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## Magic Kingdoms beyond Disneyland: Medievalism in George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" and Mary Gentle's "Ash: A Secret History"

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| <b>Abstract:</b>               | Much of the fantasy genre – in particular, much of the literature that defines public perception of the genre – takes place in worlds inspired by the Middle Ages, or at least by the common ideas and conceptions of the era. This thesis examines two works of fantasy –George R.R Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Mary Gentle's Ash: A Secret History – that partake in a long tradition of medievalism in Western popular culture and whose authors have set out to subvert some of the genre conventions th... <a href="#">more</a> |
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– A Storm of Swords. Magic in "A Song of Ice and Fire" is one of those subjects that's always engaged fans. A Game of Thrones basically starts with none at all. Martin has compared his approach to the reintroduction of magic to the setting to boiling a crab: put it in the water when it's already hot and it will leap out, but place it in cold water and gradually heat it and it'll stay put. But it's the songs that say it, while the maesters seem hesitant. If the children had a different kind of wisdom, that was one thing, but the power to shatter continents? Once you move past the children, native magic in Westeros is much rarer. Westeros.org can also be found on Twitter and Facebook, where they provide official syndication of George R.R. Martin's blog updates. Title: Magic Kingdoms beyond Disneyland: Medievalism in George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" and Mary Gentle's "Ash: A Secret History" Author: Linda Antonsson Semester and year: Spring 2015 Faculty: Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion Supervisor: Yvonne Leffler Examiner: Jenny Bergenmar Keywords: Fantasy, world-building, history, medievalism, narratology, historiography. This thesis examines two works of fantasy – George R.R Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Mary Gentle's Ash: A Secret History – that partake in a long tradition of medievalism in Western popular culture and whose authors have set out to subvert some of the genre conventions that relate to the use of medievalism.