Brenna Fikel

Mr. Jackson

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*Tomorrowland & Fahrenheit 451*

For every pessimistic character, there is an optimist to counter them. The book *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury, and the film *Tomorrowland* show proof of this. There are themes throughout these stories that do not shine a happy light on humanity or what it has created. Despite the antagonists’ agendas to project their views of hate onto the people, they could not stop the protagonists from fighting back. The creators of these stories were able to clearly convey not only what they value, but what they think the the people of society should value more.

Tomorrowland and Fahrenheit 451 both carry messages of hope, but also contain characters who refuse to consider a truth that isn’t their own. David Nix and Beatty are seen as good men in power to the people of society. However, these men strongly believe that the ordinary human is very easily manipulated by emotion. Nix, from Tomorrowland, had even gone as far as to say that “These people are driven by savagery...then nothing would survive.” Also, Beatty had said “A book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it. Take the shot from the weapon. Breach man's mind. Who knows who might be the target of the well-read man? Me? I won't stomach them for a minute.” (Bradbury 56) When people are given information, especially when life changing, it is unknown how they react. Beatty and Nix predict the most negative of outcomes possible based off of history, whereas characters like Casey and Athena in Tomorrowland search for only positive futures. These characters view on their societies go to show how people can be manipulated by emotion, whether it be guilt, fear, or perceived happiness.

Furthermore, the citizens of Fahrenheit 451 and Tomorrowland are very fast to give up their freedoms that make up their individuality. When describing how the people had not objected to the loss of books Beatty said “Authors, full of evil thoughts, lock up your typewriters. They did.”(Bradbury 54) As well as Faber when saying to Guy Montag “Remember the firemen are rarely necessary. The public stopped reading of its own accord... hardly necessary to keep things in line. So few want to be rebels anymore.” (Bradbury 87) Over time, less and less people cared that the knowledge for generations to discover in historic books was decreasing. In like manner, Nix had expressed to Frank how instead of trying to change a future with a negative outcome, people find comfort in their imminent doom. He said “They gobbled it up like a chocolate eclair! They didn't fear their demise, they repackaged it! It can be enjoyed as video games, as TV shows, books, movies – the entire world wholeheartedly embraced the apocalypse, and sprinted toward it with gleeful abandon.” These men have lost all hope for the world, but once again, Casey is one of the few who can see the good.

Throughout both Fahrenheit 451 and Tomorrowland it is clear to see that people can be controlled by keeping them dependent. In Fahrenheit 451 it was more clear. Not to mention when Beatty came right out and said “You can't build a house without nails and wood. If you don't want a house built, hide the nails and wood. If you don't want a man unhappy politically, don't give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none. Let him forget there is such a thing as war.” (Beatty 61) He has an understanding that in order to shape an ideal society, you must give them the idea that this way of living is the best. Likewise to when Casey, in Tomorrowland, was told by Frank that “what you saw isn’t there...you’ve been manipulated into thinking you’re special.” In addition Casey had later said to Athena, when she found out the truth about Tomorrowland, that “If you’re gonna zap an idea into people’s heads you better make sure it’s the truth.” Showing people a certain image of a life they hope to live is to give the person a hope that could break them when not fulfilled. This in turn, is unavoidable when people of a society are made to be controlled in order to maintain a paranoid man’s definition of peace.

It is evident that both creators share a similar view of people. They both believe that humans are, quite honestly, their own worst enemy. When the world seems as if it's turning upside down it's commonly due to choices made by individuals. In Fahrenheit 451, the books were burned because people stopped caring. They did not realize how important the knowledge from the books would be. It wasn't until books were outlawed that they knew what they’d lost. While in Tomorrowland, everyone ignored signs that told them they needed to change how they lived. But, instead of adapting, people chose to accept an imminent death. These stories are strong messages that come as a warning from Ray Bradbury and the makers of Tomorrowland. They seek for society to value more than what is right in front of us. For if we can learn to value what is truly important we won't ever have to worry about losing it.