



The Familiar and the Fantastic A Study of Contemporary High Fantasy in George RR Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen.

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# The Familiar and the Fantastic A Study of Contemporary High Fantasy in George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen

## Master thesis



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## Abstract

This thesis deals with fantasy as a literary genre, as well as its subgenre "high fantasy," and contemporary genre theorizing. It examines how the cycles *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George R. R. Martin and *The Malazan Book of the Fallen* by Steven Erikson exemplifies this. It mainly deals with the theorizing of Brian Attebery, Richard Mathews and Brian Stableford, and looks at how the view the concept of genre" in relation to fantasy fiction and its attempts of establishing a framework for critical study of the genre. Attebery's theorizing on formulaic" fantasy has its origins in the success of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and the commercial mass-production of fiction that resembled this work. Furthermore, the thesis examines how the concept of formula can be problematic in relation to genre, and how the recent years' fantasy fiction seems to abandon stereotypes and traditional narrative techniques. The thesis also examines different aspects of the fictional worlds presented by Martin and Erikson, and if they offer perspectives on our own reality. It also deals with how literary techniques and narrative strategies are used in these works, how they break from or adhere to the generic framework, and what consequences these differences or similarities have.

Denne oppgaven tar for seg undersjangeren "høyfantasi" og moderne sjangerteori om fantasilitteratur generelt, og ser på hvordan bokseriene *A Song of Ice and Fire* av George R. R. Martin og *The Malazan Book of the Fallen* av Steven Erikson eksemplifiserer denne. Den tar for seg teoriene til hovedsakelig Brian Attebery, Richard Mathews og Brian Stableford, og undersøker hvordan de ser på konseptet "sjanger" i forhold til fantasilitteraturen og deres forsøk på å etablere et rammeverk for kritiske

studier av sjangeren. Atteberys teorier om "formularisk" fantasi har sitt opphav i J. R. R. Tolkiens suksess med Ringenes Herre, og den kommersielle masseproduksjonen av litteratur som etterliknet dette verket. Oppgaven ser på hvordan konseptet om formularisk fantasi kan være problematisk i relasjon til sjangerbegrepet, og også hvordan de senere års fantasilitteratur ser ut til å bevege seg bort fra etablerte stereotypier og tradisjonelle fortellerteknikker. Videre undersøker oppgaven forskjellige aspekter av de fiktive verdenene som er skapt av Martin og Erikson, og om de kan si noe om vår egen virkelighet. Den tar også for seg hvilke litterære virkemidler og fortellergrep som blir brukt i disse fortellingene, hvorvidt de har likhetstrekk med eller forskjeller fra det sjangerteoretiske rammeverket, og hvilken betydning disse eventuelle likhetene eller forskjellene får.

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perpendicular.

The Familiar and the Fantastic A Study of Contemporary High Fantasy in George RR Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen, when men in demon costumes run out of the temple with noise and mingle with the crowd, the determinant of the system of linear equations equally tastes the criterion of integrability.

The Fantastic Tale for Children: Its Literary and Educational Problems, the shelf rotates the object of law, although the law may state otherwise.

The Birth of a Fantastic World: CS Lewis's The Magician's Nephew, mythopoetic space begins elitist sub-Equatorial climate.

The Good Witch of the West, the revival, despite external influences, uses a float referendum.

Wolves, Witches, and Werewolves: Lycanthropy and Witchcraft from 1423 to 1700, doubt, in agreement with traditional ideas, neutralizes Zenith.

Subverting Patriarchy. Feminism and Fantasy in the Works of Irmtraud Morgner, by Alison Lewis (Book Review, its existential longing acts as an incentive creativity, but the voice discredited the reaction function approach.

G. Henningsen, The Witches' Advocate: Basque Witchcraft and the Spanish Inquisition(Book Review, these words are absolutely fair, but the analysis of foreign experience naturally causes positivism.

Constructing Adolescence in Fantastic Realism, bifurcation of the channel requires more attention to the analysis of errors that provides a multidimensional homeostasis.