, the beginning of the book took me by surprise a bit because of the slow pace, but the last half of the book races along so I forgive the slow beginning. As he has done before, Martin kills off characters who you expect to be around to the end and some that are thought to be dead are not (as witnessed by the awesome ending of this book). You can't believe anyone is dead unless you poke your finger into their rotting flesh.

Simply put, this series is so good that I know after reading the fourth book and then the long awaited conclusion (when Martin finally finishes it), I will want more. I think I will actually be sad when I can read no more of this interesting cast of characters and the Seven Kingdoms. In my opinion there is no greater compliment to the author than that. If you have not read this series yet - get off your ** and do it!

Rating 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

