

The Hero's Journey and the Tragic Hero

Who are some of the tragic heroes in science fiction or fantasy?

Professor Snape from Harry Potter



Alan Rickman as Severus Snape in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* created by J.K. Rowling

Why he's so tragic?

Snape is unknown to all except by Dumbledore. He is tragic because he is misunderstood by all and while growing up Harry's dad treated him horribly. He does all the right things in a quiet way all for the love of Harry's mother and a promise to protect Harry. He is forced to kill his friend and work as a double agent putting his life in danger for many years.

Jaime Lannister in Game of Thrones



Why is he so tragic?

Jamie Lanister has behaved despicably but he surprisingly fits as a 'Tragic Hero'. Let's start with his history: he saved King's Landing from the insane king who was preparing to burn down his own city - and when I say he was crazy, it's literally true; he was the product of incest which really messed with his genes. But Jamie killed him before he could commit more heinous acts and destroy the entire city - so yes, he killed the king but everyone is pretty happy that happened.

He also has committed incest with his sister which produced three children - the tragedy is that he cannot acknowledge that they are his. In addition, he had his hand cut off, which is what actually makes him 'who he is' and now must reinvent himself.

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau as Jaime Lanniser

Novel: *A Game of Thrones* (1996)

Created by George R. R. Martin