



Robb mourns the death of his pregnant wife, Talisa (Oona Chaplin)



Catelyn (Michelle Fairley) meets her maker in *GoT*'s June 2 episode, "The Rains of Castamere"

Robb's wife doesn't attend the wedding in the book, yet show-runners **David Benioff** and **Dan Weiss** threw her into the massacre, too—because, you know, the scene wasn't already agonizing enough. "It's just like a kidney punch," Benioff says. "That's the feeling we got in the books, and that's what we're trying to emulate here on screen."



No happy reunion for Arya (Maisie Williams, with Rory McCann)

To shoot the episode, producers tapped acclaimed director **David Nutter** (a veteran of many TV pilots, from *Smallville* to *The Mentalist*), who was initially daunted by the infamous scene. "The trepidation and fear was so prevalent it consumed me for a year," Nutter says. "How the hell am I going to do this?"

Nutter asked the showrunners about each moment, pushed for extra rehearsal time with the actors, and detailed his plan for the crew on a blackboard like a football coach. The whole sequence at Frey's castle was scheduled for a generous five-day shoot, with the scenes deliberately staged in chronological order. "So every day we edged closer to the slaughter," Fairley says. "As the week progresses, you're getting more nervous."

Benioff and Weiss wanted the climactic violence to be brutal—no elegantly pulled punches, such as the cutaway when the executioner's sword came down on the neck of Robb's father, Ned Stark (**Sean Bean**), in the first season. "The audience deserves the real deal," Nutter says.

The day of Robb and Catelyn's death scene was also Madden and Fairley's final day on the set—which made the sequence extra emotional for all involved. "I remember turning to the script supervisor after one take where Richard was dying, and I was like, 'That was a good take,'" Benioff says. "And she was just bawling." The actors turned on the waterworks too. Madden recalls, "I cried my eyes out completely."

Creatively the move shakes up the game board once again in Westeros. With Robb's rebellion crushed, the Lannisters have solidified their hold on the realm—unless somebody else rises up. (A certain dragon queen, perhaps?)

Meanwhile, Madden and Fairley have been snatched up by other productions. Madden will star in Discovery Channel's six-hour miniseries *Klondike*, about a 19th-century prospector seeking his fortune in the Yukon, and he has also signed on to play Prince Charming in Disney's live-action *Cinderella*. Fairley has booked a recurring role on the USA series *Suits* as a British entrepreneur facing a lawsuit, and there's a chance she'll reappear in some capacity on *GoT* if the show closely hews to the books. As for Martin, he's currently working on the sixth book in his saga. But now that the Red Wedding has aired, he'd better steel himself: More emails are coming.

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