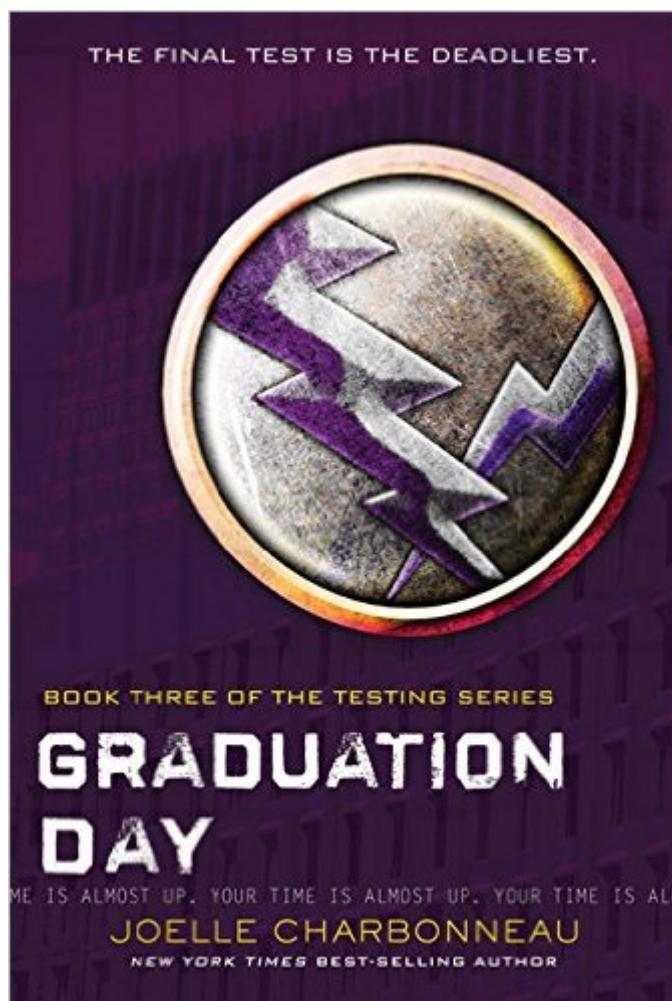


The book was found

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

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ISBN-13: 978-0544541207

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (313 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #13 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #32 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

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. The pacing. The pacing kept moving along briskly and kept me turning the pages. What I didn't like about 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 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.

The Testing Trilogy's third book brings some closure to Cia's adventures. The novel picks up right where book two left off and finds Cia trying to make heads or tails of who is friend and who is foe. When she's tasked by the President with a major project that will help end the Testing forever, she must decide who she can trust and whether or not she's willing to go through with it at all. Graduation Day moves a little slower than the other two books, focusing in on just a few days worth of happenings. It's a touch repetitive as we read Cia going over her motives and trying to decide who to trust and what to do. Overall, though, it's a good end to this trilogy. Although, the author does leave it a bit open at the end ... maybe there will be more Testing books?

I really enjoyed the first two books in this series. It didn't bother me that some people said this series was just a remake of The Hunger Games. (I've been known to describe it as Hunger Games in an

academic setting.) It's a good story no matter the similarities. I was really looking forward to the last book in the trilogy. However, now that I've finished the book I'm sort of on the fence about it. On the one hand I did enjoy the book, but on the other hand it really didn't live up to the first two books in the series. It took me longer to read this time around. The story just didn't have the edge of your seat pacing as the first two books. Most of the action takes place in Cia's head, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. It just makes the book more reflective than action paced. The ending bothered me as well. Parts of the ending really weren't a surprise (no I'm not going to give a spoiler), but mostly I felt as though the author still had more to say. This confused me because I thought this was a trilogy. I hate when this happens. I read a book and even though I enjoyed the story, I end up feeling disappointed because somehow there should have just been more to it. I'm not sorry I read the book. And I will continue to recommend the trilogy to readers who like dystopian novels, but I still have that nagging feeling that something is missing.

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