The Demolished Man

Alfred Bester (1913–1987) was a leading author of science fiction who, along with Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein, is regarded as one of the major figures of the science fiction field in the mid-20th century. His novel *The Demolished Man*, published in 1953, is a seminal work in the genre and has had a significant influence on the development of science fiction literature. Bester was born in New York City, the son of a Belgian father and an American mother. He began writing science fiction at a young age, and his first short story was published in *Science Fiction Digest* when he was 14 years old. He continued to write throughout his life, producing over 30 novels and numerous short stories.

**About the Book**

In *The Demolished Man*, Bester explored themes of communication, politics, and identity in a society where telepathy is the norm. The story follows Ben Reich, a telepathic detective who must navigate the complex world of a telepathic society to solve crimes and uncover the truth. The novel is considered a classic of science fiction, and its influence can be seen in many later works of the genre.

**Awards and Recognition**

*The Demolished Man* was awarded the Hugo Award for best novel in 1953 and was named one of the ten best science fiction novels of all time by *Science Fiction Review*. The novel has been praised for its originality and its exploration of themes that continue to be relevant today.

**Summary**

The novel begins with a murder case that baffles the police because the murderer is telepathic and cannot conceal his identity. The case is assigned to a detective, Ben Reich, who is also telepathic. Reich is assigned to the case because of his unique ability to read the minds of other telepaths. Reich is also driven by a desire to prove his worth to the police, who have rejected him because of his telepathic powers.

Reich's investigation leads him to the conclusion that the murder was committed by someone from another planet. Reich discovers that the planet is ruled by a totalitarian government, and the murder is just one of many acts of rebellion against this government. Reich's investigation deepens as he realization that the state is not just treating the rebellion as a crime, but is using it to manipulate the population.

**Conclusion**

*The Demolished Man* is a timeless classic of science fiction that continues to be read and admired by fans of the genre. It is a testament to Bester's skill as a writer and his ability to create a world that is both familiar and Other.

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*The Demolished Man* was among the first important authors of contemporary science fiction. His passionate novels of worldly adventure, high intellect, and tremendous verve, *The Stars My Destination* and the Hugo Award winning *The Demolished Man*, established Bester as a s.f. grandmaster, a reputation that was ratified by the Science Fiction Writers of America shortly before his death. Bester also was an acclaimed journalist for Holiday Magazine, a reviewer for the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction and even a writer for Superman.