

# Kingsguard/Queensguard Assignment

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1. **Margery Tyrell** - OK, so she's better at manipulating things behind the scenes, I get that. But I think that if I were to become King of Westeros, I'd want someone with good PR skills and an established family that I could trust. Not to mention she's become the inheritor of Olenna's legacy, and given that the Tyrells are pretty much making a naked bid for power at this point, I'd want to be on the right side of history. As someone who's smart, ambitious and unassuming, she would be an ideal lead member of the Kingsguard, a position that a lot of people don't expect to have political aspirations. (Unless you ask Ser Jamie, of course.)
2. **Brienne of Tarth** - Brienne has had it rough throughout most of the series; both her attempts to be a proper lady and her attempts to be a warrior have been laughed off for different reasons. Nonetheless, she demonstrates that she has the strength of character to simply not care. She routinely does what is right and chivalrous not for any expectation of a reward, but simply to protect those who need help. Were I King, I think I would strive to make myself worthy of Brienne's protection. She's a strong moral compass and an extremely competent fighter, and would probably be the closest thing the cynical world of Westeros has to an ideal knight.
3. **Sandor Clegane** - Sandor actually popped into my head because I was rewatching his and Brienne's no-holds-barred beatdown. In a way, Sandor is Brienne's opposite. He sees the ideal society for what it truly is with a lot more clarity than others do. He's a fantastic judge of character and is immediately able to see deceit and trickery, which is naturally a trait I'd want. The main reason I'd place myself under Sandor's protection is that he lacks a lot of what we've been talking about in regards to the perception of power. He's relentless and will ferociously attack whoever threatens him or the people he protects, no matter who the threat is coming from. The ability to see past social convention and single-mindedly set about doing what is needed is a rare and valuable trait in Westeros, and I think this insight would make Sandor a valuable addition.
4. **A wealthy Meereen slaver** - We're making huge assumptions here, but I would love to have one of these people's armies of Unsullied at my service. I see only two main obstacles to this. (We're assuming I can get all the Unsullied over from Essos without a problem and that Daenerys doesn't pose a threat at this time)
  - (a) **Morals** - Slavery on an Ghiscari scale is relatively unknown in Westeros, which raises an interesting question of what would happen were there to be an army of Unsullied who answered to the crown. I personally don't believe that this would be an enormous issue for a very simple reason. Martin routinely implies, and sometimes states outright, that Essos is more advanced than Westeros. The Free Cities are in the midst of a Renaissance-style rebirth of knowledge and are currently booming economically and culturally from the traditions of Old Ghis, which is a very obvious parallel to Rome. However, as the Free Cities continue to advance, slavery only becomes more and more prevalent, with cities like Lys operating almost entirely on the enslavement or heavy indenture of lots of people. Regardless of the system, it

could very easily be brought over to Westeros, which has working conditions that are even more appalling, with decentralized serfdom and backbreaking taxes to pay the heavy debt to the Iron Bank. One could argue that even slavery would be preferable to a system like this. The whole castration thing may be another issue.

- (b) **Logistics** - Slightly more challenging is the question-how are you going to feed and clothe soldiers who directly answer to you with no lords to take care of the intermediate steps? This starts to fall into the area of tax reform and direct royal governance of land, which would be the topic of a whole other paper. At the core of this issue is doing it without disenfranchising the lords who currently own the land needed to sustain this new group of soldiers, as you never want the Kingsguard to have more work to do. I could conceivably think up a food for protection idea which might serve to centralize Westeros in the long run, but again, other paper. What's important is that a system of having lords pay for their protection from the Kingsguard would strengthen my position of royal authority, put enemies either in debt to me or on the defensive from my armies (which we can imagine growing much bigger and sustaining itself after the death of the original Essians if the process of slavery to the crown caught on in Westeros), and readies me for an eventual confrontation with a certain Breaker of Chains, if she decides to *ever* show up.
5. **Ser Alliser Thorne** - Sure, he's not the nicest person. Sure, Jon hates him. But in all my searching, I'm hard pressed to find a character with more practical experience than Ser Thorne. He knows the ins and outs of battle almost perfectly, both from his experiences as a warrior in Westeros, and of course in his many battles since he's taken the black. He's a unique pragmatist and a capable commander, who's able to keep his cool in almost any situation. His mind isn't clouded by opinion, as are those of so many already on my list, and he's been shown to perform well under pressure. He's also near incorruptible. I would gladly trust someone so dead-set on his mission to protect me.