ROBIN HOBB SHIP OF MAGIC

ROBIN HOBB SHIP OF MAGIC: A JOURNEY INTO A RICH FANTASY WORLD

ROBIN HOBB SHIP OF MAGIC IS A PHRASE THAT IMMEDIATELY DRAWS FANS OF EPIC FANTASY INTO THE INTRICATE AND IMMERSIVE WORLD CREATED BY ONE OF THE GENRE'S MOST BELOVED AUTHORS. KNOWN FOR HER DEEPLY EMOTIONAL STORYTELLING AND COMPLEX CHARACTERS, ROBIN HOBB'S "SHIP OF MAGIC" SERVES AS THE OPENING NOVEL IN THE LIVESHIP TRADERS TRILOGY, INTRODUCING READERS TO A UNIVERSE WHERE MAGIC, POLITICS, AND SEAFARING ADVENTURE INTERTWINE SEAMLESSLY. WHETHER YOU'RE A LONGTIME FAN OR NEW TO HOBB'S WORK, EXPLORING THE WORLD OF "SHIP OF MAGIC" OFFERS A FASCINATING GLIMPSE INTO A UNIQUE FANTASY LANDSCAPE FILLED WITH VIVID CHARACTERS AND COMPELLING NARRATIVES.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC

AT ITS CORE, "SHIP OF MAGIC" IS SET IN THE FICTIONAL REALM OF THE SIX DUCHIES AND THE OUTISLANDS, A MARITIME CULTURE WHERE SHIPS ARE MORE THAN JUST VESSELS—THEY ARE LIVING, BREATHING ENTITIES INFUSED WITH MAGIC. THE CONCEPT OF LIVESHIPS, CENTRAL TO THE STORY, DEFINES THE ENTIRE SERIES. THESE SHIPS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM WIZARDWOOD, A RARE AND MYSTICAL MATERIAL THAT ALLOWS THE SHIPS TO COME ALIVE ONCE THREE GENERATIONS OF A FAMILY HAVE DIED ON THEIR DECKS. THIS MAGICAL ELEMENT ADDS A LAYER OF DEPTH AND MYSTICISM TO THE ALREADY COMPLEX WORLD ROBIN HOBB HAS BUILT.

THE LIVESHIPS AND THEIR UNIQUE MAGIC

One of the most fascinating aspects of "Ship of Magic" is the idea of liveships themselves. Unlike traditional fantasy ships, these vessels possess consciousness, memories, and personalities, making them characters in their own right. The process of a ship "waking" after the death of three family members is a poignant and often haunting event that reflects themes of legacy, memory, and transformation.

THIS CONCEPT INTRODUCES READERS TO A MAGICAL SYSTEM THAT IS BOTH UNIQUE AND DEEPLY SYMBOLIC. THE LIVESHIPS SERVE AS METAPHORS FOR FAMILY, HISTORY, AND CHANGE, WEAVING TOGETHER THE PERSONAL AND THE SUPERNATURAL IN A WAY THAT ENRICHES THE NARRATIVE.

KEY CHARACTERS IN SHIP OF MAGIC

ROBIN HOBB'S STRENGTH LIES IN HER ABILITY TO CRAFT MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS, AND "SHIP OF MAGIC" IS NO EXCEPTION. THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND THE VESTRIT FAMILY, WHOSE FORTUNES ARE TIED TO THE LIVESHIP VIVACIA. EACH CHARACTER IS METICULOUSLY DEVELOPED, REFLECTING DIFFERENT FACETS OF HUMAN NATURE AND THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE.

ALTHEA VESTRIT: A DETERMINED PROTAGONIST

ALTHEA IS A STANDOUT CHARACTER WHO DEFIES TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES WITHIN HER SOCIETY. STRONG-WILLED AND SKILLED IN SEAMANSHIP, SHE FIGHTS TO CLAIM HER RIGHTFUL PLACE AS CAPTAIN OF VIVACIA. HER JOURNEY IS ONE OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND EMPOWERMENT, RESONATING WITH READERS WHO APPRECIATE CHARACTERS BREAKING FREE FROM SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS.

WINTROW VESTRIT: FROM PRIESTHOOD TO SEAFARER

WINTROW'S TRANSFORMATION FROM A RELUCTANT NOVICE IN A RELIGIOUS ORDER TO A SAILOR ABOARD HIS FAMILY'S LIVESHIP

ADDS EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND COMPLEXITY TO THE STORY. HIS INTERNAL STRUGGLES AND GROWTH MIRROR THE LARGER THEMES OF IDENTITY AND DESTINY WITHIN THE NARRATIVE.

OTHER NOTABLE CHARACTERS

- **MALTA VESTRIT:** THE YOUNGEST SIBLING, WHOSE PERSPECTIVE OFFERS INSIGHT INTO THE FAMILY DYNAMICS AND UNFOLDING EVENTS.
- **SERILLA: ** A CUNNING AND AMBITIOUS POLITICAL FIGURE WHOSE MACHINATIONS ADD INTRIGUE AND TENSION.
- **KENNIT:** A PIRATE WHOSE PRESENCE INTRODUCES DANGER AND UNPREDICTABILITY, CHALLENGING THE ESTABLISHED ORDER.

THEMES EXPLORED IN ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC

BEYOND ITS ADVENTUROUS PLOT, "SHIP OF MAGIC" DELVES INTO PROFOUND THEMES THAT ENRICH THE READING EXPERIENCE.

THESE THEMES ARE WOVEN THROUGH THE CHARACTERS' ARCS AND THE WORLD'S HISTORY, ENCOURAGING READERS TO REFLECT ON BROADER HUMAN EXPERIENCES.

LEGACY AND FAMILY

THE CONCEPT OF LEGACY IS CENTRAL TO THE NARRATIVE. THE LIVESHIPS THEMSELVES EMBODY THE WEIGHT OF HISTORY AND THE EXPECTATIONS PLACED UPON THE VESTRIT FAMILY. CHARACTERS GRAPPLE WITH THE BURDEN OF THEIR ANCESTORS' DECISIONS AND THE DESIRE TO FORGE THEIR OWN PATHS.

FREEDOM AND CONFINEMENT

Many characters wrestle with the tension between societal obligations and personal freedom. Althea's struggle for autonomy as a female captain, Wintrow's escape from religious constraints, and the liveships' own existence all highlight different facets of this theme.

POWER AND MORALITY

POLITICAL INTRIGUE AND THE QUEST FOR POWER DRIVE MUCH OF THE PLOT. ROBIN HOBB DOES NOT SHY AWAY FROM EXPLORING THE MORAL AMBIGUITIES OF POWER, SHOWING HOW AMBITION AND DESIRE CAN BOTH CORRUPT AND INSPIRE.

WHY ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC STANDS OUT IN FANTASY LITERATURE

"Ship of Magic" distinguishes itself through its richly detailed world-building and emotionally resonant storytelling. Robin Hobb's prose is immersive, painting vivid scenes of the sea, bustling ports, and intimate family moments. Her ability to blend high-stakes adventure with introspective character development makes the book appealing to a wide range of fantasy readers.

MASTERFUL WORLD-BUILDING

THE MARITIME SETTING AND THE CONCEPT OF LIVESHIPS ARE CRAFTED WITH METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL. THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, CULTURAL CUSTOMS, AND MAGICAL ELEMENTS FEEL AUTHENTIC AND LIVED-IN, DRAWING READERS INTO A

COMPLEX CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

EACH CHARACTER IS FLAWED AND RELATABLE, WITH MOTIVATIONS THAT FEEL GENUINE. THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS, ALLIES, AND ENEMIES EVOLVE NATURALLY, PROVIDING EMOTIONAL STAKES THAT COMPLEMENT THE EXTERNAL CONFLICTS.

ENGAGING PLOT AND PACING

THE NARRATIVE BALANCES MOMENTS OF ACTION, SUSPENSE, AND QUIET REFLECTION. THIS PACING KEEPS READERS INVESTED, EAGER TO UNCOVER THE FATES OF THE CHARACTERS AND THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THE LIVESHIPS.

TIPS FOR NEW READERS DIVING INTO SHIP OF MAGIC

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING "SHIP OF MAGIC," A FEW TIPS CAN ENHANCE THE READING EXPERIENCE:

- PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WORLD'S LORE: THE INTRICATE DETAILS ABOUT THE LIVESHIPS, WIZARDWOOD, AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS ENRICH THE STORY AND OFTEN HAVE LASTING SIGNIFICANCE.
- Take Your Time with Character Development: Robin Hobb's characters grow gradually, so appreciating their nuances will deepen your connection to the story.
- PREPARE FOR EMOTIONAL DEPTH: THE BOOK EXPLORES HEAVY THEMES SUCH AS LOSS, IDENTITY, AND SACRIFICE, SO BE READY FOR MOMENTS THAT MAY BE EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGING BUT REWARDING.
- Consider Reading the Trilogy in Order: "Ship of Magic" is the first book in the Liveship Traders Trilogy, and following the sequence enhances understanding and enjoyment.

LEGACY OF SHIP OF MAGIC AND ITS PLACE IN ROBIN HOBB'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Ship of Magic" is not only a cornerstone of the Liveship Traders Trilogy but also a significant part of Robin Hobb's larger body of work. The trilogy complements her earlier Farseer Trilogy, expanding the universe and exploring different facets of its cultures and magic systems. Fans often praise "Ship of Magic" for its unique perspective on fantasy tropes, particularly its focus on maritime adventure and the bonds between humans and magical ships.

THE NOVEL'S IMPACT EXTENDS BEYOND ITS PAGES, INSPIRING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GENDER ROLES IN FANTASY, THE NATURE OF SENTIENCE, AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF FAMILY LEGACIES. IT REMAINS A FAVORITE AMONG READERS WHO APPRECIATE CHARACTER-DRIVEN FANTASY WITH A STRONG EMOTIONAL CORE.

EXPLORING "SHIP OF MAGIC" OFFERS A REWARDING JOURNEY INTO A WORLD WHERE MAGIC SAILS ON THE HIGH SEAS, AND EVERY CHARACTER'S FATE IS ENTWINED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS LIVESHIPS THAT CARRY THEM. FOR ANYONE SEEKING A RICHLY CRAFTED FANTASY TALE THAT COMBINES ADVENTURE, HEART, AND MAGIC, ROBIN HOBB'S "SHIP OF MAGIC" IS AN UNFORGETTABLE VOYAGE WORTH EMBARKING UPON.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS 'SHIP OF MAGIC' BY ROBIN HOBB ABOUT?

'SHIP OF MAGIC' IS A FANTASY NOVEL BY ROBIN HOBB THAT FOLLOWS THE STORY OF THE LIVES INTERTWINED AROUND A SENTIENT SEA SHIP NAMED VIVACIA, EXPLORING THEMES OF MAGIC, TRADE, AND ADVENTURE IN A RICHLY DEVELOPED MARITIME WORLD.

WHO IS THE MAIN PROTAGONIST IN 'SHIP OF MAGIC'?

THE MAIN PROTAGONIST IN 'SHIP OF MAGIC' IS ALTHEA VESTRIT, A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN DETERMINED TO RECLAIM HER RIGHTFUL PLACE AS CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP VIVACIA, WHICH BELONGS TO HER FAMILY'S SHIPPING BUSINESS.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 'LIVESHIPS' IN THE NOVEL?

LIVESHIPS ARE MAGICAL SHIPS MADE FROM WIZARDWOOD THAT COME TO LIFE AFTER THREE GENERATIONS OF A FAMILY HAVE DIED ON THEM. THEY POSSESS INTELLIGENCE AND PERSONALITY, PLAYING A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE STORY AND SYMBOLIZING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS AND THE SEA.

IS 'SHIP OF MAGIC' PART OF A SERIES?

YES, 'SHIP OF MAGIC' IS THE FIRST BOOK IN THE LIVESHIP TRADERS TRILOGY BY ROBIN HOBB, FOLLOWED BY 'THE MAD SHIP' AND 'SHIP OF DESTINY.'

WHAT THEMES ARE EXPLORED IN 'SHIP OF MAGIC'?

THE NOVEL EXPLORES THEMES SUCH AS FAMILY LOYALTY, IDENTITY, SLAVERY, FREEDOM, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF POWER, ALL SET AGAINST A BACKDROP OF MARITIME ADVENTURE AND MAGICAL REALISM.

HOW DOES ROBIN HOBB DEVELOP THE CHARACTER OF ALTHEA VESTRIT?

ROBIN HOBB DEVELOPS ALTHEA AS A DETERMINED AND RESOURCEFUL WOMAN WHO CHALLENGES SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS, SHOWCASING HER GROWTH AS SHE FIGHTS TO TAKE CONTROL OF HER FAMILY'S SHIP AND LEGACY.

WHAT ROLE DO PIRATES PLAY IN 'SHIP OF MAGIC'?

PIRATES ARE SIGNIFICANT ANTAGONISTS IN THE NOVEL, REPRESENTING DANGER AND LAWLESSNESS ON THE SEAS, AND THEY IMPACT THE LIVES OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS, ADDING TENSION AND CONFLICT TO THE NARRATIVE.

CAN 'SHIP OF MAGIC' BE READ INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHER ROBIN HOBB SERIES?

YES, 'SHIP OF MAGIC' CAN BE READ INDEPENDENTLY AS IT BELONGS TO A SEPARATE TRILOGY WITH ITS OWN CHARACTERS AND PLOT, THOUGH READERS FAMILIAR WITH ROBIN HOBB'S OTHER WORKS MAY APPRECIATE HER STYLE AND WORLD-BUILDING MORE DEEPLY.

WHAT IS THE SETTING OF 'SHIP OF MAGIC'?

THE NOVEL IS SET IN THE FICTIONAL CITY OF BINGTOWN AND ITS SURROUNDING SEAS, A BUSTLING TRADING HUB WHERE MARITIME COMMERCE AND MAGIC INTERTWINE.

HOW HAS 'SHIP OF MAGIC' BEEN RECEIVED BY READERS AND CRITICS?

'SHIP OF MAGIC' HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED FOR ITS INTRICATE WORLD-BUILDING, COMPELLING CHARACTERS, AND UNIQUE

INCORPORATION OF MAGICAL SHIPS, EARNING PRAISE FROM FANS OF EPIC FANTASY AND ROBIN HOBB'S WRITING.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC: A PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

ROBIN HOBB SHIP OF MAGIC STANDS AS A SEMINAL WORK IN THE REALM OF EPIC FANTASY, MARKING THE BEGINNING OF THE ACCLAIMED LIVESHIP TRADERS TRILOGY. PUBLISHED IN 1998, THIS NOVEL INTRICATELY WEAVES THEMES OF IDENTITY, TRANSFORMATION, AND MARITIME ADVENTURE WITHIN A RICHLY CONSTRUCTED WORLD. AS A CORNERSTONE OF ROBIN HOBB'S LITERARY CAREER, SHIP OF MAGIC HAS GARNERED ATTENTION NOT ONLY FOR ITS COMPELLING NARRATIVE BUT ALSO FOR ITS NUANCED CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO FANTASY TROPES.

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC

ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC DISTINGUISHES ITSELF BY BLENDING TRADITIONAL FANTASY ELEMENTS WITH A MARITIME SETTING THAT IS RARELY EXPLORED WITH SUCH DEPTH IN THE GENRE. THE NOVEL INTRODUCES READERS TO THE BINGTOWN ARCHIPELAGO, A CLUSTER OF ISLANDS WHERE SHIPPING FAMILIES CONTROL TRADE AND POWER. CENTRAL TO THE STORY ARE THE LIVESHIPS THEMSELVES—MAGICAL VESSELS MADE FROM WIZARDWOOD THAT GAIN SENTIENCE AFTER THREE GENERATIONS OF A FAMILY'S USE.

THE NARRATIVE'S STRENGTH LIES IN ITS MULTI-LAYERED STORYTELLING, WHICH BALANCES POLITICAL INTRIGUE, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND MYSTICAL LORE. HOBB'S PROSE IS INTENTIONALLY DETAILED, ALLOWING THE READER TO IMMERSE FULLY IN THE WORLD'S SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE AUTHOR'S USE OF FIRST-PERSON PERSPECTIVES ACROSS MULTIPLE CHARACTERS CREATES AN INTIMATE CONNECTION WITH THE UNFOLDING EVENTS, MAKING THE STAKES FEEL IMMEDIATE AND PERSONAL.

WORLD-BUILDING AND SETTING

One of the most lauded features of Ship of Magic is its intricate world-building. Unlike many fantasy novels focused on land-based kingdoms, Hobb's maritime setting provides a fresh backdrop. The Bingtown society is depicted with anthropological precision, showcasing class divisions, cultural customs, and economic dependencies that mirror real-world maritime trading communities.

THE SHIPS THEMSELVES ARE MORE THAN MERE VESSELS; THEY ARE CHARACTERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. THE CONCEPT OF LIVESHIPS—SENTIENT SHIPS THAT EMBODY FAMILY LEGACIES—ADDS A UNIQUE LAYER OF MYSTICISM AND EMOTIONAL COMPLEXITY. HOBB'S IMAGINATIVE PORTRAYAL OF WIZARDWOOD, A RARE AND MAGICAL SUBSTANCE, DEEPENS THE MYTHOS SURROUNDING THESE SHIPS AND TIES THE FATE OF THE CHARACTERS TO THE VESSELS THEY COMMAND.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND THEMES

THE NOVEL'S CAST IS DIVERSE AND DEEPLY DEVELOPED, EACH CHARACTER GRAPPLING WITH PERSONAL DILEMMAS THAT REFLECT LARGER SOCIETAL ISSUES. ALTHEA VESTRIT, ONE OF THE CENTRAL PROTAGONISTS, EMBODIES THEMES OF RESILIENCE AND REBELLION AS SHE CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES IN A MALE-DOMINATED MARITIME WORLD. HER JOURNEY FROM ESTRANGEMENT TO RECLAIMING HER RIGHTFUL PLACE ON HER FAMILY'S LIVESHIP FORMS A COMPELLING NARRATIVE ARC.

Other characters, such as Wintrow Vestrit, offer a contrasting perspective. His internal conflict between duty and personal belief highlights themes of faith, sacrifice, and the cost of loyalty. The sentient ship, Liveship Vivacia, emerges as a fascinating entity whose evolving consciousness ties together the human and supernatural elements of the story.

THEMES OF INHERITANCE, TRANSFORMATION, AND THE BONDS BETWEEN HUMANS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT PERMEATE THE NOVEL.

HOBB SKILLFULLY EXPLORES HOW FAMILY LEGACIES CAN BE BOTH A BURDEN AND A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, AND HOW IDENTITY IS SHAPED BY BOTH INTERNAL DESIRES AND EXTERNAL EXPECTATIONS.

THE ROLE OF MAGIC AND FANTASY ELEMENTS

MAGIC IN SHIP OF MAGIC IS SUBTLE YET INTEGRAL. RATHER THAN RELYING ON OVERT SPELLCASTING OR GRAND MAGICAL BATTLES, HOBB OPTS FOR A MORE ORGANIC APPROACH TO FANTASY. THE LIVESHIPS' SENTIENCE AND THE MYSTICAL PROPERTIES OF WIZARDWOOD SERVE AS THE PRIMARY MAGICAL MECHANISMS, DEEPLY ENTWINED WITH THE NARRATIVE'S EMOTIONAL AND THEMATIC CORE.

This restrained use of magic distinguishes Robin Hobb's work from other fantasy authors who often emphasize spectacle over substance. The magic in Ship of Magic operates as a metaphor for interconnectedness and the unknown depths of the natural world, enhancing the story's contemplative tone.

COMPARATIVE CONTEXT IN FANTASY LITERATURE

When compared to other fantasy works of the late 20th century, Ship of Magic occupies a unique space. Unlike the high fantasy epics of Tolkien or the sword-and-sorcery tales of Robert E. Howard, Hobb's novel prioritizes character psychology and socio-political complexity. The maritime setting invites comparisons to historical nautical literature but infuses it with fantastical elements that broaden its appeal.

In relation to her own body of work, Ship of Magic extends the universe introduced in The Farseer Trilogy, though it stands independently in terms of plot. This continuity allows fans of Hobb's storytelling style to engage with familiar themes while exploring new character dynamics and settings.

STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL LIMITATIONS

- STRENGTHS: ROBIN HOBB'S SHIP OF MAGIC EXCELS IN CHARACTER-DRIVEN STORYTELLING, IMMERSIVE WORLD-BUILDING, AND A UNIQUE FANTASY PREMISE CENTERED ON SENTIENT SHIPS. THE NOVEL'S EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND EXPLORATION OF GENDER ROLES ADD LAYERS OF COMPLEXITY THAT RESONATE WITH CONTEMPORARY READERS.
- LIMITATIONS: THE NOVEL'S PACING MAY FEEL DELIBERATE AND SLOW TO SOME, ESPECIALLY READERS ACCUSTOMED TO ACTION-HEAVY FANTASY. THE DETAILED PROSE AND EXTENSIVE FOCUS ON INTERNAL CHARACTER STRUGGLES REQUIRE PATIENCE AND ATTENTION TO FULLY APPRECIATE.

DESPITE THESE POTENTIAL CHALLENGES, THE NOVEL REMAINS A REWARDING READ FOR THOSE WHO APPRECIATE NUANCED STORYTELLING AND RICH THEMATIC EXPLORATION.

IMPACT AND LEGACY

Ship of Magic has influenced a generation of fantasy writers who seek to blend traditional genre elements with innovative world-building and character complexity. It has contributed significantly to the recognition of Robin Hobb as a master of character-driven fantasy narratives.

THE NOVEL'S SUCCESS ALSO PAVED THE WAY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT BOOKS IN THE LIVESHIP TRADERS TRILOGY, WHICH CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE SAGA'S SCOPE AND DEEPEN ITS EXPLORATION OF MORALITY, LOYALTY, AND TRANSFORMATION.

THE ENDURING POPULARITY OF SHIP OF MAGIC IS EVIDENT IN ITS CONSISTENT INCLUSION IN FANTASY READING LISTS AND ITS PRESENCE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN FANTASY LITERATURE. ITS BLEND OF MARITIME ADVENTURE AND MAGICAL REALISM OFFERS A DISTINCTIVE VOICE THAT CONTINUES TO ATTRACT NEW READERS AND INSPIRE CRITICAL ANALYSIS.

As readers navigate the intricate plotlines and evolving characters of Robin Hobb's Ship of Magic, they encounter a world that challenges conventional fantasy narratives while celebrating the power of legacy, identity, and the mysterious forces that bind us all. This novel remains a testament to the enduring appeal of thoughtful, character-centric storytelling within the fantasy genre.

Robin Hobb Ship Of Magic

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argues that the term Subcreation with its revised and broadened definition, in part differing from J.R.R. Tolkien's original term sub-creation, may be used for the discussion of the making of fictional worlds in literary discourse. The successful conception of a fictional world depends on the reader's willing suspension of disbelief. This depends both on the author and his skilled composition of the world and all its aspects, as well as on the reader's acceptance of this invented fictional world. The author needs to create a narrative with an inner consistency, which is crucial to achieving the effect of the reader's immersion in the fictional world. The fundamental aspects that an author needs to realize to achieve successful Subcreation have been structured into and analysed in four categories: Language and Linguistic Variation, Physiopoeia, Anthropoeia and Mythopoeia. Furthermore, this thesis shows that, as contemporary examples of fantastic literature, both Tad Williams's and Terry Pratchett's fictional worlds are successfully created through the realization of these aspects of Subcreation. Apart from commenting on the success of the subcreative process, this thesis also remarks upon the cultural influences both authors include in their writings. While both may be considered Anglophone in a general categorization, Pratchett's Discworld retains a feeling of 'Britishness' that is not to be found in Williams's Otherland. The thesis proposes several approaches to Subcreation that may be studied subsequently. So, for example, it may be possible to determine the success of an author's Subcreation by collecting empirical data. Apart from literary works this field of studies may also include other media.

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