

**Warcross**

**Marie Lu**

**Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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A failed hack by Emika Chen, a struggling teenage hacker and bounty hunter, causes her to glitch into the opening game of the International Warcross Championships, drawing the attention of the world and the game's mysterious, young creator, Hideo Tanaka. The next morning, Emika is whisked away to the futuristic city of Tokyo where Hideo makes her an offer of a lifetime. A hacker has targeted Warcross and Hideo needs a spy on the inside. Suddenly thrust into the spotlight, Emika must navigate the strange world of fame and professional gaming while uncovering a plot with unimaginable consequences for Warcross and the world.

Marie Lu's world building was great. She displays an amazing ability to create a believable futuristic world. Her story raises relevant issues about technology, privacy, and the influence that tech giants have on our everyday lives. The characters were okay. They were all likeable and had good intentions, but sometimes a little cookiecutter. However, the diversity in this story is incredible: Hideo is Asian, Emika is Chinese-American, the captain of Emika's Warcross team is handicapped in a wheelchair, and Roshan and Tremaine are gay. The romance was good all round. Emika and Hideo is an awesome pair. They are in love, but still can stand on their own convictions. Background-relationships-wise, Roshan and Tremaine's story is swoon-worthy. Overall Lu uses some overdone tropes, but it still makes for a pretty fun read.

This book is probably good for ages twelve and up. There isn't a ton of questionable stuff: a few swears, some kisses, celebration with champagne, and some YA-typical violent scenes. This is probably best borrowed from the library as it isn't really worth rereads. Warcross is a solid YA novel that is good, but not particularly new or innovative.

**Recommendations:**

- Rebel by Marie Lu
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
- Cinder by Marissa Meyer
- Renegades by Marissa Meyer
- Legend by Marie Lu