

How Role Playing Games Forged Their Identity: Game Histories



The Elusive Shift: How Role-Playing Games Forged Their Identity (Game Histories) by Jon Peterson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1434 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 330 pages
X-Ray	: Enabled



Role-playing games have come a long way since their humble beginnings in the 1970s. Today, they are one of the most popular forms of entertainment, with millions of people around the world enjoying them. But how did RPGs become so popular? And what are the key factors that have shaped their identity over the years?

In his book, *How Role Playing Games Forged Their Identity*, game historian Jon Peterson takes a deep dive into the history of RPGs, exploring the people, places, and events that have shaped their development. Peterson argues that RPGs are not just a form of entertainment, but also a form of art and expression. He shows how RPGs have been used to explore social and political issues, and how they have helped to shape the imaginations of generations of players.

Peterson begins his book by tracing the origins of RPGs back to the early days of tabletop gaming. He shows how the first RPGs, such as Dungeons & Dragons, were heavily influenced by fantasy literature and mythology. However, Peterson also argues that RPGs are more than just a rehash of old stories. He shows how RPGs have evolved over the years, incorporating new ideas and mechanics that have made them a unique and compelling form of entertainment.

One of the most important factors that has shaped the identity of RPGs is the concept of player agency. In RPGs, players are not simply spectators; they are active participants in the story. They make choices that affect the outcome of the game, and they help to create the world that the characters inhabit. This sense of player agency is what makes RPGs so immersive and engaging.

Another key factor that has shaped the identity of RPGs is the concept of character development. In RPGs, players create characters that they can play over multiple sessions. These characters grow and change over time, as they gain experience and overcome challenges. This character development is one of the things that makes RPGs so addictive. Players become invested in their characters, and they want to see them succeed.

However, Peterson also argues that RPGs are not without their critics. Some people have argued that RPGs are too violent, or that they promote unhealthy social behavior. Peterson acknowledges these criticisms, but he also argues that RPGs can be a positive force in society. He shows how RPGs can teach players about teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving.

Ultimately, Peterson argues that RPGs are a valuable form of art and entertainment. They have the power to transport players to other worlds, to let them experience different lives, and to teach them about the human condition. In his book, *How Role Playing Games Forged Their Identity*, Peterson provides a comprehensive and fascinating look at the history of RPGs. He shows how RPGs have evolved over the years, and he explores the key factors that have shaped their identity. Whether you are a lifelong RPG fan or a newcomer to the genre, Peterson's book is a must-read.



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