George R. R. Martin's, “Game of Thrones,” it's the first novel in the epic series called “A Song of Ice and Fire.” These books have become rather popular recently due to the HBO series of the same name. Although I have only read the first two books in the series, which correspond to the two seasons currently out of HBO’s series, I have lost myself in this expansive and mystical world of kings, knights and lords that leaves the reader craving to read on.

If begins with the murder of the king, a righteous and beloved ruler whom once ruled of the Seven Kingdoms. But soon after his death, chaos begins to spread. The most powerful House Lannister of Casterly Rock seeks to gain power and control, but they hold a dark secret that threatens to be unleashed upon their world. The honourable House Stark of Winterfell is torn apart as Lord Eddard is called upon to become Hand of the King, but can handle the political and psychological trials that await him at Kings Landing. And House Targaryen, which is said to hold the blood of the dragons of old, is threatening to usurp the new king.

As I was reading this fascinating book, hooked by it’s enthralling story, I could not help but be absorbed. I developed a personal connection with all the characters, feeling their pain and sharing their hatred. It is by no means a short novel, each book being over 700 pages, but do not let this deter you. It is a wonderfully easy read as one looses oneself within the pages. I couldn’t help but contemplate after each session, what happens next, should I read on. And the answer is usually yes.

I could not help but compare it with the television series, and by no means does it disappoint. After watching the television series first, I have found that the novel adds to the experience and desire to become apart of this vividly imaginative world that George R. R. Martin produces. The second season is much more varied, as the story is altered from the original novel, which allowed for new and unexpected stories to be told.

Game of Thrones has stunningly rejuvenated the medieval fantasy genre into an intense drama as one lives the lives of each of the fascinating characters. On a personal note, I can’t help but love the wit of Tyrion Lannister, the Imp who manages to manipulate himself out of some interesting situations. It is a stunningly easy read, and in many cases, simply a read for pleasure alone, although some interesting concepts are considered. A certain quote from both the novel and Television series got me thinking. "Power resides where men believe it resides, It’s a trick," he adds. "A shadow on the wall. And a very small man can cast a very large shadow." George R. R. Martin has enthralled millions in his wonderful story, and has cast a very large shadow indeed.

Rating 4/5