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But this could be even cooler: Maureen Ryan, revered television critic for the AOL TV Squad (and @moryan on Twitter), snagged three choice interviews at the recent TVA's: one with David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, Game of Thrones dvd one with George R.R. Martin, and one with Emilia Clarke.

Winter and I met Mo in Pasadena on Thursday, and it came as no surprise that she was literally the coolest television critic ever. And tall. She's very tall. The Super-Geek persona is not an act; the woman is nerdier than me, and that's saying something. It helps that she's addicted to ASoIaF, of course. She got to watch that 15 minute preview of GoT-y goodness along with Winter and I, and came away as geeked as anyone. Her favorite part: seeing the Wall for the first time! Mo knows Thrones!

“But you never quite know, you're always a little nervous, so I'm putting my children in that sense the hands of David & Dan and also the directors and the actors who were cast for the role, all of whom will bring their own input to them. And yeah, it is a little bit of empty nest syndrome that occurs there.”

Martin was then asked which character he thought was most changed from the books. He answered, “They've done a marvelous job, most of the characters are not different from the books. They are doing an excellent job of capturing the books.”

Natalia TenaHe did bring up Osha though, as maybe the biggest surprise or change from what he had envisioned. “When I was looking at the auditions for Osha and this actress [Natalia Tena] came up I said, “This is all wrong. She's 10 years too young, she's too pretty.” Osha is this hard-boiled woman. And then I watched her audition and her audition just blew me away, she was sensational. And I said, “It's gotta be her.”

“So my task now is when I bring Osha back [in the books], I'm gonna have to make her more interesting, so I can match the wonderful actress portraying her.”

My compatriot, Fire and Blood, then asked George about the infamous torture scene that we got a glimpse of in the recent behind-the-scenes video. Do you know if that is any sort of flashback or is it a dream sequence in which Ned is putting himself in his brother's shoes?

“You would really have to ask David & Dan about that particular image but my impression is that it is a flashback scene. That that's not Sean Bean. That that is someone who has been cast to play his brother. But I don't know, ask David & Dan when you do your session with them. I think that is a flashback. I know they cast the Mad King, they cast Aerys, and of course he doesn't actually appear in the books.”

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