SOFTWARE & TECH

A Song Of Ice And Fire A Storm Of Swords

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Introduction: A Year in Westeros and Beyond

For millions of readers around the world, George R.R. Martin's epic fantasy series **A Song of Ice and Fire** is more than just a collection of novels—it is a sprawling, immersive universe filled with complex characters, political intrigue, and breathtaking landscapes. Fans of the books often seek ways to bring the world of Westeros, Essos, and the lands beyond the Wall into their everyday lives. Among the most cherished collectibles for dedicated followers is the annual **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**. This calendar is not merely a tool for tracking dates; it is a visual journey through the Seven Kingdoms, a tribute to the series' rich lore, and a way to celebrate the saga month after month. Whether you are a long-time book reader or a newcomer drawn to the magic of Martin's creation, owning a copy of this calendar allows you to live in the world of ice and fire all year long.

In this article, we will explore the history, artistry, and enduring appeal of the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar** . We will look at the different editions released over the years, the talented artists who have brought key scenes to life, and the reasons why collectors treasure these calendars. We will also offer practical advice on how to choose the right calendar for your collection and where to find authentic releases. By the end, you will understand why this calendar has become an essential item for fans and a beautiful piece of fantasy art in its own right.

The Origins of the A Song of Ice and Fire Calendar

The idea of a themed calendar based on a beloved book series is nothing new, but the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar** holds a special place because of the depth and detail of Martin's world. The first official calendars appeared in the early 2010s, coinciding with the peak popularity of the book series and the debut of the HBO television adaptation *Game of Thrones*. While many calendars marketed under the "Game of Thrones" name feature images from the show, the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**specifically draws from the literary source material. This distinction matters to purists who prefer the original visions of characters, castles, and creatures as described in the novels rather than the screen versions.

The publisher Bantam Books (or another imprint under Random House) worked with accomplished fantasy illustrators to produce these calendars. Early editions were often created by artists such as Ted Nasmith, known for his detailed Tolkien artwork, and Charles Vess, whose style perfectly captured the mythic quality of Westeros. Each year brought a new theme or selection of scenes, ensuring that collectors had something fresh to look forward to. Over time, the calendar became a staple for fans, selling out quickly and sometimes becoming difficult to find in later years.

The Role of Renowned Fantasy Artists

One of the most compelling reasons to own an **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar** is the opportunity to see classic fantasy artists interpret Martin's universe. For instance, the 2012 calendar featured paintings by **Ted Nasmith**, including a dramatic depiction of Daenerys Targaryen with her dragons and a haunting image of the Wall. Other notable contributors include **Michael Komarck**, whose realistic style brought characters like Arya Stark and Tyrion Lannister to vivid life, and **John Picacio**, who created dynamic compositions for several editions. Each artist brings a unique perspective, and fans often debate which year's artwork is the most faithful to the books or the most aesthetically pleasing.

These calendars are not static collections of images; they are carefully curated to reflect the most iconic moments from the novels. A typical **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**will include scenes from the major houses—the Starks of Winterfell, the Lannisters of Casterly Rock, the Targaryens in exile—as well as pivotal events like the Red Wedding, the Battle of the Blackwater, or the fall of the Wall. Because the books contain so many memorable episodes, the calendar serves as a visual timeline of the story's progression, allowing fans to relive key plot points throughout the year.

Features of a Typical A Song of Ice and Fire Calendar

Beyond the stunning artwork, a well-designed **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**includes several practical and aesthetic features that enhance its appeal. Most editions are wall calendars, measuring roughly 12 by 12 inches (or larger), with a spiral binding that allows each page to turn easily. The paper is typically high-quality, glossy or matte, to ensure that the art prints are durable and suitable for framing after the year ends. Some calendars also include a grid with moon phases, major holidays, and occasionally dates related to the series—such as the release dates of new books or the anniversaries of key events in the story.

Another thoughtful feature is the inclusion of quotes from the novels on each month's page. These quotes are chosen to complement the artwork, offering a snippet of dialogue or description that deepens the connection between the image and the story. For example, a page showing Jon Snow at Castle Black might include his famous line, "The night is dark and full of terrors." Such touches demonstrate that the calendar is made by fans for fans, respecting the source material while creating a beautiful product.

Desk Calendars and Alternative Formats

While the wall calendar is the most common format, some years have seen the release of desk calendars or spiral-bound planners featuring the same artwork. These are ideal for office use or for fans who prefer a more compact layout. However, the wall calendar remains the most popular because it showcases the art at its full size. Collectors often buy multiple copies—one to hang and one to keep pristine for future value.

It is worth noting that the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar** is not to be confused with the *Game of Thrones* calendar based on the HBO show. The latter uses photography or stills from the series, while the former uses original illustrations. Both have their merits, but for readers of the books, the illustrated calendar is often the more meaningful choice, as it aligns with the author's own descriptions and allows the imagination to roam freely.

Notable Editions Through the Years

Since its inception, the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**has gone through several distinct phases, each with its own artistic approach and theme. Let's explore some of the most notable editions that have left a lasting impression on the fan community.

- 2012 Calendar (Art by Ted Nasmith): The first official calendar for the book series. Nasmith's classical style captured the epic scale of Westeros, with stunning views of King's Landing, Winterfell, and the lands

beyond the Wall. This edition is highly sought after by collectors and often sells for a premium on secondary markets.

- 2013 Calendar (Art by Charles Vess): Known for his work in the world of fantasy and folklore, Vess brought a softer, more mythical quality to the images. His portrayal of the Children of the Forest and the weirwood trees became fan favorites.
- 2014 Calendar (Art by John Picacio): Picacio's dynamic compositions focused on action scenes and character portraits. This calendar featured a memorable image of Drogon lifting Daenerys above Meereen.
- 2015 Calendar (Art by Michael Komarck): Komarck's hyper-detailed realism gave readers a near-photographic look at characters like Jaime Lannister and Brienne of Tarth. The calendars from this year are prized for their lifelike quality.
- 2016–2019 Editions: These years often mixed new artists with returning favorites, covering later events from A Dance with Dragons and beyond. Some editions even included long-awaited scenes from The Winds of Winter (based on sample chapters), adding a layer of mystery and speculation.

It is important to emphasize that the production of a new **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**has not been consistent in recent years, sometimes due to the prolonged wait for the next novel. However, reprints and unpublished artwork occasionally appear through special releases. Fans should keep an eye on official announcements from the publisher.

Why Collectors and Fans Love the Calendar

There are many reasons why the **A Song Of Ice And Fire Calendar**has become a cherished item among the book's readership. First and foremost, it offers a tangible connection to the story. When you see a beautiful painting of Winterfell under a blanket of snow, it evokes the same emotions and memories as reading the novels. The calendar becomes a conversation piece, sparking discussions about favorite characters, theories, and scenes.

Collectibility is another major factor. Limited print runs, especially for early editions, make these calendars valuable. Many fans treat them as art books, carefully removing each month's page at the end of the year and framing it. Some editions have even appreciated in value, particularly the 2012 and 2013 calendars, which are now considered rare. Additionally, the calendar serves as a historical record of how the fandom evolved—each year'

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