The sooner the Starks are broken, the sooner I shall be free to deal with Stannis Baratheon. Tell the drummers to beat assembly, and send word to Jaime that I am marching against Eddard Stark.

— Tywin Lannister

Distrust and suspicion marked the relationship between House Stark and House Lannister even before Robert Baratheon's war of usurpation. After Robert's mysterious death, the relationship strained to the breaking point. What if Eddard Stark's profound misgivings about the motivations of the Lannisters, coupled with Robert's death and the attempt on his son's life, led him to lead his bannermen into the field against Tywin Lannister, instead of the more subtle, and ultimately fruitless path that he did take? In this scenario, an alternate War of Five Kings has erupted and at its climax, amidst burning fields in the Riverlands, Tywin and Eddard finally face each other in the field of battle.

What if?

Lannister has momentum.

Victory

If no instant victory is achieved, the player with the most victory points at the end of round 3 wins. VPs are awarded as follows:

1 VP for each enemy unit eliminated (immediate)
3 VP for each enemy commander captured (immediate)

Instant Victory

If at the end of any game round, a player has at least 5 VPs more than his opponent, he wins immediately.