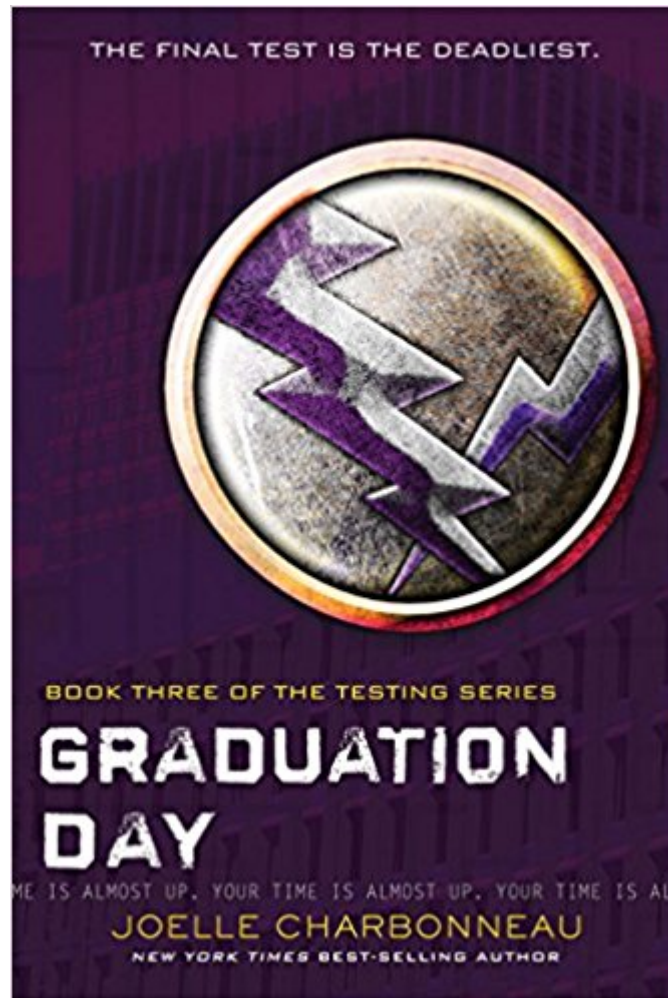




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Graduation Day (The Testing)



Synopsis

She wants to put an end to the Testing In a scarred and brutal future, The United Commonwealth teeters on the brink of all-out civil war. The rebel resistance plots against a government that rules with cruelty and cunning. Gifted student and Testing survivor, Cia Vale, vows to fight. But she can't do it alone. This is the chance to lead that Cia has trained for --but who will follow? Plunging through layers of danger and deception, Cia must risk the lives of those she loves--and gamble on the loyalty of her lethal classmates. Who can Cia trust? The stakes are higher than ever--lives of promise cut short or fulfilled; a future ruled by fear or hope--in the electrifying conclusion to Joelle Charbonneau's epic Testing trilogy. Ready or not--it's Graduation Day. The Final Test is the Deadliest!

Book Information

Series: The Testing (Book 3)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544541200

ISBN-13: 978-0544541207

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 344 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #45 in Books > Teens > Literature &

Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues #91 in Books > Teens > Literature &

Fiction > Girls & Women

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up -- Cia Vale, the girl who survived the Testing, vows to join the rebel alliance fighting against the United Commonwealth. But who will follow her? And who can be trusted? --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

New university student Cia overhears a plot that will not only strengthen the controversial testing

that permits students entry to the university but also will result in the government's overthrow. When she shares details with United Commonwealth President Collindar, she is tasked with killing 12 important government officials to stop the plot. But is it the right thing to do? Although this first-person narrative is burdened with repetitious introspection, it also builds to a satisfyingly tense climax before a final clever authorial twist subverts the story. Readers should start with *The Testing* (2013) and *Independent Study* (2014) to get the necessary backstory for this series' ender. Grades 7-10. --Cindy Welch --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Graduation Day by Joelle Charbonneau is the third and final book in *The Testing* trilogy. It continues the story of Cia Vale, survivor of the brutal University entrance exam known as *The Testing*, University student and rebel as she attempts to end *The Testing*. I have enjoyed both previous books and enjoyed reading the ending of the story. What I liked: The protagonist. I really liked Cia as a YA protagonist. She has her head on her shoulders and gives great consideration to the consequences of her actions. She's very much of the watch and wait mould. That doesn't mean she doesn't take action, but she doesn't act without thinking. These character traits are what lead to her central position in the drama. The story would have played very differently with a Katniss Everdeen or a Tris Prior as the protagonist. The themes. The theme of *Testing* is continued throughout the series. This is continued in *Graduation Day* when Cia must test the loyalty of those she wishes to have as allies, and she herself continues to be tested in more ways than one as she seeks to end the horrific University entrance exam. Trust is also a major theme in *Graduation Day* as Cia must decide whom to place her trust in. The pacing. The pacing kept moving along briskly and kept me turning the pages. What I didn't like: *Mockingjay*. Two leaders, one rebel, one elected, both telling two different stories. Teen heroine must work out which of them is telling the truth and the future of her society rests on her decision. Sound familiar? In my review of *The Testing* I commented that it had similar themes and plot points to *The Hunger Games*, and I'm seeing the same in the final book of the series. In all fairness, given that the characters involved are very different and indeed Cia's personality is of key importance and things play out in quite another way, I suspect this was partly deliberate by Charbonneau to bring the characterisation of her protagonist to the fore. Questions not answered. One of my biggest issues with the series was that, in a society where a reduced population is a serious issue, the government would ruthlessly cull a significant number of its brightest young citizens. I'm not certain that the answer given in *Graduation*

Day really explains things to my satisfaction. Despite these minor quibbles, I did really enjoy Graduation Day and The Testing trilogy. It's definitely a thought provoking series. I gave Graduation Day four stars out of five.

If you care to, please read my review of Book #1 of the series, "The Testing". this series is another one of those that starts out very intriguing and by book 2, it disintegrates badly. By this Book #3 of the series, you again wonder how the Protagonist always seems to figure things out and succeed and be followed by her peers and OVERCOMES! This series has a bit of a twist which is very confusing. I don't want to spoil anyone who hasn't read this last book, but you will wonder why a certain male person who had a major role in the Testing method just doesn't get rid of himself without dragging the protagonist in. Well, the answer obviously is that the series would end ALOT sooner and the author wouldn't have 3 full books and would've made ALOT less money. Anyway, I'm way too old to be reading Young Adult books, so any disappointment I bring upon myself is my own fault!

I'm delighted to say that Graduation Day is way better than I expected from the description given. I went into it thinking it just didn't sound as appealing as I would've liked. I also began reading it knowing I'd been waiting as patiently as possible for it to come out, because of how much I loved the 1st two books in this series. I'm happy to say it was an enjoyable read. Now, that being said, I liked the 1st two books much better than the final one. My socks weren't blown off, but I was captivated. A lot happens, there's a lot of politics in this book and difficult choices that Cia was faced with. I think what she's asked to do is pretty mind boggling, as it'd be so hard to pull off, but she's determined to give it a go and I've always admired that about her character. She never gives up, even in the craziest of situations. And let me tell you-there *were* crazy situations my mind is still trying to unravel!!! still think there should've been more detail, throughout the series, about what, exactly, occurred during these "7 stages of war" we've heard about through this trilogy. That being said, I'm not devastated that I don't know it all. Did I Buy/Read the Book? Yes Would I Buy it Again? Yes Do I Recommend it? Absolutely-you have to finish the series!!

You get the government you accept and anything worth having had a price well addressed. Characters are as fleshed as should be in a first person narrative with a relatable protagonist and good action. Just enough rehash that the three flow well without redundancy but each can stand alone, a rarity in multi-volume stories.

I'm debating between a 3 and a 4 star rating and can't decide really. It was a little bit disturbing really - what was expected of Testing and University students. Scant say I loved reading about kids forced to kill. It was sobering though because I can see our world ending up like the world's described in these books. We have ruthless and treacherous leaders now -I can't imagine living under leaders trained like the University students in this book - smart yes but also ruthless and calculating. Having said that, this book was hard to put down. It describes Cia's university experience and a special mission she is called upon to complete. There is so much deception and corruption and distrust that I didn't know whom to trust or to believe - it was crazy and every character seemed to have his or her own agenda. It was quite suspenseful at times and frustrating at other times. I like that it ended in a way that didn't leave a big blank, but at the same time I feel a bit let down by the ending. The president lied to Cia and she doesn't call her out on it - I am surprised by that. I guess I'm settling on 3 stars because the content was a bit disturbing- so many lives taken just to pass a test - it wasn't my favorite thing to read about. I think that the series was overall quite good - I just didn't love the third book and the path that was taken.

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