

Legend

Author: Marie Lu

Reviewed by: Owen Broadwater, 12 years old

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This dystopian story is set in the future, showcasing a future where the glaciers have melted and have sunk many plots of land throughout the world. The United States has fractured, resulting in a long, tumultuous war. The story focuses on the Republic (West Coastal America) where the militarized government is facing a rapidly developing problem, a widespread outbreak of a plague that they had no clue how to cure. The protagonists Day and Jude are interesting, complex characters, who are fundamentally different from each other. Day is the most wanted criminal in the entire Republic, able to break into any facility in the Republic, and Jude is the highest rated soldier in the Republic coming out of the academy, being prepared for various leadership roles. Their eventual encounter launched a series of events that challenges both of their beliefs.

In this book, the author did not just focus on the two main characters and their relationship with each other. In addition to that, a fair amount of time was spent on the secondary characters and their importance to both the plot and the protagonists. This was an exceptional added layer to the story, showing the values of both Day and June. The symbolization and representation expressed in the book was a tremendous way for the author to encourage mindful reading, which always adds to the experience. Moreover, the symbolism was not just some vague, subtle piece of the story that you had to work hard to see. That story element only required a little bit of consideration, as it took place with the main characters. I also deeply enjoyed the complexity of the main characters, especially Day. His criminal background allowed the author to incorporate a culture more down-to-Earth, which might resonate more with readers. Also, it was refreshing to read a book where no one is portrayed as a Saint, with absolutely no flaws. Instead, the central characters had many imperfections. These they had to deal with, and accept, just like we have to do in our lives. This relatable world makes the book more enjoyable. Overall, the book is a good find, with an exceptional author's craft.

There really were no inadequacies in this book. The only parts that I felt could have been better was the way in which the author dealt with the background information needed to fully comprehend the story. Readers are expected to just learn throughout the book, leaving parts of the book where you did not fully understand as a result of an incomplete reserve of background knowledge. The incorporation of adult themes and mild violence mean that this book should only be read by those 12 years or older. All in all, this dystopian work of literature is a terrific book to read, especially by those who

enjoy wondering about what the future world could be, such as a world following the melting of the glaciers.

Recommended Titles:

- Numbers Game by Rebecca Rode
- The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau
- Ink and Bone by Rachel Caine
- Acid by Emma Pass
- The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken