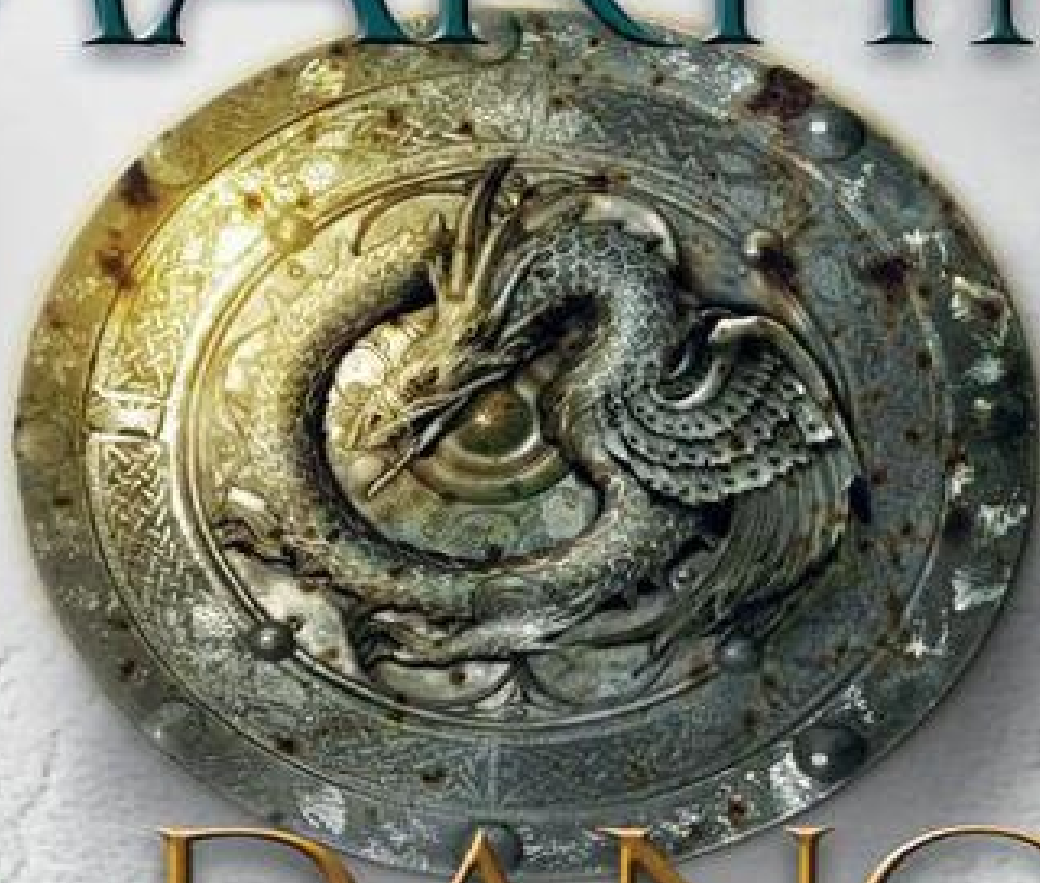


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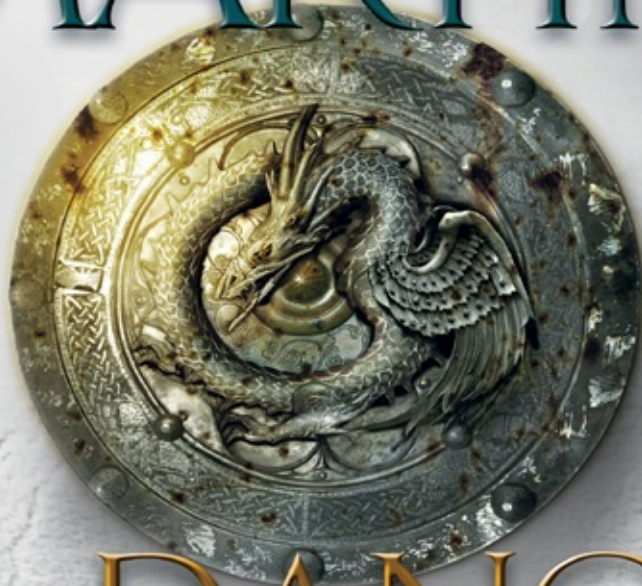
GEORGE R. R.  
MARTIN



A DANCE  
WITH  
DRAGONS

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**A DANCE  
WITH  
DRAGONS**

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**BOOK FIVE OF  
A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE**

**GEORGE R. R. MARTIN**



Bantam Books | New York

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

Martin, George R. R.

A dance with dragons / George R. R. Martin.

p. cm — (A song of ice and fire; bk. 5)

eISBN: 978-0-553-90565-6

I. Title.

PS3563.A7239D36 2011

813'.54—dc22 2011015508

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*this one is for my fans*

*for Lodey, Trebla, Stego, Pod,  
Caress, Yags, X-Ray and Mr. X,  
Kate, Chataya, Mormont, Mich,  
Jamie, Vanessa, Ro,  
for Stubby, Louise, Agravaïne,  
Wert, Malt, Jo,  
Mouse, Telisiane, Blackfyre,  
Bronn Stone, Coyote's Daughter,  
and the rest of the madmen and wild women of  
the Brotherhood Without Banners*

*for my website wizards  
Elio and Linda, lords of Westeros,  
Winter and Fabio of WIC,  
and Gibbs of Dragonstone, who started it all*

*for men and women of Asshai in Spain  
who sang to us of a bear and a maiden fair  
and the fabulous fans of Italy  
who gave me so much wine  
for my readers in Finland, Germany,  
Brazil, Portugal, France, and the Netherlands  
and all the other distant lands  
where you've been waiting for this dance*

*and for all the friends and fans  
I have yet to meet*

*thanks for your patience*

## A CAVIL ON CHRONOLOGY

It has been a while between books, I know. So a reminder may be in order.

The book you hold in your hands is the fifth volume of *A Song of Ice and Fire*. The fourth volume was *A Feast for Crows*. However, this volume does not follow that one in the traditional sense, so much as run in tandem with it.

Both *Dance* and *Feast* take up the story immediately after the events of the third volume in the series, *A Storm of Swords*. Whereas *Feast* focused on events in and around King's Landing, on the Iron Islands, and down in Dorne, *Dance* takes us north to Castle Black and the Wall (and beyond), and across the narrow sea to Pentos and Slaver's Bay, to pick up the tales of Tyrion Lannister, Jon Snow, Daenerys Targaryen, and all the other characters you did not see in the preceding volume. Rather than being sequential, the two books are parallel ... divided geographically, rather than chronologically.

But only up to a point.

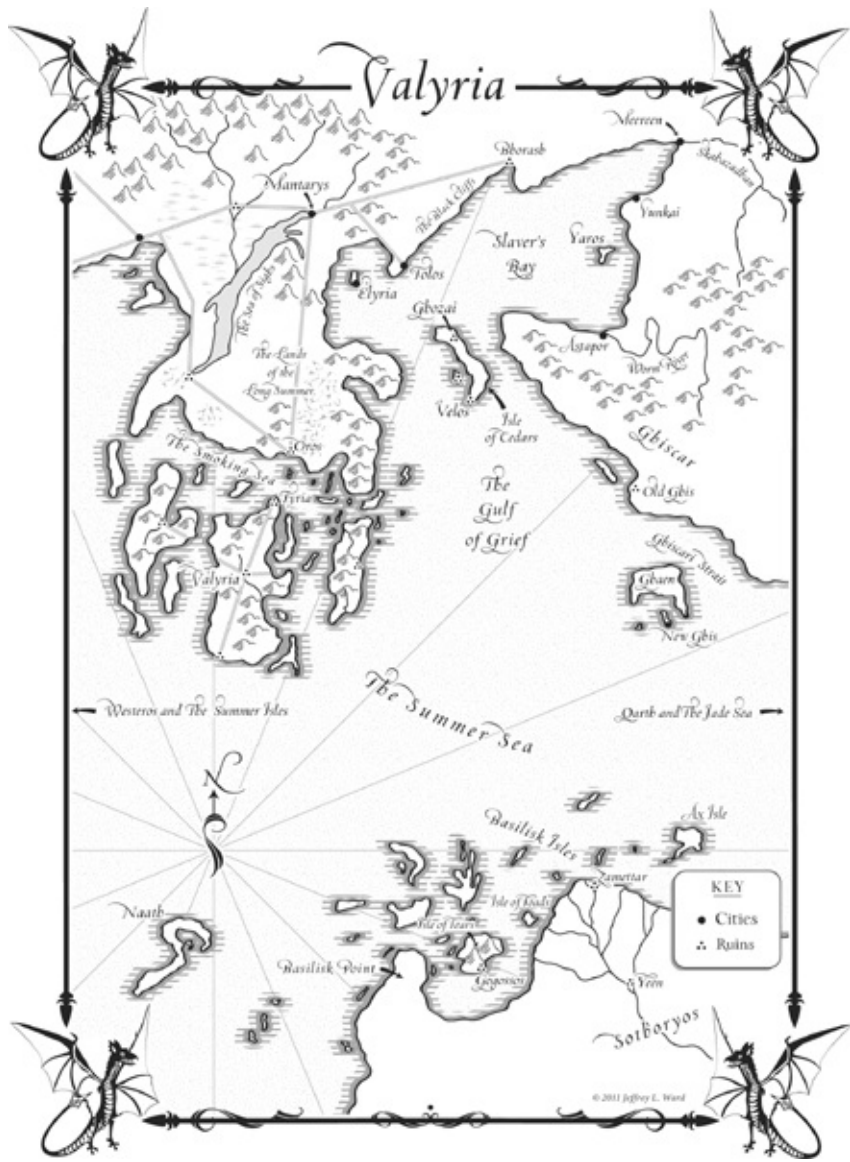
*A Dance with Dragons* is a longer book than *A Feast for Crows*, and covers a longer time period. In the latter half of this volume, you will notice certain of the viewpoint characters from *A Feast for Crows* popping up again. And that means just what you think it means: the narrative has moved past the time frame of *Feast*, and the two streams have once again rejoined each other.

Next up, *The Winds of Winter*. Wherein, I hope, everybody will be shivering together once again....

—George R. R. Martin  
April 2011







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