

SHATTER ME

by Tahereh Mafi

Published in 2011

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary/Realistic

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other:

Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me* is a dystopian novel that follows the story of Juliette, a 17-year-old who is cursed with the ability to harm and even kill others with just a touch. The oppressive regime ruling over humanity called the Reestablishment becomes aware of the protagonist's frightening power when she accidentally commits a horrible crime, and forces the guilt-ridden Juliette into isolation in an asylum for nearly a year. After her escape from the asylum, Juliette encounters Adam, a friend from her past, and Warner, a controlling figurehead of the Reestablishment, and as her relationships with both begin to develop, she must also develop a sense of her own identity and learn to trust herself above all.

In theory, *Shatter Me* offers an interesting premise, but loses some of its narrative weight in its prioritization of the romantic plot. I found that often times the world building and character depth suffers in exchange for time exploring the relationship between Adam and Juliette, as well as Warner's obsession with the protagonist. Juliette is a character who has been introduced with a unique perspective and personality, but the majority of her development is shown through her interactions and relationships with the two men, and not through her own experiences or attempts to discover herself. The few characters besides the main three also feel underdeveloped, and again add very little depth to the story.

Overall, this novel is a fun read if you enjoy more romance-centered plots or if you have a great appreciation for writing style, but not so much if you enjoy books that offer a more in-depth experience. However, it is a series of six, so people who enjoy more lengthy plots may also enjoy *Shatter Me* to a much greater extent.

By Carolina E, 12th grade, enjoys reading mystery, science fiction, and action/adventure