



The Princess and The Queen, or, The Blacks and The Greens

George R.R. Martin

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The Princess and The Queen, or, The Blacks and The Greens is a novella published on December 3, 2013 as part of the Dangerous Women anthology, edited by George R. R. Martin and Gardner Dozois. It replaced the fourth in the series of "Dunk and Egg" stories tentatively named The She-Wolves of Winterfell. It is the history of the civil war known as the Dance of the Dragons as written by Archmaester Gyldayn of the Citadel of Oldtown.

The Princess and The Queen, or, The Blacks and The Greens Details

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From Reader Review The Princess and The Queen, or, The Blacks and The Greens for online ebook

Trish says

To be fair, my edition is a pdf file created from the text the author put online quite a while ago (before the story was supposed to be part of an anthology) and therefore has only 57 pages.

But they are glorious 57 pages!

As with the 3 stories about Ser Duncan the Tall and Egg, I enjoyed this novella about the World of Westeros and Essos tremendously.

The writing style seems to always be great with this author and the stories themselves are very well thought through. Moreover, I do believe that there is some key information to the solution of some of the mysteries in the main story arch.

Hopefully, there will be two more novellas relating to this one as promised and hopefully all 3 will be published in one extra book like the others! That would be awesome!

Ahmet says

Well, if you want to learn more about history of Westeros and The Dance of Dragons, then you should read it. Otherwise it's a waste of time. The only part enjoyed was when a city riot occurred unlike anything we saw on TV or other books. Wish we had more of that in the story. The ending was so boring xD I can't imagine how he managed that.

I'm gonna read the excerpts from The Winds of Winter next!! I'm so excitedexcited!

Bookhode says

This is the second, longer and more important prequel novella (coming after The Rogue Prince), and it details the history of the great Targaryen civil war called Dance OF the Dragons. Just like its predecessor it is basically a quasi-historical text attributed to certain Archmaester Gyldayn. It deals with the events of almost 200 years ago, which have no direct bearing on the main ASOIAF storyline. And despite having a ton of narration and very little dialog, and working with a bunch of unfamiliar characters, this novella turns out to be much more fun, exciting and interesting read than Martin's latest novel, Dance WITH the Dragons. Which is actually quite sad, when you think about it.

The Princess and the Queen starts off with the death of old Targaryen king Viserys I, which leaves the realm caught in dangerous rivalry between the supporters of Princess Rhaenyra, his daughter from his first marriage (and also his official heir), and the supporters of his second wife who bore him 3 sons. Both Targaryen factions believe they have the law on their side, both have a bunch of influential lords in their ranks, they both have dragons, and very little desire to reach any kind of compromise. Pretty soon, the war erupts on land, on sea and in the air, covering the realm with fire and blood.

Martin does a great job of portraying both sides in this conflict with shades of grey, there are no clear good guys or bad guys here, as even the characters who at certain points seemed to be the most sympathetic or the

most resourceful, sooner or later fall victim to wrong decisions, lust for power, or betrayal. The novella takes its time to describe the fate of every important player in this conflict, and as they keep on dying in most gruesome, heroic, tragic or stupid ways, we soon realize that we are actually witnessing a spectacular end of the old Targaryen dynasty and, more importantly, the end of their supremacy over other houses based on the power of dragons. And while a few younger Targaryen princes will survive the conflict, and their heirs will continue to rule the realm all the way up to Robert's Rebellion, the dragons were not that lucky. Only 4 smaller and weaker beasts have seen the end of this war, and no other healthy dragon was hatched afterwards, so in a few decades that followed the magnificent creatures have perished from Westeros completely, as the world moved from the age of myth and magic, into the age of cruel medieval reality.

The Princess and the Queen audiobook was read by Iain Glen, who provides a good authoritative and mature voice to the text. Like I said, I enjoyed this novella very much, it is probably the second best of all Martin prequels so far (behind The Mystery Knight), and it left me with desire to learn more about the world and its past. That is, of course, after the old chap finally puts his best effort and completes the original saga.

Malinda says

3-3.5 stars

This story takes place about a 160 years before the TV show events. It involves a fight for the throne between 2 members of the royal family, Rhaenyra Targaryen and Aegon Targaryen II (who are half-siblings). Rhaenyra was the oldest child of the King and his chosen heir. When the King dies however, some of the lords of the realm don't like the idea of a female on the throne and back her younger, half-brother (Aegon II) instead. This story describes the civil war that resulted as the Lords of the realm chose who they will support between the 2 contenders for the throne.

I love the Game of Thrones TV show and, when I borrowed this anthology to read a few of the stories, I figured I'd try this one as well. This was a good story but I will say that it's complex...there's a lot of names of people, places and dragons that get thrown at you in the story and TBH, I had a bit of trouble keeping up with everything at times (but I'm more than willing to admit that my memory isn't the best). The whole story was about 3.5 hours long and there's a lot of info to absorb during that time. I kind of had to just go with it and take in what I could. Still, it was interesting to read about the early Targaryens...even if it's also a bit sad. (We are talking about a civil war here...people and dragons die...)

* note - I listened to the audio version of this story as part of the Dangerous Women anthology. The narration was done by Iain Glen, who plays Jorah Mormont in the Game of Thrones TV show, which I found to be very fitting (and very well done). :)

Chris says

From my Dangerous Women review in September of 2014.

...Though I will say that the GRRM story included is one of the best things I've read all year. It has a much different tone than his A Song of Ice and Fire novels, or even the shorter Dunk & Egg stories. It's set in the history of these others and has a tone more like The Silmarillion. But it worked very well for me, fitting into

the Westeros canon perfectly.

Kitty Red-Eye says

Two thoughts - first, this story shows the Ice and Fire fandom just how damn crazy dangerous those dragons are. They're awesome and terrible, whereas the people who ride them are more terrible than awesome, really.

Second, I like how Martin can change his writing style, from his Ice and Fire books I only know his way of writing through various characters' eyes, whereas the style and perspective of this story was completely different. Not all writers can do this. I'm impressed with his "range of abilities" (no idea how to put it, really).

Markus says

The Dance of the Dragons is the flowery name bestowed upon the savage internecine struggle for the Iron Throne of Westeros fought between two rival branches of House Targaryen during the years 129 to 131 AC. To characterize the dark, turbulent, bloody doings of this period as a "dance" strikes us as grotesquely inappropriate. No doubt the phrase originated with some singer. "The Dying of the Dragons" would be altogether more fitting, but tradition and time have burned the more poetic usage into the pages of history, so we must dance along with the rest.

Almost two centuries prior to the events of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the most legendary civil war in the history of Westeros was fought between rivalling claimants to the Iron Throne of the Targaryens. It would be known to posterity as the Dance of the Dragons.

This is one of the best novellas I have ever read. Many brilliant fantasy authors have problems writing novellas and short stories set in the worlds of their sagas, but George R.R. Martin does not disappoint. The Dangerous Women anthology as a whole was a disaster, but this made it all worth it.

Scheming queens and spymasters, huge battles and duels on dragonback – this novella has it all and more. Exquisite writing in normal GRRM fashion, interesting characters like Lord Commander Criston Cole the Kingmaker (couldn't help but using the full title) and a setting that's quite unlike the Westeros we know from later times. Anything an ASoIaF fan could want.

Surprisingly, the novella also managed to introduce two of my favourite characters in the whole ASoIaF franchise. First out was Rhaenyra Targaryen, the lawful heir to the crown of her father Viserys. The usurpation of the Iron Throne by her younger half-brother Aegon unfortunately causes her to go a little mad. A little meaning that she turns into something of a fantastic combo of Cersei and the Mad King. Fortunately, she makes up for it by being an absolutely magnificent character.

And as if that wasn't enough, poor Rhaenyra is nowhere near being the most fascinating character in this novella. That award goes to her uncle, who is also her husband (these are Targaryens we're talking about). Daemon Targaryen is so ridiculously awesome he goes straight into my top list of ASoIaF characters (in fact

almost straight to the top spot). Warrior, dragonrider, wielder of Dark Sister - Daemon is almost too fabulous to fit into this short tale.

"Over the centuries, House Targaryen has produced both great men and monsters. Prince Daemon was both."

The only curious thing, considering that this is a GRRM story with a huge cast of characters, is that there is really only one side of the conflict the reader will end up cheering for. Not only are all the best characters on one side (excepting the fabulous Lord Commander Criston Cole the Kingmaker), but Rhaenyra's claim to the Iron Throne is obviously the strongest one. Even her antagonist brother Aegon realises this and proclaims her the true queen in the beginning of the story, but unfortunately his mother (may she burn forever in the Seven Hells) forces him to usurp the throne of his sister.

I would recommend this to all ASoIaF fans. It's a real treasure. I would also strongly recommend listening to the audiobook, wonderfully narrated by everyone's favourite Iain Glen.

Raffaello says

La Danza dei draghi, dicono...sarebbe meglio chiamarla la strage dei draghi. Nonostante il racconto sia scritto a mo' di cronistoria, si fa leggere con piacere. Gli eventi e i colpi di scena sono talmente tanti che ci si diverte (e ci si angoscia a vedere quanti draghi sono morti durante questa sanguinosa guerra di successione). Martin non risparmia dettagli nel creare la sua "storia dei sette regni", il fantasioso background da cui si svilupperanno le Cronache del ghiaccio e del fuoco. Bella lettura.

Deanna says

Yes I'd much rather have the Winds of Winter. I reread this cause a pod cast I listen to was going it. I actually liked this so much more this time around (I'd read the Rouge Prince 1st). The dragon battles alone make this worth reading. Plus I like the back round stories.

Terence says

Note: I had to resubmit this because Goodreads changed the previous edition of this book to a Dangerous Women kindle edition for some reason.

My original review on 12/7/13:

I love getting the history lesson on The Dance of Dragons from an Archmaester's researched account. The history is interesting and lets you see that things were even more brutal than the current storyline because of the dragons involvement.

I feel a big part of The Princess and The Queen is a teaser for The World of Ice and Fire that is supposed to

be released in Oct 2014 with an even more thorough history of The Dance of Dragons along with I believe the whole history of Westeros.

All in all this story certainly had enough intriguing elements to be a book series on its own. I definitely enjoyed it.

???? says

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Gavin says

This story is the history of the civil war known as the Dance of the Dragons as written by Archmaester Gyldayn of the Citadel of Oldtown. It was written in a very different style than the main ASoIaF series, and actually did read just like a "fake" history lesson. Despite the lack of witty dialogue that we are accustomed to from the main ASoIaF series this novella was as equally engaging a read.

It was the tale of a Targaryen civil war. The power struggle for the Iron Throne by Rhaenyra Targaryen and her brother Aegon II Targaryen. The story was as bloody as you might expect. Especially as back in this time the Targaryen's had dragons to call upon!

Rating: 5 stars. Fantastic story. Cannot wait to read the rest of the Westeros novellas.

Audio Note: This was read by Iain Glen who plays Ser Jorah in the GoT TV series. He does as good a job with this audiobook as he does in the TV show.

Manisha says

Actual review: 3.5

Had this short story been written more as a 'story' rather than a 'summary', it would have had a higher rating from me. Yes, I know that this story is meant to be a summary because it's written by a Maester who told the infamous story of 'The Dance with Dragons' as he saw it and yes, I understand that any dialogue was just

simply used as a tool (after all, the history is written by the victors). However, it doesn't change the fact that I would have loved to read this story (because it was ridiculously entertaining) rather than hear about it.

GRRM writes good political history. He shows how belief in a person could be misplaced due to the narrative told by those who have something to gain. He also makes it a point to state how history was warped by those who followed it.

(I really need Book 6 right now)

Sara Jesus says

Esta história narra a guerra civil conhecida como a "Dança dos dragões". Explora o universo da família Targaryen e dos seus dragões. É um conto fascinante que nos demonstra de onde surgiu toda a determinação de Dany em recuperar o trono. Afinal os Targaryen são os herdeiros legítimos do Trono de Ferro.

Phil says

Everybody dies in the most brutal way would be a fitting title for this story.

It is a good story, though, a lesson that civil war should be avoided at all costs.

Having grown dragons of different glowing colours clash in battle is wonderful for cinematic scenes in the head; I so hope they make a GoT spinoff for this or Aegon's Conquest. Besides, this story contains some new insight into dragonlore which I greatly appreciated.

Still, it does not fit the anthology's title "Dangerous Women". The "Queen" is an old woman really appearing only in the beginning to sit at a table and scheme against the "Princess", who herself never sees any battle action, but sits in a room clutching her children and swearing vengeance much like Cersei in the Battle of Blackwater. The only women with a tiny bit of action are a bastard girl becoming a dragonrider, a "Queen who never was" and the daughter of the Princess' husband. BUT, all these actions are only about two pages each - the rest is done by men.

Thus, a very good but sad story which does not deal as much with female action as promised.
