



The Testing Trilogy Complete Box Set

By Joelle Charbonneau

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Experience all three riveting novels in the *New York Times* best-selling trilogy from author Joelle Charbonneau.

The Testing is new dystopian series perfect for readers of *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games*. Experience all three riveting novels in the *New York Times* best-selling trilogy from author Joelle Charbonneau. The complete collection includes *The Testing*, *Independent Study*, and *Graduation Day*.

The Testing: Your time is almost up. The best-selling trilogy's dynamic dystopian debut. It's graduation day for sixteen-year-old Malencia Vale, and the entire Five Lakes Colony (the former Great Lakes) is celebrating. All Cia can think about—hope for—is whether she'll be chosen for The Testing. Danger, romance—and sheer terror—await.

Independent Study: Failure is not an option. Cia is a freshman at the University in Tosu City with her hometown sweetheart, Tomas—and though the government has tried to erase her memory of the brutal horrors of The Testing, Cia remembers. Her attempts to expose the ugly truth behind the government's murderous programs put her—and her loved ones—in a world of danger. The future of the Commonwealth depends on her.

Graduation Day: The final test is the deadliest. In the thrilling conclusion to the *New York Times* best-selling trilogy, the stakes are higher than ever—lives of promise cut short or fulfilled; a future ruled by fear or hope. Ready or not...it's Graduation Day.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *The Testing*

(star)" The rising tension, skillfully executed scenarios, and rich characterizations all contribute to an exciting story bound to capture readers' imaginations. . . . Charbonneau works action, romance, intrigue, and a plausible dystopian premise into a near-flawless narrative."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"I galloped through this excellent read; I was in suspense the whole time."—Charlaine Harris, author of the Sookie Stackhouse series

"The Testing is a chilling and devious dystopian thriller that all fans of *The Hunger Games* will simply devour. Joelle Charbonneau writes with guts and nerve but also great compassion and heart. Highly recommended."—Jonathan Maberry, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Rot & Ruin* and *Flesh & Bone*

"Charbonneau jumps into the packed dystopia field with a mashup of Veronica Roth's *Divergent* and Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy, but she successfully makes her story her own."—*Kirkus*

"Charbonneau is a fantastic story teller and this book is a tribute to that background. The intrigue in *The Testing* passes evaluation of what a good dystopian novel should represent."—*VOYA*

"The plot twists are well integrated and will keep readers on edge awaiting the next volume."—*Horn Book*

"The influence of *The Hunger Games* is obvious, and *The Testing* will satisfy readers who want similar dystopian adventures." —*SLJ*

Praise for *Independent Study*

"Fast-paced and full of crosses and double-crosses, right to the cliffhanger ending."
—*Booklist*

"A tense, paranoid story in which layers of treachery, deceit, and danger are peeled away one by one. . . . Charbonneau makes excellent use of her dystopian theme in a twisty story that hits its mark."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"[A] compelling mix of new lies, double crosses, and increasingly menacing government figures focused on destroying Cia."

—*Kirkus*

"Fans of *The Testing* will be thrilled with this new installment and will be anxiously waiting for the story's conclusion."

—*School Library Journal*

"Charbonneau has created an elegantly organized plot that will keep the reader engaged and wondering how this richly layered plot will unfold...The tension and conflict will have readers at the edge of their seats as the imagery and complexities of the characters and plot design are exposed."

—*VOYA*

Praise for *Graduation Day*

"Charbonneau's portrayal of a ravaged future America attempting to rebuild itself is gripping, filled with surprises and complicated questions of right versus wrong. As in the previous books, Charbonneau remains focused on philosophical worries and moral tests over spectacle and bloodshed, with multiple layers and twists to keep readers forever guessing."

—*Publisher's Weekly*

"Conspiracies, counterconspiracies, lies and double crosses: It's quite a ride."

—*Kirkus*

"Charbonneau delivers nail-biting suspense that fans of the series have come to love."

—*VOYA*

About the Author

Joelle Charbonneau began telling stories as an opera singer, but these days she finds her voice through writing. She lives near Chicago with her husband and son, and when she isn't writing, she works as an acting and vocal coach. Visit Jolle at joellecharbonneau.com, on Twitter at @jcharbonneau, and on Instagram at @joellejcharbonneau.

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Turning the knob, I push the door open and take a step inside. The smell, urine mixed with corncakes, hits me first. Then I see her. Dangling on a colorful rope. Hanging from the ceiling. Face red and blotchy. Eyes wide with horror. Neck gouged and bleeding where she fought from instinct or because she changed her mind.

I scream as the reality of what I see hits me. Hard.

Ryme is dead.

Chapter 7

Hands help me stand. Lead me into the hall. Someone asks me to wait and other people in jumpsuits come running from every direction. I clutch my bag to my chest like a security blanket as activity swirls around me. Ryme is cut down from the ceiling. A gurney appears. When she is whisked past me, I recognize the rope still around her neck: her dress, the one she looked so lovely in yesterday, tied to a bed sheet.

I can't help my stomach from emptying or the tears that flow hot and fast?—?for her, for me, for not seeing the desperation and depression under the arrogant façade. Did my taunting her with finishing the final written test push her over the edge? Could a kind word have saved her?

“Cia?”

I blink and realize Dr. Barnes is holding my shoulders. Looking into my eyes. I blink twice and swallow the bile building in the back of my throat. Mutely, I nod that I hear him.

“They are going to assign you a different room.” He leans against the wall next to me. “Would you like to talk about it?”

No. But I will. I have to. Softly, I tell him about Ryme's arrogance and her taunts today. My reaction and the apology I eventually gave. Even the corncakes and what I suspected they might contain. He's a good listener. His deep brown eyes meet mine without censorship. His head nods, encouraging me to say more?—?never once letting his eyes travel to the officials walking in and out of the room, cleaning the floor next to me, talking in hushed tones about removing her belongings.

When I am done, I feel empty, which is better in a way than feeling smothered by guilt. Dr. Barnes assures me Ryme's death is not my fault. As we discussed earlier, stress is difficult. Some students handle stress better than others. Some can't eat. Some never sleep. Ryme took her own life. While this is a tragedy, it is better for the entire Commonwealth population to learn now that she is not capable of dealing with the kinds of pressure she would be forced to deal with in the future. This event is unfortunate, but The Testing served its purpose. He hopes Ryme's choice to end her candidacy will not impact the results of mine.

End her candidacy? Inside I am icy cold. An official in purple informs us my room is ready, and Dr. Barnes gives my shoulders a squeeze. I smile and tell him I'll be fine and that talking to him made me feel better. I hope he can't see the lie. Because while his tone was kind, I heard the indifference in his words. To him, this was just another test. One Ryme failed. If I am not careful, I will fail, too.

I am shown my new room at the very end of the hall. The walls are painted yellow. They remind me of the dress Ryme was wearing when I first met her. The official asks me if I'm okay not having a roommate. If I don't want to be alone he is certain a female official would be happy to sleep in the spare bed.

No, I do not want to be alone. Awake, I am having trouble keeping Ryme's lifeless eyes out of my head. Asleep, I will be defenseless to stop her from haunting me. Knowing I will be alone through the ordeal makes me want to curl up in a ball.

But Dr. Barnes's words ring loud in my head. The Testing is about more than what happens in the classrooms. Asking for help through the night will be seen as a weakness. Leaders are not weak. The Testing is looking for leaders.

So I thank the official and tell him, “I'm fine being alone.” He tells me to let the official at the desk know if I change my mind. They can even give me drugs if I need help sleeping. Then he shuts the door behind him.

I look around the room. Aside from the color it is an exact replica of the one I previously occupied. I hear muted voices and the sound of footsteps. Other candidates returning to their rooms from dinner. For a moment, I consider opening my door and going in search of my friends. A smile from Zandri, a hand squeeze from Tomas, or even one of Malachi's quiet looks would help ease the sadness. But I don't open the door because that, too, could be considered a weakness. Instead I shower, change into my nightclothes, wash the daytime ones, and hang them to dry.

Lying on the bed, I stare up at the ceiling, trying to conjure happy memories. Anything to ward off images of Ryme hanging from the light fixture. I can't help but wonder whether my father witnessed something similar. Whether his brain had made up an even worse memory of The Testing to compensate for the horrific one he used to have. At this very moment, I believe it is more than possible.

Everything is quiet. The others have taken to their beds and are sleeping in preparation for whatever is to come tomorrow. I am still awake. I keep the lights blazing bright and fight against the heaviness of my eyes. I am losing the battle when something catches my eye. A small circular glint in the ceiling. One that matches the one I saw in the skimmer.

A camera.

It is all I can do to keep the discovery off my face. I don't know why it should surprise me that there is a camera watching even when we are doing the most mundane chores like sleeping and getting dressed. But it does. Is this room alone being watched? Because I found Ryme? Immediately, I reject the idea. If they are watching one room, I am certain they are watching them all. The implication of that sucks the air out of my lungs. If there are cameras in every room, someone watched Ryme as she stripped her bed of the sheet. Tied it to her dress. Reasoned out the best place to affix it to the light fixture on the ceiling. They watched as she stepped off the chair. Saw her struggle against the rope, claw her throat in an attempt to free herself, and go limp as her body shut down.

They could have saved her. Instead, they let her die.

I force myself to appear calm as I walk over to the light switch and cast the room into shadows. Whoever is watching, I don't want them to see the horror I feel. I bury my head under the covers and out of habit clutch my bag to my chest. I wonder if the people behind the screen are reliving Ryme's death while they sleep tonight. It is mean of me, but I hope they are because I am even before sleep pulls me under.

Ryme's blotchy red face and her glassy, blood-streaked eyes follow me into my dreams. Her voice taunts me with my inadequacies. She offers me corncakes and this time I take one and eat it. Each time I wake, I force myself to go still. Not to call out or thrash about. I keep my head under the covers just in case the camera can see more than I believe, and do my best to wipe my mind clean of the horrors before dropping into sleep again.

When the morning announcement comes, I am grateful to climb out from under the sheets. I go into the bathroom and study myself in the reflector. I look tired, but no more so than I did yesterday morning. Taking this as a good sign, I pull on my clothes and brush out my hair while scanning the bathroom for prying eyes. No cameras. At least none that I can see. The Testing officials must not be interested in our hygiene habits. I leave my hair loose around my shoulders, hoping it will pull focus from the fatigue in my eyes, grab my bag, and head down to breakfast.

Tomas and the twins are already seated when I arrive. Tomas's face is filled with relief and he wraps me in a tight hug before I have a chance to sit down. As I sit, Tomas gives my plate a long look. In my effort to appear normal, I have piled it with bacon, eggs, sliced potatoes, fruit, and sweet rolls. I immediately shove a piece of bacon into my mouth to discourage questions about yesterday. It works until Zandri, Malachi, and their roommates arrive. Once everyone is seated, Tomas asks, "Is everything okay? We kept waiting for you to come back last night."

They wait for me to reply. I replay Dr. Barnes's words in my head. Did he mean for me to keep silent? I don't think so, so I quietly say, "Ryme is dead. She killed herself last night."

The Five Lakes candidates show various degrees of surprise. The twins sigh and give each other knowing looks. After a moment, Will says, "We figured it might be something like that. Our teacher warned us about the pressure. He was a Testing official for a couple of years and said there were at least two or three suicides in every Testing class."

Ryme was one. I can't help wondering who might be next. Judging by their silence, I'm guessing my friends are doing the same.

We talk about it a bit then concentrate on eating. I give some of my extra food to Malachi, who has definitely added on pounds since coming here three days ago, and shove a sweet roll into my bag. I don't

know if we are supposed to take food from the dining hall, but I figure if someone on the other side of the cameras objects, they'll stop me. No one does.

Another announcement is made. We tromp to the elevators and are whisked back to the lecture hall. Dr. Barnes is once again up front. He smiles at everyone as they take their seats and congratulates us on finishing the first phase of The Testing. "The tests are currently being evaluated by the Testing staff. Because we are aware of your unique skills, each group has its own set of requirements to achieve a passing score. After lunch we will meet with the Testing candidates and inform them whether they have been passed on or whether their Testing has come to an end. Until then, you will have time to spend as you like—either in your rooms, the dining hall, or the designated area outside."

Outside. The idea of fresh air lifts my spirits. Dr. Barnes tells us that all candidates going outdoors must stay within the fence surrounding the Testing Center. Breaking the rule is grounds for automatic dismissal from further Testing.

Candidates shift in their seats, getting ready to bolt for the door, when Dr. Barnes's expression changes. There is sadness. And though I am prepared for his words, my breath still catches and my eyes mist with tears. "I am sorry to announce that Testing candidate Ryme Reynald took her own life last night."

Some students gasp and cry out, but I notice more than one sly smile that says, *One down*. I try to remember the faces that go with those smiles just in case.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Diane Dean:

Here thing why this The Testing Trilogy Complete Box Set are different and dependable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good but it really depends in the content than it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. The Testing Trilogy Complete Box Set giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no book that similar with The Testing Trilogy Complete Box Set. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your method home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The Testing Trilogy Complete Box Set in e-book can be your alternative.

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Katherine Contreras:

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