MEN ARE STRONGER; WOMEN ENDURE: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE THRONE OF GLASS AND THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS YA FANTASY SERIES

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Abstract

This study analyzes two popular YA fantasy series: Cassandra Clare’s The Mortal Instruments and Sarah J. Maas’ Throne of Glass. We evaluate both series for explore tropes and themes common to YA fantasy. Research shows that popular series have important effect on identity formation of readers, for good or ill. We conclude that, despite often being written by women and about girls, the narratives found in YA often perpetuate internalized sexism, play into racist tropes, reduce heroines to love interests, romanticize unhealthy relationships, use rape as a plot device, and abuse characters’ reproductive abilities.

Keywords

Young Adult literature; symbolic annihilation

Full Text:

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References


A connoisseur of young adult literature, you stumble onto your reading queue and realize that nothing in your "read" pile contains the author Sarah J. Maas. This needs to be rectified. Picking up the Throne of Glass and seeing the teenage protagonist on the cover, your mind gives you the imagery of what to expect. Newly introduced characters and a new task for the greatest assassin await us in the first book of the Throne of Glass series. This brings forth questions and even more mystery to the main character's personality and life itself. From the beginning, even us readers know very little of the assassin and where she came from -- how exactly did she become the greatest assassin we know and love? The ultimate guide to the Throne of Glass series and the world of Erilea, including an illustrated compendium of characters, settings, magic, gods, politics, creatures, and vocabulary, plus a timeline of events. ...more. flag 52 likes · Like · see review.

The entire story revolves around her just proving every single time how dangerous and strong I love SJM so much for writing a series that is so epicly badass. I remember finishing the first four books of this series in four days because it was so engrossing and I wouldn’t and couldn’t
take my mind of it no matter what. I would sit in my class in the last bench trying to finish one more page waiting for another big revelation and it kept going on because I loved the heroine’s character so much.