

Stannis Baratheon: A survey on lordship

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Game of Thrones has exploded on the small screen with thought provoking story lines complimented by strong character driven dialogue. While fans love the most popular characters, there is one character that has been elevated into cult status. The character is Stannis Baratheon and he is the rightful King of Westeros. Although fans adore Stannis, he is despised by several of his fellow due to his rigid nature and iron will. For this content analysis, I want to explore the numerous websites devoted to the Stannis character and the Game of Thrones series. Why does this character have such a devoted fan base? What are the properties that make this character adored? My coding categories into this research of Stannis's will be his competency and his personality. The research was done by exploring the various many websites including Reddit and Westeros.org, Quora, and The Daily Dot to understand the devotion to the character. With the findings I concluded that the fan base loves the character for his competence, they appreciate his ironclad, yet sympathetic personality, and his ability to see the bigger picture in the series, which is that winter and the White Walkers are returning.

Literature Review

Methodology

For the two message board websites I chose the more detailed responses for better information. Many of the responses and comments were small and usually humorous and not pertaining to what I was looking for. I dealt with the articles in the same way with message board answers as well. I looked for patterns of similarity between the two information formats. So what I did was that I paired the similarity of the websites in terms of findings to better put the information into the coding categories I had laid out. For categorizing my findings I used the qualitative research method to pick out the most in-depth answers and break them up into the coding areas I created. For my coding I broke up the most loved qualities of the character by his competency, personality, and his long term goals. My sources all confirmed about

their love of the characters competency. They consider him one of the most competent characters in the series. His constant success on the battlefield and his ability to act and consider the consequences of his actions were commendable to the posters. This was the most universally loved trait of the character by the fan base. Out of the 4 sources I used, 100% all stated that he is one of the most competent characters in the series. His numerous victories over larger odds is the biggest reference point for this, **“quote poster”**

Stannis’ personality was one of much interest and debate. Many like and dislike his behavior. He is a no-nonsense, strict, stubborn man with little room for humor. However this is what many like him for. His devotion to duty and nothing else. **(insert quote)** Many love him for his devotion for honor and trying to do the right thing. In a story filled with very dark, evil characters many of the fan base love Stannis for his obsession in trying to do the right thing always. Another factor was about the life he has lived. Many consider him a tragic character. His parents died while he was young and his brothers abandoned him. He is socially awkward and even has trouble talking with women. Many people sympathize with him because of his introverted nature. “He is one of the most human characters in the series and I can connect with that.” Wrote

Limitations

The limitations of my research however was not using every available comment from reddit and the message board. The research and data would have been more complete, however, many the comments were either an: I agree, a short answer, a joke, or a comment relating to another character or event. My sources were varied in terms of comments and of material which also contained several criticisms of the character by several posters. The purpose of this content analysis was to find out why people liked him, so I wasn’t able to fully list all of the criticisms of Stannis. There are always going to be

those variables in research and unfortunately I was able to fully depict the other half of the fandom that doesn't like the character.

Conclusion

From my findings

Sources