Tragic Hero

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| Biographical Information | Virtues | Journey | Tragedy  | Flaw |
| Who: Leslie Cheung What: iconic singer, award-winning actor and LGBT+ pioneer in a time when not many stars were open about their identities.When: (12 September 1956 – 1 April 2003)Where: Hong Kong How? On 1 April 2003, the beloved actor and singer died by suicide. He was only 46 years old. | Give examples of how the hero/heroine is virtuous? Cheung lived his truth openly during a time when the LGBT+ community was heavily persecuted. He even declared his love for a man, his childhood friend and long-term partner Daffy Tong, during a live concert in 1997.What attributes describe the heroine/hero's strengths?How does the heroine/hero's story arouse empathy?Cheung publicly declaring his love for another man was an intensely brave move. Homosexuality was only decriminalised in China in 1997. But it wasn’t until 2001 that it was declassified as a mental disorder. | Was the heroine/hero doomed from the start?Yes.How was your herorine/hero wounded by her/his experiences (physically/spritually/emotionally)?Despite his later superstar status, Cheung said he was initially not a popular singer. He recalled how an audience once told him to “get off the stage” during his first public performance after the singing competition. “In those days when everything was full of uncertainty … I remember well that my singing career at the early stage was like ‘a person running into a rock’, full of despair and obstacles,” Cheung said.Adult gay sex was decriminalised in Hong Kong in 1991. But Travis Kong, an associate professor of sociology researching gay culture at the University of Hong Kong, told BBC Chinese in 2018 that queer men were still being called “AIDS man” and “pervert” in the 1990s.In what ways did your hero/heroine learn from her/his mistakes?He learned to become even more resilient and finally gained widespread recognition for his singing talent after he released his first album The Window Blows On in 1981 and a hit single “Monica”, a cover of a Japanese song, in 1984.  | Did the heroine/hero suffer more than she/he deserves?In a society so oppressive to the LGBT community, the coming out of such a renowned superstar had a huge effect on the general public.Sadly, Leslie Cheung received harsh backlash for living his truth.On 1 April 2003, the beloved actor and singer died by suicide. He was only 46 years old.Does the heroine/hero bear responsibility for her/his tragedy?Partly.Leslie Cheung left a suicide note saying that he had been suffering from depression. He was 46 years old.According to the suicide note found with Mr. Cheung’s body, he was suffering from depression. It can be presumed that it was either going untreated or was poorly treated. | How is your hero/heroine flawed?He was trying to live up to the Chinese standards of men at the time of always having to act tough and never showing weakness which eventually took a toll on his mental health. But he is mor of a victim of the judgmental society in my opinion What attributes describe the heroine/hero's flaws?Neglective of his mental health , suppressing emotions from traumas and criticism he faced.  |