

*Destroy Me*, review by Kellyn February 2025

The novel *Destroy Me*, the second book of the *Shatter Me* series written by Tahereh Mafi had me hooked from the first page. Tahereh Mafi has such an amazing writing gift that makes the process of reading any of her books such a good experience. After reading the first book and being absolutely obsessed, it was no surprise that I found *Destroy Me* to be just as captivating. Getting to understand the following events of the first book from a different perspective made the book very interesting, and I was utterly fascinated by what the new perspective of narration revealed about Warner, who we did not understand much of from the first book. Being able to get a glimpse of the mindset of the antagonist of the series truly opened doors of somewhat an understanding of him, and I was mainly intrigued getting to understand his complex feelings for Juliette. The glimpse of the vulnerability of Warner that was introduced revealed him to be more than just a villain, which I originally took in from the perspective of Juliette in the first book.

*Destroy Me* follows the events of *Shatter Me*, only the main difference is that instead of coming from the perspective of Juliette, it comes from the perspective of Warner. The story gives us a viewpoint of everything going on within the mind of Warner, which includes his emotional and physical pain due to Juliette after her successful escape from The Reestablishment. As the wounds of Warner heal, his inner thoughts reveal his complicated relationship with Juliette considering his obsession with her, and his inability to cope with her rejection of him. Furthermore, he is forced to grapple with the high expectations his father bestows upon him that he feels are unjust. Being the son of the Supreme Commander, the tyrannical nature of his father pressures him constantly. Warner also reflects on his past which includes memories of the abusive household he was raised in. He reveals these experiences to have affected his worldview and his behavior around others. Though he appears to be ruthless and unkind, the perspective of Warner allows the reader to sense a vulnerability that creates an emotional effect that implies that he is still human and his behavior is only an effect of his troubled background and stress that he receives from his father.

Something that I enjoyed from *Destroy Me* was getting to delve into the mindset of Warner. It was an overall emotional process for me, as the reader, to become aware of the abuse that Warner, someone I originally considered to be a spiteful villain with no remorse, suffered

through. Just being able to understand Warner as a character made the book so intriguing, and I found myself developing a soft spot for him.

I recommend *Destroy Me* to every reader worldwide, especially those who have enjoyed the first novel in the *Shatter Me* series! I also recommend *Destroy Me* to those who enjoy books within the dystopian category and the romance category and are possibly looking for a combination of the two.

Go check out *Destroy Me* at the Newport Beach Public Library!