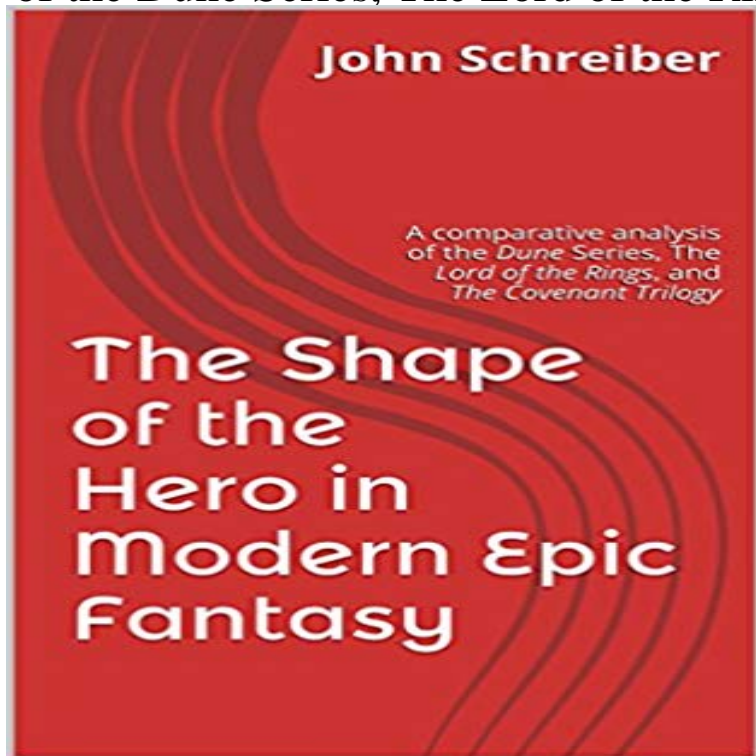


# The Shape of the Hero in Modern Epic Fantasy: A comparative analysis of the Dune Series, The Lord of the Rings, and The Covenant Trilogy



This thesis, approved in 1983, has been slightly updated to use some of the newer styles (italics rather than underlining, for example), but still retains some of the older MLA documentation. The purpose of the thesis was to compare three modern epic fantasies, hoping to discover to what extent the heroes of these modern epic fantasies share similarities and what these similarities reveal about the genre. Though this analysis also uses the somewhat dated writing style then prevalent in theses, its conclusions are still sound. The findings of this thesis served as the template for the epic fantasy novel *Heartstone*, whose first draft was completed in late 1985 or 1986. It was followed years later by the sequel *Heartstone: Under the Shadow*.

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