

### Rebekah Hunt

#### **YOU DIED: Life Lessons from Fantasy Gaming**

The objective of this paper is to defend fantasy gaming as a creative, enriching, and deeply significant experience and to demonstrate (supported by historical, psychological, and sociological research, as well as my own experience playing these games and training as a Magic: The Gathering tournament judge) the immense value of fantasy games as teachers of some of life's most important lessons, as well as the potential of gaming itself to influence the future of the real world in tremendously positive ways. I will use examples from many of my own favorites, as well as some of the most praised and maligned fantasy games of the 20th and 21st centuries.

*Rebekah Hunt is a professional writer and editor, amateur philosopher, and lifelong Tolkien scholar. She lives in relative splendor in the blessed realm of Portland, Oregon and she is extremely wealthy (if you count cats), but it has not made her arrogant. Rebekah dreams of one day being interviewed on the Daily Show regarding her groundbreaking book in which she presents the final, definitive answer to that universal question: "I know you are but what am I?"*



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