M9 – The Legacy / tragic flaw

What is a tragic flaw?

The term “tragic flaw“ refers to a trait in a character that leads to his or her downfall. Usually the character – often referred to as a tragic hero – isn’t aware of his or her flaw and doesn’t expect the downfall. The concept can already be found in Greek tragedies with hubris or hybris – meaning arrogance - being the most common tragic flaw. The Greek term for this concept is hamartia. It should be emphasized, though, that the trait or quality constituting the tragic flaw must not be a purely negative or condemnable trait.

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