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Chapter 2 Assignment

TV Vs. Movies (What Works What Doesn’t)

I had a difficult time with this assignment because I often times have trouble putting my work in a box. Aetheryn, my fantasy TV series, borrows elements from multiple genres to make it interesting without making it too jarring in tone. Think of it as Dark Shadows meets Harry Potter with a dash of Narnia and a pinch of House of Cards. Game of Thrones does a decent job of being close to my concept, because the lore is just as rich as mine while still making it a watchable series. There are also, however, a lot of series out there who play with the ideas of immortals and undead such as Vampire Diaries.

Here is my biggest pet peeve of shows that use immortals of any kind, be them elves, vampires, or what have you. None of them truly go into the mental trauma of living that long. True, there are flashbacks of them living their lives and going on adventures, but rarely are any of them truly sick in the head from their eternal existence. Imagine, if you would, being the equivalent of not only Thomas Jefferson in founding a nation, but the Marie Curie of medical science… and watching over the centuries of how people have abused what you tried to create. This is Dr. Lazare Mordeus. The science level in this world is about late 17th century on the surface with the Dwarves underground bordering on Steampunk. Between the magic and technology mix being put forth, becoming immortal is not a pipe dream. It’s uncommon, but it’s an attainable feat. Dr. Wallace (one of the main protagonists) is the one trying to be the founder of modern-day psychology in this world. Exploring what becoming immortal by various means as well as the psychology of long-lived races such as elves, fey, and dragons, is something that few have done and something I want to really bring out. It will make the characters that much more relatable.

Game of Thrones. I have yet to watch it because I didn’t want it to influence Aetheryn too much. Suffice to say, however, there is a lot of lore to keep up with. This is a double-edged sword. I am always afraid that someone who watches an episode in the middle of the series who has no clue who the characters are would have a hard time keeping up with the significance of the events. House of Cards also suffers greatly from this problem. If you don’t watch the previous episode, you have no bloody clue the epic scale of things. Here is my solution to the problem; a 3 tier immersion for the lore. You have the main series which, as it is, you don’t need much to pay attention to. Yes, knowing what happened in previous episodes to understand the plot makes viewers watch the reruns for more ratings. I do, however, wish to reward viewers for paying attention to detail. On top of the main series, I wish to post internet episodes on the website which go along with the television series, but focus on more boring things such as Isabella, the apprentice learning to be a politician, learning the social protocol of how mortals act around the Black Gentry (the undead nobility). Seeing this episode online will later make you appreciate the love story between Dr. Mordeus, and Isabella’s mother much, much more. As those episodes come out, there is one big website which acts as a lexicon, telling in specific detail the history of the nation. Events which may be mentioned in passing during an episode will be referred to in detail on the website. Those who pay attention to the website may make interesting conclusions on the future directions of the series. Think of it as the spare books Tolkien wrote about Middle Earth to supplement the series. It’s for the die-hard fans who want to dive into the world of Ryn.