



Destruction

Sharon Bayliss

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David Vandergraff wants to be a good man. He goes to church every Sunday, keeps his lawn trim and green, and loves his wife and kids more than anything. Unfortunately, being a dark wizard isn't a choice.

Eleven years ago, David's secret second family went missing. When his two lost children are finally found, he learns they suffered years of unthinkable abuse. Ready to make things right, David brings the kids home even though it could mean losing the wife he can't imagine living without.

Keeping his life together becomes harder when the new children claim to be dark wizards. David believes they use this fantasy to cope with their trauma. Until, David's wife admits a secret of her own—she is a dark wizard too, as is David, and all of their children.

Now, David must parent two hurting children from a dark world he doesn't understand and keep his family from falling apart. All while dealing with the realization that everyone he loves, including himself, may be evil.

Destruction Details

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Author : Sharon Bayliss

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Download and Read Free Online Destruction Sharon Bayliss

From Reader Review Destruction for online ebook

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

I so completely love this intense, powerful, book that I feel I've consumed it and made it a part of my soul. It's magical (yes, magic and its practice or avoidance is one of the essential theme threads) but "magical" in the sense of inspiring, soaring, life-affirming, love-affirming. It's lyrical, light-bringing, and unforgettable. Please do savor it and make it a part of your life too.

Jen Estes says

DESTRUCTION is the start of The December People Series, about a family of winter wizards (aka dark wizards) living secretly in present-day Texas. It's a story of family secrets, family struggles, family magic – all wrapped up in a fantasy that is suspenseful, shocking and surprisingly sympathetic. Some fantasies take you into a completely different world, which can be a fun escape, but what I really liked about DESTRUCTION is that it felt like my world and my family – with a little magic and mayhem to boot. Sharon Bayliss did an amazing job creating this magical world that lies beneath our own. I love being under the spell of an excellent new series, except for one problem: the painstaking wait for the next book!

Ann M. Noser says

This book kept me reading, which was a big relief because I DNF the last 3 books I picked up. Sometimes I wonder if the issue is with ME and not the book in my hand. So finding DESTRUCTION right now was perfect timing. Thank goodness!

Non-spoiler-ish:

Potential readers should realize (and will pick up on this right away) that this is not a YA paranormal story. I'm not sure why I thought this. Was it something about the lovely cover? Or did the mere mention of wizards and witchcraft send me straight to Harry Potter land? I don't know. But this novel is gritty and determined. Infidelity, abuse, discovery, and disappointment fill the pages.

I've never seen witchcraft combined with a family drama in this way. What a fabulous idea! Why should only teenagers have all the fun? This is a really unique way to write about witchcraft. Of course, I've read Alice Hoffman who combines adults with magic, but this felt very different.

The writing, descriptions, characters, and pacing were spot on.

The ending left me wanting more. Thank goodness it's the first book in a series. I hope to learn more about the character Rachel in the second book in the series. I feel there is so much more to her than one would think.

All the characters seemed real. They acted and reacted. They were both good and bad. I had no trouble jumping from character to character as the POV changed. Patrick was my favorite. He had the purest soul. Plus, he's the only one who reacted as he should've to the one issue I point out below.

Potentially spoilerish comment below: (don't read if you don't want to know)

The only person I shook my head at was David. Actually, I wanted to shake him at times. His poor wife. I tried to blame his lying, hiding, and cowardice on his addled brain (which his wife messed with years before), but his inability to take rape and abuse as more serious matters than he does, that I have a hard time forgiving. This character fault is likely intentional, but doesn't make him very likable when he cares so much more for the rapist than the victim. I realize why he cares, and I personally might be considered over-sensitive on the subject of rape, but I couldn't help feel the victim was hurt much more than once, and betrayed by more than just her attacker.

But that was my ONLY issue. And, as I've said, I am oversensitive on that subject. So I am biased.

Otherwise, I loved every single thing about this book. I really want to know where the author is going with this series. I'd also like more details on a death near the end of the book. (I'll say no more on that. Don't want to be too over spoilerish.)

5 stars means that someday I plan to reread this book, and that I intend to read the rest of the series. Highly recommended read! Cheers!

Emma Adams says

I wasn't sure what to expect going into this book – I loved Sharon's debut novel *The Charge*, but I was intrigued to read a new spin on dark wizards. This couldn't be more different from traditional stories about magic, in a good way!

David's family life might seem to be perfect on the surface, but one day he gets a phone call which changes everything. Bringing home two children from a secret affair he had twelve years ago, he has to drop a bombshell on his unsuspecting wife and three other children. Worse, his second family suffered abuse at the hands of their stepfather and seem to be suffering from delusions that the entire family are dark wizards. But maybe they aren't delusions...

I couldn't put this book down! From the first page it had me hooked. The characters feel like real people, and the story moves at the perfect pace. It's dark, bleak in places, but at the centre of the story is a man who loves his family, even though he's made bad choices. I've honestly not read a story like it before! This is a real page-turning read, and one I'd recommend to anyone looking for something new in fantasy. Five stars!

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

This book took me by surprise - I really didn't think I'd love it as much as I did.

The first chapter read a little awkwardly; I think the writer was finding their footing. It thankfully took off from there - fast. David had an affair and now it's come to haunt him - as he has to take custody of the two kids from that relationship. The children were kept in hiding by the mother and her abusive boyfriend, and they practiced a dark sort of magic.

The story doesn't stop with the surprises. Every few chapters I would sit there stunned, learning something

new that changed the game. Changes about the children, or the main characters like David himself. The world building was creative and not like anything else I've read before. A mix between dark and light magic. It's not really in your face types, though, more of a subtle magic. Fascinating stuff.

The wife took awhile to grow on me, but I ended up liking her more later. Each kid had their own personality and current story, which became fascinating.

I can't wait for the second book to see what happens. I'm especially curious about David and the friend's parents. It didn't end on a cliffhanger per se, but definitely makes me want to keep reading.

It's not strictly a young adult, it's as suitable for the adult genre. A fantasy type story. Highly recommended if you enjoy stories with magic as part of the world building.

The Bookend Family says

I'm going to be honest, when I first started reading this book I was under the impression I was going to be reviewing a new Young Adult Series. I quickly realized my mistake and readjusted my viewpoint. How wonderful that an author chose to write about magic in the adult world (ie., families, kids, work, and so on.) I was enthralled with this world for many reasons. First and foremost it resembled my own. It's always nice to believe there is a little bit of magic in our world every now and then. This book expanded upon that premise beautifully. The author did an exception job of keeping a real world perspective, there were the interpersonal issues of a merging family, the money issues of a job loss, and then there were the issues of teenagers not listening to their parents. Sharon Bayliss took all that and added a layer of magic, which was both a blessing and a curse to the family.

The story opens with the main characters discovery that two children from a previous adulteress relationship have been located under the most heinous conditions. He quickly resolves that he will be bringing his children home to his unknowing family. What follows is a remarkable look into a family with issues all while discovering and learning that they have magically abilities, but that they should not use them because they are "black" witches and wizards. Even though they desire to do good their ultimate result will be that of destruction.

I really enjoyed this book, and I read it quickly. There are moments where the author captured the breath-taking beauty of the Texas country in such detail that I had no problems visualizing it. The characters were real, they had flaws, and I learned to care about each of them. The only about this book that I would criticize is that the ending felt too rushed. The big battle at the end was not even there, it was relayed to us by another character. There were also some things left open, the job loss, was it caused by magic, etc.. These are minor things, as overall the story excelled for that of a new emerging author. I would certainly recommend it and I without a doubt will be patiently awaiting the next book in this series.

Isis says

I would like to thank Curiosity Quills Press for granting me the opportunity to read e-book in exchange for an honest review. Though I received this e-book for free that in no way impacts my review.

David Vandergraff wants to be a good man. He goes to church every Sunday, keeps his lawn

trim and green, and loves his wife and kids more than anything. Unfortunately, being a dark wizard isn't a choice. This is a fascinating take on magic & witchcraft. The concept of seasonal wizards - summer, fall, winter, and spring is a new take for me. Add to that the idea that when you are born determines if you are a light wizard or a dark wizard, and all the shades in-between. For example someone born on the winter solstice would be the darkest possible wizard, while someone born on the spring equinox would be more balanced toward light, the summer solstice would be the lightest, and the autumnal equinox would again be more balanced, but leaning more toward the dark than the spring equinox.

Eleven years ago, David's secret second family went missing. When his two lost children are finally found, he learns they suffered years of unthinkable abuse. Ready to make things right, David brings the kids home even though it could mean losing the wife he can't imagine living without.

Keeping his life together becomes harder when the new children claim to be dark wizards. David believes they use this fantasy to cope with their trauma. Until, David's wife admits a secret of her own—she is a dark wizard too, as is David, and all of their children.

Now, David must parent two hurting children from a dark world he doesn't understand and keep his family from falling apart. All while dealing with the realization that everyone he loves, including himself, may be evil.

David and his wife Amanda have three kids, Jude, Patrick, and Emmy. They live in an enormous house, have multiple cars, and are more than well off. David is the CEO of his own construction company, and Amanda is employed as well, bringing home a healthy income. Essentially they appear to lead a charmed life, one that is about to come crashing down around them.

We first meet David as he learns his missing children, from a second family no one else knows about, have been located. He had spent the last eleven years trying to locate his two children after he broke things off with their mother. None of the private investigators he'd hired were able to locate them either; they had disappeared so completely it was as if they'd never existed. Setting the tone for much of what is to follow, the day David goes to meet and pick up his two missing kids his wife reminds him that their daughter's friend Samantha would be staying with them for three weeks while her parents were skiing in Switzerland. In Amanda's mind this isn't an issue, as they have two unoccupied guest bedrooms. Obviously Amanda doesn't know that David was not only unfaithful, having children with this other woman even while the two of them were expanding their family. And David is about to potentially destroy his marriage when he returns with these two kids. Kids that are visibly his own. Clearly David avoids confrontation whenever possible, subsequently making one poor choice after another, generally making bad situations worse.

Though saddened to hear the kids' mother is dead, he is horrified to learn she was killed by her abusive husband, a man whose abuse included both of David's children. But the reality is he is currently terrified of how he'll handle these two abused kids of his. And to be brutally honest, how he'll be able to keep his marriage together after he drops this bomb in everyone's laps. David's rage over what was done to his children helps insulate him from the shock, but he feels lost when it comes to meeting and raising these kids of his that he doesn't know. Kids who are entering his life at possibly one of the most emotionally challenging point in their lives. Xavier and Evangeline are not what he expected, yet he can see that they are clearly his kids. It is when David meets the social worker that he first learns of wizards and magic, for it seems that Evangeline has created an elaborate world of dark and powerful wizards as her coping mechanism.

As David later discovers, what he thought of as Evangeline's believes coping mechanism is actually his new reality. Angry as she is Amanda admits to him that she too had kept a secret - not only are she and David both dark wizards, all their children are as well. But since dark wizards' power is destructive, many elect not to practice their craft, which could explain why David knows nothing about this new world he's suddenly been thrust into. Suddenly David is falling down the rabbit hole, and in his life one thing after another seems to fall apart. Things are spiraling out of control, for David and everyone around him.

The kids are mostly typical teenagers, with their secrets and rebellions. But add illicit magic to the mix and things rapidly get out of hand. The magic learning curve for everyone is different, for example Samantha has always known that she and her parents are spring witches, Amanda knows enough not to mess with magic, and to differing degrees their three kids want to experience magic. Only Xavier and Evangeline are magical unknowns, claiming to know a fair amount, but refusing to share their knowledge.

For a first book in a series I feel this one does a nice job setting the scene for things to come. The character development and arc of the story blend together quite seamlessly, making the story feel as realistic as possible. This is thanks in large part to the utter believability of the characters and their individual responses to various situations they face during the course of the story. The emotional growth of the characters may feel stunted at times, but that only lasts until you remember the magnitude of what they are learning about themselves and each other. David isn't a terribly sympathetic character, though I did feel more for him toward the end, when he stopped worrying quite so much about how things would impact him and instead put his concern for his family first.

The story offers a fascinating take on magic & witchcraft. The concept of seasonal wizards - summer, fall, winter, and spring is a new take for me. Add to that the idea that when you are born determines if you are a light wizard or a dark wizard, and how light or dark depends upon the date you were born. For example someone born on the winter solstice would be the darkest possible wizard, while someone born on the spring equinox would be more balanced toward light, the summer solstice would be the lightest, and the autumnal equinox would again be more balanced, but leaning more toward the dark than the spring equinox. So no matter what the intent of the person, their power comes down to something as simple as their birthday. Since dark wizards power is destructive, very few tend to practice, which means that when they may possibly need the aid of magic very few know what to do.

*Brief note: Throughout this book it seems that the terms wizard and witch are used interchangeably, but there may be some differences I did not pick up.

Nikola Vukoja says

I was fortunate enough to get a pre-copy of Destruction on Friday and was looking forward to a quiet weekend read. That didn't happen, because, I couldn't put it down! I finished the entire novel in less than 24 hours. This is a wonderful novel, the chapters are short and sharp and the mix of characters and inter-twining events just keep you turning the page.

Set in the real world with a secret world of Wizards & Witches which, we are told, makes up 0.001% of the world population, the wizard families are broken up into seasons, winter wizards etc.

Yet it's so much more than fantasy meets reality. The characters deal with issues of abuse and mixed families and struggles both normal – like the “MUNDANE'S” – and the issues unique to each wizard family and each seasonal change.

Let me also say, read past page 1 & 2. They seem almost out of place but as soon as you've read pages 3-5 and beyond, you understand the need for the "mundane" as it sets the scene for the struggles, internal and external of all the characters.

This is a truly amazing and wonderful story. I actually am suffering from reader's remorse and if I had every book in the series I would have read the lot this weekend with barely a break. I have already pre-requested the next in the series.

Let me finish by saying, five stars simply does not do justice to this novel or to the author's skill with words and world building. There should be another star or a gold star, dedicated to the truly awesome and utterly engaging.

I simply loved it!

Katie Hamstead says

Full Disclosure: I was the Acquiring Editor for this book

Sharon is an awesome storyteller. What I love most about this book is that the characters are so alive and even kind of nuts. They are dark wizards that want to be good, and so struggle with all their might to be good.

Destruction follows David, husband of Amanda, and father of teenagers Jude, Patrick, and Emmy. It starts when David is called to tell him his long lost children, Xavier and Evangeline, have been found, but their mother, Crystal, has been murdered. He is to take custody of the two teens, that his wife knows nothing about.

When he brings them home, the expected hell breaks loose when his wife is furious about his affair from years before, and their children are furious at his betrayal. But the two new siblings reveal something about them which they didn't know; they are all dark wizards and witches.

The children all start acting out and using their new found powers recklessly.

This story is heartfelt and gripping. It's so human even as the characters struggle with their magical sides. With such a vast cast, Bayliss has done a fabulous job at keeping all their stories real and emotional. Through all their struggles and flaws you feel for them and hope they can resolve their problems.

I can't wait for the next book!

Lucinda says

A refreshingly new edition to the fantasy genre and gripping page-turner!

Anyone seeking a sensational story with extraordinary world building and breathtaking imaginative vision will find this novel an unexpected delight. Atypically set within a modern-day setting this highly unusual fantasy blends seamlessly together current, contemporary fiction with a sprinkling of otherworldly enchantment. Due to the 21st century setting that hides secrets about magic, it makes the well-crafted storyline even more convincing and believable as you can relate to the characters easily. The fine line between fantasy and reality is so beautifully blended that the dark Wizards feel a very much a part of life;

and so I found it easy to lose myself within Sharon Bayliss' convincing tale. 'The December People' is a series that will appeal to fans of edgy Urban fantasy and "Charmed", who like how **magic is interwoven within the fabric of our own existence**...therefore making it seem all the more **real** as a part of our world! (Opposed to classic fantasy worlds).

David Vandergraff is a loving husband and caring father whose clever façade hides beneath a dark, sinister secret. He is a Wizard with an enigma surrounding a second family; all of who are Dark Wizards like himself. Not only does David have to come to terms with the realization that everyone he loves, including himself, may be evil but that his has a challenging task ahead to keep his family together

This character-driven, poignant tale is about love, loss and family as it highlights the inner-strength we all are in possession of. The intriguing concept and breathtaking premise of this story is utterly phenomenal, and I was certainly not expecting such an engrossing read that kept me sat in suspense throughout. The heartfelt sincerity and warmth within the deftly woven narrative reaches out to the reader, so as to touch you inwardly and make you care about the characters and their personal journey. I liked how the main protagonist grew and developed throughout the book, with the hardships that tested him only making him a stronger person. Hugely impacting and inspiring this spellbinding story is wonderfully woven and brilliantly realized on the page, so as to leave you with memories that linger on the mind for a long time afterward.

The characters in this book feel very real due to the profundity of depth and emotional resonance within the storyline. **Deliciously darkchilling tension**, the bleak backdrop of this novel is hypnotically magnetic and so you are drawn into this strange new world. At times I almost forgot that I was reading fantasy fiction, as the family drama and characterization seemed to take precedence.

4.5 Stars!

*I would like to thank Sharon Bayliss for providing me with a **physical** copy of her new novel "Destruction" to read & review. *

Veronica of V's Reads says

I didn't know I'd like this book so much! I mean, it starts out with an adulterous husband, David, learning that his teenage kids have been found. Kids he hadn't known--not since their mother had disappeared. And, I mean that literally. She was a witch. Now dead, their children Evangeline and Xavier were recovered, not completely intact. Part of their wizard stepfather's rituals had included rape...of both of them.

Bringing his lover's kids home is sure to destroy his marriage--and it does. Amanda is furious, but takes the children in knowing they have no other prospects. David's other children--Jude, Patrick, and Emmy--want nothing to do with David or their strange half-siblings. Evangeline believes herself a witch, for crying out loud! And Xavier says virtually nothing to anyone.

This family has more than just infidelity issues, however. Because, it turns out Evangeline is right--she is a witch. In fact, the whole family is magical--and not in a good way. Amanda had long ago, without David's knowledge, stripped the painful memories of his childhood--including his knowledge of magic.

Amanda knew they were dark witches, and wanted to keep her family safe from the destructive magic they controlled by ensuring no one ever practiced. Not so easy when you bring home two magical children. Now all David's children are practicing, on the down-low against Amanda's wishes.

But it seems here's a lot more going on in this family. The darkness is taking over Jude, and pitting brother against brother--particularly when Jude attacks Patrick's girlfriend. To save his family, David must embrace the magic within and surrounding him. And, when he learns Evangeline and Xavier's stepfather may not have been killed, well, it kicks off the biggest crisis of the book.

I must say, I was captivated by the story. The magic within is very subtle, and bears plenty of repercussions--being Winter People, David's family can't help but channel the destructive type of magic. Even simple spells with good intentions turn out to be horrible. You want to help someone? They get helped, but at another's expense.

It's diabolical, really. I wanted to hate David. He's a weak man who carried on an affair for years--and yet, it's impossible to hate him. His personal and professional lives are crumbling. Many men might walk away--and he refuses. He does his best to be the stand-up guy and strikes a bargain with Amanda to co-habitate and raise the kids together--even when all the magic becomes real and he's completely rudderless.

Amanda is not a great person, because she's so damned real. She's a harried, frustrated, angry woman in a situation she never expected to be: supporting a man and his five children, though she only gave birth to three of them. Oh, and practicing magic again to contain her magic-infused charges--something she swore she would never do. Her whole world bottomed out the day those kids showed up at her doorstep, but she fought hard to keep her self, and her family, together. I had to love her passion for those kids and really respected how she handled David's betrayal.

The book just kept moving, the plot getting darker and murkier--much like the magic. Don't expect to see a lot of binding spells or fire incantations. This is a subtle magic, which I think made it more approachable. It's a standalone book, and the first in a series. Several directions for other books to pick up this families trials, however.

Clearly Jude's burgeoning darkness will be a huge part of future stories. And the day-to-day trials of choosing to use, or not use, magic will play out. The family clearly is divided on that issue. I look forward to other books in the series.

Yzabel Ginsberg says

(I got an ARC through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.)

2.5 stars. Some parts I really enjoyed, but some others were really problematic for me.

All in all, the plot itself is quite a "mundane" one—in that it could be a contemporary novel, without any need for magic in it. For years, David had a mistress, who bore him two children, then vanished from the surface of Earth. Twelve years later, he learns that she's just died, and he takes custody of his children... without his wife and three other children knowing. On top of all, the kids born out of wedlock were abused by their stepfather. Instant recipe for drama. Just add water.

Now, because sorcery isn't necessary to such a plot, doesn't mean I didn't like it. On the contrary. It lent an interesting spin to this story, because the "destruction" magic theme ran parallel to the destructive path on which the Vandergraff family was set, and opened up a can of questions. What would destroy them: their own nature as wizards and witches, or just their human nature, period? Would things have been the same without magic, would they have gone through the same pitfalls?

The author's take on magic was one I found intriguing. Wizards/witches' powers are attuned to seasons, with

magicians born in summer having the most "positive" magic, spring/autumn being more balanced, and winter magicians having to contend with sorcery that always ends up destroying. The latter, as a theme, was bound to get my attention, because it's something I find fascinating, and along the story, indeed, it appeared to fit my own belief system, so to speak. Winter magicians are "doomed", in that magic amounts to creating consequences, without any control on the causes... and the causes their spells give birth to are of the destructive kind. For instance, a spell meant for someone to "get money" could very well result in "character inherits a lot of money due to spouse dying" (and not by merely winning the lottery, or winning at the races, etc.). On the other hand, destruction-related powers aren't bad per se: a skilled sorcerer could just as well use them to operate on people and destroy tumors, thus saving lives. I really liked that the magic system in this novel took such things into account, and didn't only go with "destruction = bad".

Another thing I liked was that no character was completely black or white. David cheated on his wife and chickened out on too many things (including telling her *before* picking up Xavier and Evangeline at the orphanage), but he also managed to display some bravery when it came to his family's safety. Amanda was rightfully outraged, but also had secrets of her own, which didn't exactly make her a saint. Jude and Emmy are their own shades of fucked-up, Xavier harbours knowledge that could destroy him (while still wanting to protect his sister), Evangeline can't decide whether she loves her mother, or thinks she "deserved" what happened to her... And so on.

However, a couple of major problems (major for me, at least) prevented me from fully enjoying this novel. First of all, wizards are supposed to be rare (0.001% of the population?), but they keep attracting each other like there's no tomorrow. This ended up in a cluster of magicians gathered in the same place; even friends were wizards/witches. At some point, it became rather unbelievable—and I don't mean in a general sense: I mean within the context and "rules" of the story.

Second, there were a lot of double standards, and I think I'd have liked to see them challenged some more. David does it, but only weakly. Mostly Amanda annoyed me in that regard, with her holier-than-thou attitude and her tendency to conveniently ignore what *she* had done, while giving guilt-trips to others. It's part of the imperfect nature of this character, sure, but almost nobody called her on her bullshit. All right, David cheated on her and had two kids in her back, which is totally crass. But in the early days of their marriage, Amanda was the one who (view spoiler) I'm aware this is very subjective on my part, but is cheating so much worse than removing someone's choice, deciding for them, destroying parts of who they were? Of course, it fits *perfectly* within the scope of destruction magic. I just wish someone, anyone, would have smacked Amanda on the back of the head and told her to look at her own mistakes some more, instead of acting like Perfect Wife And Mother. Double-standards applied to magic as well: most of the "non-practitioners" in the story apparently spent years saying that their magic would have bad consequences and they'd better not practice... but they easily break their "vow", while constantly blaming others who do the same. (At this point, you can tell that double standards in general annoy the hell out of me. Personal pet peeve here.)

Third, the abuse the kids suffered from: it may be in a second book, but it's an important matter that I felt wasn't addressed enough in this first novel. There's Xavier and Evangeline, of course, but also (view spoiler) The Vandergraffs sure are a dysfunctional family, but this was pushing things too far for a beginning, in my opinion. It looked as if the abuse was a side note, something that just happened, something about which even the victims didn't care about; while I'm not for victim-mentality, nor for revelling in piles of angst, it nevertheless bothered me.

Fourth: the ending. I felt the same way as I felt with *Twilight*, i.e. cheated out of a "big finale". I didn't really get how Emmy went from what Jude did to "must do [that big thing that is going to be the climax of the story]", and I definitely would have wanted to see how her that part went—not learning from her afterwards that this and that happened, and that another character saved the day. It was definitely weird and a little bit jarring. So much was already going on within the Vandergraff family, after all.

I think I would be interested in reading the next book, though, even though I didn't give this one a stellar rating. There's a lot of potential here when it comes to magic, as well as to redefined dynamics within the family.

Melissa says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

This was written in such a unique voice and has a well-developed storyline. You begin the first page and before you know it you have read the last.

Dianne says

One of the biggest joys of reading is “tasting” the fruits of an author’s labors. Each novel has a unique flavor, or a unique blend of flavors and **Destruction** by Sharon Bayliss is no exception. Infidelity, secrets, deceit and dark magic fill this tale of a family of dark wizards, who, for all intents, live and look like any other suburban family. David has kept a secret from his wife, who has, in turn kept a secret from David. Years ago, David had a long standing affair, now his girlfriend has died and he must bring his two children with her into his life. How could he expect his wife to accept these children, especially as they are the same ages as their children? He takes the cowardly way out, lies, picks up the children and drops the bomb on his family. These young children were abused by their stepfather and have escaped into the fantasy that they are dark wizards. Of course, this is nonsense, or is it? Could his wife know more about dark wizardry than he knows? Could he be in some kind of nightmare that he cannot awaken from? Why doesn’t he remember parts of his past? How could everyone keep these secrets from him and WHY? Are dark wizards truly evil? Does this make him a monster? How can he keep his family from imploding in on itself when he doesn’t know what he is up against? Are there outside threats he needs to protect them from?

Talk about a new spin on magic, the paranormal and even infidelity! Where did talented author Sharon Bayliss come up with her tale? She flavors her tale with intrigue, emotion and a wildly incredible plot that walks the line of family drama and magical fantasy. Well-paced and intense, Ms. Bayliss leads her readers down a path of twists, turns and surprises that adjust their pace to create the ultimate in riveting storytelling. The characters grow and are colored in more vividly with each scene while the plot unfolds and questions are answered.

Looking for something a little out of the ordinary? Like drama? Like “magic”? Take a look at **Destruction** and the journey of one family who has more than their share of "issues" to deal with.

I received this copy in exchange for my honest review as part of the Destruction Tour & Giveaway now at Tome Tender.

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Amanda says

3 Stars

I received a copy to review from Curiosity Quills Press and Netgalley

It's really hard for me to write a review for this book because there are so many aspects of the story that I loved. The world Sharon Bayliss built was pretty cool, and the concept of a second family was really interesting. But I think that this book should have been two separate books instead of one. There are two directions that this story could have gone. It could have been an awesome adventure story with witches, or it could have been a heartbreaking story about sexually abused children.

I didn't feel any emotional connection to this story at all, and I think that's because the characters didn't either. They were just all kind of numb. There was no grieving or symptoms of PTSD. There was some real serious issues in this book. Where is the emotion? Why am I not crying?

As for the plot, I feel like it really didn't exist. So much of the book was spent getting to know all 8 characters and building the world that the plot kind of fell to the background. Then there was something thrown in towards the end that gave you a climax. Although, I didn't really feel like that was a climax. I was surprised that the book was over because the ending wasn't that exciting.

Overall I'm a bit disappointed. This was a story with so much potential, but it lacked direction and emotion.
