# House of the Dragon Season 2 Premieres with Departure from Source Material Explicit Content



**House of the Dragon Season 2 Debuts, Excluding Explicit Content from Source Material**

The highly anticipated second season of HBO's "House of the Dragon" premiered on June 17, 2024, at 9 p.m. ET/PT. The fantasy series, based on George RR Martin’s novels, returns with its first episode titled “A Son for a Son,” continuing the tense prelude to the civil war known as the Dance of the Dragons.

Set in Westeros, the narrative picks up with Queen Rhaenyra Targaryen (Emma D’Arcy) and King Aegon II Targaryen (Tom Glynn-Carney) on the brink of conflict. Notable characters such as Prince Daemon (Matt Smith) and Queen Helaena (Phia Saban) return amid escalating hostilities between the Targaryen factions.

The premiere included a harrowing sequence where assassins Blood and Cheese attempt to kill Aemond but instead target an innocent child. The traumatic event was a deviation from the darker, more explicit version in Martin’s books, which included threats of sexual violence. This adaptation choice reflects a shift from the explicit content seen in “Game of Thrones” to a more restrained presentation.

The episode, directed by Alan Taylor and written by showrunner Ryan Condal, revisits familiar locations like Dragonstone, Driftmark, and the Red Keep, featuring pivotal moments such as Rhaenyra grieving her son's death and Daemon scheming against his enemies.

The cast for this season includes returning actors Olivia Cooke (Queen Alicent Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon), and newcomers Ashley Day (Princess Rhaenys).

"House of the Dragon" airs Sundays on HBO and is available for streaming in 4K on Max.