

ASOIAF THEORY ICEBERG

[**Bolded** are must-reads, *starred are theories/interpretations I personally believe in to some extent]

BASIC

(mostly uncontroversially accepted, reasonable inferences, popular assertions. most are *basically* canon. also sorry for all the wiki links, some of these are taken so strongly for granted that no one wrote them up properly lmao)

- ***R+L=J**
 - The BIG one. Canon in the show.
https://towerofthehand.com/essays/chrisholden/jon_snows_parents.html
- ***Sandor Gravedigger**
 - <http://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Gravedigger/Theories>
- ***Alleras = Sarella**
 - <https://asoiaf.westeros.org/index.php?/topic/60725-alleras-the-sandsnake-complete-analysis/&tab=comments#comment-2902226>
- ***The Alchemist = Jaqen H'ghar = Pate**
 - https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Jaqen_H%27ghar/Theories
- ***Euron Greyjoy assassinated Balon using a Faceless Man (who was maybe also Jaqen H'ghar?)**
 - <https://asoiaf.westeros.org/index.php?/topic/60826-the-drowned-king-and-the-faceless-crow-complete-analysis/>
- ***Lyanna was the Knight of the Laughing Tree**
 - This page lists other possible candidates, but like, it was Lyanna though.
http://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Knight_of_the_Laughing_Tree/Theories
- ***Duncan the Tall and Brienne are related**
 - Note: I'd recommend reading *The Tales of Dunk and Egg* before this! Anyway, this was apparently confirmed by GRRM?
<https://thewertzzone.blogspot.com/2016/05/george-rr-martin-confirms-game-of.html>
- ***Ser Robert Strong is Gregor Clegane But A Zombie**
 - https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Robert_Strong/Theories

- ***Frey Pies**
 - http://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Frey_Pies/Theories

STANDARD

(popular, oft-referenced and well-known, but definitely theories rather than straight up inferences)

- ***Aegon Blackfyre**
 - Probably read *The World of Ice and Fire* or skim a [wiki page](#) to get an idea of what the Blackfyre Rebellions were about first.
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/156odh/spoilers_all_complete_analyses_of_the_blackfyre/
- ***The Grand Northern Conspiracy**
 - Really *really* long. But worth it. Seminal. Iconic.
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/1iwfc1/spoilers_all_the_grand_northern_conspiracy_parts/
- ***The Night Lamp**
 - Literally a theory just on what battle tactics Stannis might use to win the Battle of Ice outside Winterfell. Author has a lot more speculative theories about what Stannis might do in TWOW that get.. pretty nuts.
<https://cantuse.wordpress.com/2014/08/28/the-night-lamp-revisited-the-wrath-of-the-old-and-the-new/>
- ***Southron Ambitions**
 - Robert's Rebellion-era historical theory.
<https://towerofthehand.com/blog/2012/01/05-southron-ambitions/>
- Azor Ahai = ????
- Good writeup of some plausible candidates (but personally I don't think anyone is Azor Ahai reborn lol). http://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Azor_Ahai/Theories
- ***Jaime is the Valonqar**
 - There's a lot of differing *valonqar* speculation, but suffice to say no one thinks it's Tyrion.
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/3gofge/spoilers_all_the_valonqar_is/
- ***Sam has the real Horn of Winter**

- Not a super in depth outline, but it's a bit self-explanatory
https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Horn_of_Winter/Theories

ADVANCED

(could definitely happen, but it's not super obvious/takes some conjecture/is disputed among fans)

- ***The Eldritch Apocalypse**
 - *Literally insane*. Probably the most beautifully-written theory of all time. Recommend you read *The Forsaken* sample chapter from TWOW first.
<https://poorquenty.com/2019/10/31/eldritch-apocalypse/>
 - *The Forsaken* can be found in this PDF compilation of all the TWOW sample chapters: <http://www.managethatproject.com/the-winds-of-winter-samples.pdf>
- ***Mandon Moore's Patron**
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/1c8sa9/spoilers_all_complete_analyses_who_was_mandon/
- **Tyrion Targaryen**
 - Extremely controversial lol. Couldn't find a great write-up but there's this video rundown! Honestly all this person's videos are pretty great summaries of popular theories. 10/10 would recommend
<https://youtu.be/eqVhKOxmJCw?list=PLn6yDpEottdgb3PCr2eel3x6b6uthkBEp>
- **Melisandre = Melony Seastar**
 - Would recommend reading *The World of Ice and Fire* or skimming [Shiera Seastar's wiki page](#) first.
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/1prz6a/spoilers_all_sbm_mel_the_red_star_bleeding_melony/
- **Is Loras actually injured on Dragonstone?**
 - http://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Loras_Tyrell/Theories
- **Jojenpaste**
 - <https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php?/topic/56772-jojen-reeds-fate-adwd-spoiler-s/>
- ***The Rosby Inheritance**

- <https://warsandpoliticsoficeandfire.wordpress.com/2016/02/19/heirs-in-the-shadow-the-ward-at-rosby/>
- *The Identity of Lem Lemoncloak
 - <https://ladygwynhyfvar.com/2014/02/03/lemuncloaked-the-true-identity-of-lem-lemoncloak/>
- **Who Wrote the Pink Letter?**
 - https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Bastard_Letter/Theories
 - Also, video version running down the options:
<https://youtu.be/T-j01uhSdGo?list=PLn6yDpEottdgb3PCr2eel3x6b6uthkBEp>
- *Jon Will Wear Mance's Cloak
 - Inherently sexy concept.
https://old.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/evmutg/spoilers_extended_a_cloak_of_black_and_red/

OUT THERE

(not super likely, but you never know; theoretically plausible)

- The Harrenhal Conspiracy
 - Long. Historical; Robert's Rebellion-era. Follows similar lines as the Southron Ambitions theory but expands it greatly.
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/4x2d9j/spoilers_everything_the_harrenhal_conspiracy_part/
- *Coldhands = Danny Flint
 - The way this literally made me so insane
 - (In the show, Coldhands is Benjen Stark, but in the books, allegedly there was a manuscript comment where GRRM told his editor it WASN'T Benjen, so theories are widespread and varied.)
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/llwm8m/coldhands_identity_spoilers_extended/
- Lemongate
 - Essentially the collective name for theories in which Daenerys did not grow up in Braavos, or at least the house with the red door (with the lemon tree outside its window) she remembers wasn't there, because lemons can't grow in Braavos.

Unfortunately tends to devolve into wild tinfoil in which she's secretly the daughter of anyone from Ashara Dayne and Ned to Rhaegar and Lyanna.

Thanks! I hate it. (I can't find an original writeup, this will have to do)

https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/6g3ai5/spoilers_extended_lemongate_a_nobullshit_faq_for/

- *Iron Bank = Faceless Men
 - Same guy that did Night Lamp, a lot going on here.
<https://cantuse.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/a-nefarious-investment/#more-1401>
- Tysha = The Sailor's Wife
 - https://awoiaf.westeros.org/index.php/Sailor%27s_Wife/Theories
- *Bong Hit* Ashara Dayne = Jyana Reed, Hashara Truthery
 - I wish this was more comprehensive but really the spirit of the theory is simply to vibe, it doesn't have to be true, it just has to be fun
https://www.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/72biox/spoilers_extended_revisiting_a_certain_theory/

REALLY OUT THERE

(simply insane, baseless speculation, or mostly ridiculous)

- *Ser Shadrich, Ser Morgarth, Ser Byron
 - Unfortunately this is legitimately so compelling to me. I know it's crazy I know it's stupid but I'm just convinced. I don't know how. They really got me. I can't prepare you for this
<https://sweeticeandfiresunray.com/2017/07/13/their-gallantry-is-yet-to-be-demonstrated-shadrich-morgarth-and-byron/>
- Bolt-On
 - Mostly here for fun. Widely regarded as a joke theory.
https://old.reddit.com/r/asoiaf/comments/1xe89h/spoilers_all_bolt_on_apply_directly_to_the/
- Quentyn is Alive
 - Just stupid. Insanely stupid, thematically bad, cinemasins ass theorizing. I have a deep blinding violent hatred for this theory. However I am including it because it

is funny. Dragonfire can't melt steel beams

https://youtu.be/dF7dbXuGTJY?list=PLCsx_OFEYH6uvfZSfec35DXBEpvA9fpm0

- Legally I cannot recommend Preston Jacobs' other videos to anyone. But I must also disclose that I have watched all of them

NOT THEORIES, BUT READ THEM ANYWAY

(character/thematic analysis, other assorted meta, etc)

- **The Meereenese Knot**

- Popular analysis of Dany's arc in ADWD and the political machinations going on that readers might be a bit blind to. I don't agree with all the takes in here, but it's thought-provoking. Hizdahr was innocent (of some things)!

<https://meereeneseblot.wordpress.com/2013/09/27/untangling-the-meereenese-knot-part-i-who-poisoned-the-locusts/>

- **PQ Analysis of Quentyn in ADWD**

- PoorQuentyn at it again. Analysis of Quentyn's arc and what it means and why it's impactful. Genuinely this made me cry lol it's SO good.

<https://poorquentyn.tumblr.com/tagged/quentyn-in-adwd/chrono>

- **PQ Analysis of Tyrion in ADWD**

- ^ but Tyrion. <https://poorquentyn.tumblr.com/tagged/tyrion-in-adwd/chrono>

- **PQ Analysis of Davos in ADWD**

- ^ but Davos. <https://poorquentyn.tumblr.com/tagged/davos-in-adwd/chrono>

- **Ashara Dayne, What's Her Deal?**

- Unfinished, but interesting to read, well-written and debunks certain popular theories about Ashara.

<https://liesandarbor.wordpress.com/2018/12/04/a-falling-star-in-westeros-pti-analyzing-ashara-dayne/>

- **The Social Contract in ASOIAF**

- Fun application of philosophy re: different kings.

<https://lawsoficeandfire.wordpress.com/2020/01/29/why-shouldnt-we-rule-ourselves-again-westeros-and-the-social-contract/>