

# Jon Snow (character)

**Jon Snow** is a fictional character in the *A Song of Ice and Fire* series of fantasy novels by American author George R. R. Martin, and its television adaptation *Game of Thrones*, in which he is portrayed by English actor Kit Harington. In the novels, he is a prominent point of view character. He is one of the most popular characters in the series, and *The New York Times* cites him as one of the author's finest creations.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Jon is a main character in the TV series, and his storyline in the season 5 finale generated a strong reaction among viewers. Speculation about the character's parentage has also been a popular topic of discussion among fans of both the books and the TV series.

Jon is introduced in 1996's *A Game of Thrones* as the illegitimate son of Ned Stark, lord of Winterfell in the North of Westeros. Knowing his prospects are limited by his status as a bastard, Jon joins the Night's Watch, who guard the far northern borders from the wildlings living beyond The Wall. In *A Clash of Kings* (1998), Jon joins a scouting party investigating the growing threat from the otherworldly "Others" beyond the Wall, and infiltrates the wildlings. Jon learns of their plans to invade Westeros in *A Storm of Swords* (2000), and falls in love with the wildling woman Ygritte. Jon betrays the wildlings and Ygritte, returns to defend the Night's Watch against the wildlings' invasion, and elected Lord Commander of the Watch. He appears briefly in *A Feast for Crows* (2005) and returns as a prominent character in *A Dance with Dragons* (2011), in which he works to negotiate an alliance between the Night's Watch and the wildlings against the Others; his policies are met with hostility by some among the Watch, and he is assassinated in a mutiny at the novel's end.

On the HBO series *Game of Thrones*, Jon's storyline follows the character's plot arc from the novel series, though seasons 6–8 continue on from the events of Martin's latest published installment. For the role, Harington was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Drama in 2019, two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series and Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series in 2016 and 2019, and two Critics' Choice Television Awards.

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Jon Snow	
<i>A Song of Ice and Fire</i> character	
<i>Game of Thrones</i> character	
	
Kit Harington as Jon Snow	
<b>First appearance</b>	<b>Literature:</b> <i>A Game of Thrones</i> (1996) <b>Television:</b> <i>"Winter Is Coming"</i> (2011) <b>Video game:</b> <i>"The Lost Lords"</i> (2015)
<b>Last appearance</b>	<b>Television:</b> <i>"The Iron Throne"</i> (2019) <b>Video game:</b> <i>Reigns: Game of Thrones</i> (2018)
<b>Created by</b>	George R. R. Martin
<b>Adapted by</b>	David Benioff D.B. Weiss ( <i>Game of Thrones</i> )
<b>Portrayed by</b>	Kit Harington ( <i>Game of Thrones</i> )