Hero's Journey



What is The Hero's Journey Model?

The Hero's Journey model is a narrative framework used to analyze the different stages that a protagonist goes through in a story. The model consists of different stages, including the call to adventure, crossing the threshold, challenges and obstacles, mentors and allies, and the ultimate goal. In this analysis, we will examine how the Hero's Journey model is presented in the movie "Edge of Tomorrow" and explore how the protagonist, William "Bill" Cage, goes through these stages.

Summary

"Edge of Tomorrow" is a science-fiction action film released in 2014, directed by Doug Liman and starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt. The movie is set in a near-future world where humanity is fighting an alien race called Mimics that have invaded Earth. William "Bill" Cage is a military public affairs officer who is sent to the front lines to cover the final major battle against the Mimics. Despite his lack of combat experience, he is forced to fight and ends up killing a rare Alpha Mimic. In doing so, he is killed but wakes up the day before the battle, reliving the same day repeatedly. With the help of a skilled soldier named Rita Vrataski, who has also experienced the same time loop before, Cage must use his new power to find and destroy the Mimic hive mind and save humanity.

Analysis

The Call to Adventure:

In the beginning, Cage is an officer in the military who has never seen combat. His mission is to cover the war effort from a public relations standpoint, but he is quickly thrown into a battle he is not prepared for. This sudden change of events is his call to adventure, as he must now fight to survive and figure out how to defeat the Mimics.

Crossing the Threshold:

Cage crosses the threshold into the unknown when he is killed by an Alpha Mimic and wakes up back at the beginning of the same day. He realizes that he is caught in a time loop and must use his new power to try and win the war against the Mimics.

Challenges and Obstacles:

Throughout the movie, Cage faces numerous challenges and obstacles as he tries to break the time loop and defeat the Mimics. Initially, he is inexperienced in combat and dies repeatedly, but he gradually learns from his mistakes and improves his skills. Cage must also convince Rita of his time loop, as she does not believe him at first. Additionally, the Mimics adapt to Cage's tactics and become more difficult to defeat as the story progresses.

Mentors and Allies:

Rita Vrataski is Cage's primary mentor and ally in the story. She has also experienced the time loop before and understands what he is going through. Rita helps Cage improve his combat skills and comes up with a plan to destroy the Mimic hive mind. Additionally, Master Sergeant Farell, a veteran soldier who initially despises Cage, becomes an ally and helps train him in combat.

The Ultimate Goal:

The ultimate goal for Cage is to destroy the Mimic hive mind and win the war against the alien invaders. Initially, Cage's only goal is to survive the day, but he gradually becomes more focused on the larger goal of saving humanity. He and Rita devise a plan to infiltrate the Louvre Museum, where the Mimic hive mind is located, and destroy it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "Edge of Tomorrow" is a thrilling and action-packed movie that follows the classic Hero's Journey model. The movie presents a protagonist who initially lacks heroic qualities but is thrown into an extraordinary circumstance that forces him to develop and grow as a person.

The movie successfully follows the stages of the Hero's Journey model, beginning with the ordinary world where the protagonist, William Cage, is introduced as a cowardly public relations officer with no combat experience. He is then thrown into the unknown when he is forced to join a military operation against an alien invasion, and this is where he crosses the threshold into the adventure.

Throughout his journey, Cage faces numerous challenges and obstacles, including death, that he must overcome to progress towards his ultimate goal of defeating the aliens and saving humanity.

The mentor role is played by Rita Vrataski, a battle-hardened veteran who teaches Cage how to fight and strategize against the aliens.

Cage's growth and development are evident as he learns from his mistakes and becomes a more skilled fighter with each iteration of his time loop. His journey culminates in the final battle, where he faces the ultimate challenge and sacrifices himself to achieve his goal, demonstrating his heroic qualities.

Overall, "Edge of Tomorrow" presents a well-executed Hero's Journey, with excellent pacing, character development, and action. The movie keeps the audience engaged and invested in Cage's journey, rooting for him to succeed and overcome the challenges that he faces.