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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.

Graduation Day Details

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From Reader Review Graduation Day for online ebook

Callie Rose Tyler says

This final book in the series, which up until this point had been decent, was abysmal; it was just absolutely terrible. I read the first two books in a few days but I almost had to pin my eyelids open to get through this one.

Here's a content breakdown:

50% - Talking about what to do again and again and...

The President gives Cia an assignment. Cia spends several chapters coming up with a plan that we then have to listen to her tell Tomas...and then Stacia...and then Raffe...and Zeen. Then they have to come up with a new plan and the cycle continues...

25% - Recap

We get a recap of what happened in the last two books. We get a recap about what happen in the last chapter. Seriously, the average reader does not have dementia. The constant recapping serves no purpose other than to act as filler.

15% - Cia is taking things out of her backpack

5%- Cia is putting things into her backpack

The bag is practically a main character. For every problem that Cia encounters, you can guarantee that the solution will be coming out of her backpack. How big is this fricken bag?!

4% - Build up

There are a few moments when you think *Okay, finally something is going to happen....this is where it's going to get good* and then....it never does.

1% - Something actually happens

The action of this story is so fleeting that it's over before you realize that it began.

Blink and you miss it! Everything is resolved so quickly I actually had to page back to see if I missed something.

The big reveals in this book were laughable. The 300 pages could have told the same story in 100, and that's being generous. How can a series that starts out with such promise go so terribly wrong?! What happened?

In my opinion, the author didn't have a clear vision. The history of the world she created was foggy at best, it was just derivative of other books and stories with nothing unique or noteworthy about it to make it special or interesting. Her characters were flat and just as uninteresting.

I didn't care if the Testing ended. I didn't care if Tomas and Cia ended up together. I didn't care if they both died, I was actually kind of hoping they would! All of the interesting characters are underdeveloped or abandoned (Will, Stacia, Raffe).

Overall, there just wasn't enough story here to cover 3 books. I was bored out of my mind and took no pleasure in reading this final installment. Usually I would say if you've made it this far through a series you might as well finish it out, I mean, I actually read all of the Fifty Shades of Grey books. This series is an exception. Read the first book if you must but then you can just quit. There is no need to continue.

Jeff Raymond says

If I'm being honest with myself, the way *The Testing* ends the series up is a little bit of a disappointment. It's not the trainwreck that *The Hunger Games* became, mind you, but it's still felt a little out of step and not the sense of closure one would expect.

Essentially, we've spent the first two books building up a world so Cia can tear it down. The book has moved into full-on political conspiracy mode with plenty of spycraft and such to go along with it. Once things get started, the book really races to the finish as it becomes a question of who can be trusted to do the right thing.

Overall? Still probably my favorite YA dystopia, even with the flaws. A less-than-perfect ending doesn't change the ride to get there at all. I feel as if this has been overlooked in the face of *Legend* and *Divergent* and *Matched* when it's fully better than all of them, but there's no accounting for popular taste, I suppose. Very glad I got to finish this one up, a solid end to a great series.

Jamie says

I just can't get past the Mary Sue main character. She seems to have an intimate knowledge of EVERYTHING, so she never has to ask people questions or consult books. She is the only trustworthy person in the entire novel, so much so that the president asked her alone to commit the act that would prevent a war, with no other plan to fall back on. She won't accept help from anyone else because she doesn't have faith in anyone but herself. Oh and she also has superhuman strength because with the amount of shit she

keeps putting in her bag, she would have to in order to be able to drag that thing around everywhere with such little effort.

I really enjoyed the first book when I read it as an ARC, but the issue with this series is that you get so excited about what's going to happen next that you don't notice the crappy character building and writing. Everyone who gave these books a good rating should reread the novels now that they know what happens. It's a real eye opener.

Jaylia3 says

Graduation Day begins in high tension, right where Independent Study left off, but within the first few pages author Joelle Charbonneau manages to weave in a review of the previous two books in the series without diminishing the tautness or velocity of this final entry in The Testing trilogy--very helpful for readers like me who have had a wait between volumes to finish the story. Cia has just discovered a shocking truth about the rebellion meant to bring down the Testing--a ruthless elimination process for future leaders of their post-global-disaster society--but when she brings that information to the President of the United Commonwealth hoping to discharge her responsibility, she is instead given a terrible but crucial task, one she's not sure she has the heart to accept.

At the beginning of the first book (The Testing) Cia is living with her family in The Five Lakes Colony of the United Commonwealth--the area that before the Seven Stages War was the Great Lakes region of the United States--but she's proud to have been chosen to go to the capital city Tosu (formerly Wichita) for Testing, an "honor" so brutal and deadly that candidates who survive have their memories of it wiped afterwards. In the second book (Independent Study) Cia attends the autocratic university designed to train society leaders, and while there is less overt violence in this part of the story, pervasive threats and power struggles between students mean there is no less tension. The second book is more thought provoking than its predecessor, spending time on the relative merits of big government vs. a libertarian society, and this final book of the trilogy combines the strengths of both previous books. It has the ramped up action of the first book, but it doesn't leave the deeper issues of the second book behind--making it a great finish.

If you've read The Hunger Games you'll notice some similarities, but I've enjoyed Charbonneau's series more. The premise makes more sense to me--instead of sadistic surrender terms, the horrific trials young people go through are meant to winnow out the weak while selecting future leaders, and though Cia wants to eliminate the Testing she's sometimes torn because in spite or maybe because of its brutality the Testing has been largely successful at its mission. War and environmental catastrophes wiped out most of humanity and almost destroyed the planet, but leaders selected through the kill-or-be-killed Testing process have proven they can make the tough decisions needed for survival.

I love the vividly written, the post-catastrophe Midwest setting of The Testing trilogy and the detailed history and science of the world building. Cia is both capable and caring--she's a tinkerer and good with the stripped down tech of her world so she makes a great main character. In the first book too many of her actions were influenced by a budding romance for my taste, but though that relationship has continued in the second and this third book Cia's decision making process has (fittingly) matured. I've been assuming this is a trilogy, but I would love to read a continuation of the story.

Isabel says

Oh dear Lord, this was seriously a let-down. The first two books? Fantastic. Action packed. Loved them.

This one? Boooooooring.

I was stuck between finishing what I'd started and setting it down because of how boring it was. Only a few pages in, I knew it was already not as good as the first two.

There are a few spoilers from here I suppose. Just don't read more if you haven't read it yet.

As someone else has already pointed out, why in the heck would a president put a teenage girl in charge of everything? Yeah, I get that she's the "only one" the president can trust, or something. Sure. Whatever. But there's no way in heck she'd put everything on Cia.

Also, the entire story went so dang slow! It took Cia about ten pages just to think through one problem and then it took another twenty for her to decide who she can tell.

And then, on top of that, there's so much guessing going on. Like, is this person trustworthy? No? Wait, yes? No? And many characters were made to seem like they weren't trustworthy, when they actually were the entire time. I understand having a little mystery, but it's just ridiculous in this book.

The first two were great, like I said, but I can't give this book more than two stars without feeling like I'm totally lying to someone.

May says

UNA TERCERA PARTE QUE VUELVE A FLOJEAR PERO QUE CIERRA A LA PERFECCIÓN LA TRILOGÍA

La graduación es la tercera y última parte de la trilogía La prueba, trilogía distópica con tintes muy tópicos y a la vez diferentes. Una trilogía con sus subidas y bajadas, cuyo primer libro (La prueba) me encantó, cuyo segundo libro (La iniciación) flojeó un poco pero me dejó con ganas de más, y una trilogía que en sí me ha gustado pero que decae con cada libro.

Como digo, La graduación es un tercer libro que vuelve a decaer de nuevo. Creo que el mejor libro de toda la trilogía es La prueba, y la verdad es que los otros dos decaen. La graduación no es tan flojo como La iniciación, pero vuelve a flojear y eso me ha decepcionado un poquito puesto que esperaba que esta tercera parte viniera con fuerza para cerrar la trilogía bien.

Aún así La graduación es una buena tercera parte con su trama y que va cerrando todas las cuestiones que quedaron abiertas desde el primer libro. Es un buen cierre de trilogía porque no deja nada abierto y aclara todas las dudas que quedaban.

Me ha gustado mucho el desarrollo de ciertos personajes como Cia y Tomas, que dan mucho más de sí en esta tercera parte y que se cierran perfectamente. Me ha gustado su caracterización y la evolución que se ve en ellos desde la primera novela.

El ritmo está bien, engancha más que el segundo pero no tanto como el primero. Tiene una línea de trama que se sigue perfectamente y ocurren muchos acontecimientos que amenizan la lectura y también le dan

velocidad.

La prueba es una trilogía con una idea muy original y diferente, pero que en cada libro toma cosas de otras distopías demasiado evidentes y son llevadas al terreno de la propia novela. El primer libro es el mejor de todos, con un ritmo frenético y una trama que absorbe por completo; y La iniciación y La prueba decaen muchísimo respecto a éste.

Para mí con La prueba era suficiente y creo que los otros dos libros están muy forzados a existir y que son innecesarios.

Sea como sea os recomiendo encarecidamente que leáis el primer libro de la trilogía y que os quedéis ahí, no creo que los otros dos merezcan la pena. Pero sí que merece la pena leer La prueba y al fin y al cabo su final te deja satisfecha.

Marketa says

Ne. Ne a ne. Néé.

To byla taková nuda. Takové lehce p?edvídatelné nic plné ni?eho.

Hrozn? jsem se po jedni?ce t?šila na další díly, co si autorka vymyslí, ale evidentn? už netušila, CO SI VYMYSLET.

Poslední díl byl plný YA blbosti v podob? "hlavní hrdinka musí ud?lat všechno, protože je to prost? hlavní hrdinka a v?bec nevadí, že je jí n?jakých sm?šných 16 let. Protože... je to hlavní YA hrdinka." Meh.

Kathleen Lanman says

Very disappointing ending to the series. There were so many little things that irritated in this book. Her magical, omnipresent bag of holding, for example. It's always there, and it contains anything and everything. At one point I thought the bag was the author having a sly joke with the reader, but I think that was wishful thinking.

Nobody behaved in ways that made sense. Why would a national leader put a child in charge of a violent uprising? For that matter, the whole testing system makes no sense, regardless of past history. It would be like if the most talented kids competed for the chance to get into the Hunger Games, and the winners got to be president. How is this a valid method to identify leadership skills? And why would Cia trust any leaders who had been chosen through this process? No matter how many times Cia justified the value of the testing, I just couldn't accept it. Why did Cia and the rebels not just spread the truth? I have a hard time believing most of the society would be cool with all their best and brightest being killed off in the hopes of identifying new sociopaths to lead the nation.

The use of technology doesn't make sense, either. They can alter genes and use hovercars, but haven't invented a telephone or train to connect the colonies? Cia seems to have access to all the materials needed to create communication devices and weapons. Why has no one invented mass communication?

Nikita says

I know it took me so long to finish the novel but it doesn't mean it's not good. Just too much school work but I think this is still a solid finale to the trilogy. I'm a little sad it's over.

Kimberly says

I'm sad I didn't enjoy this more. It wasn't as action-packed or fast-paced as its predecessors, Cia's motivations didn't ring true to her character, and the triple and quadruple-crossing (this group is working for this person! No, this person! No, that person!) grew confusing and tiresome. The final confrontation was a let down and pretty unsatisfying.

Sharon Mariampillai says

Actual Rating: 3.15

This is a good read. I liked the book, but I thought it lacked the same intensity as the previous two books. The story had action and the characters were great as usual. I thought the ending could have been way better. I really did not like how it ended as I thought there could have been more. Maybe an epilogue to tell us about Cia and how she is after her decision. I just thought the author could have given us more than what we got. It is sad to see a great book have such an unexpected and flat ending. I am sad to say goodbye to another series. However, I am glad I got to enjoy the books as well. For the whole series, I would rate this a 3.75/5. Overall, an okay read.

Grüffeline says

Die Dinge laufen nicht immer so, wie wir uns das vorstellen. Du musst dich einfach wieder aufrappeln und dir eine neue Richtung suchen.

ENDLICH HAB ICH ES GESCHAFFT! Woohooo! Und jetzt suche ich mir auch ganz schnelle eine andere Richtung, a.k.a. ein anderes Buch, das hoffentlich besser zu unterhalten weiß. Nach dem ersten Buch nahm der Lesegenuss dieser Trilogie leider rapide ab. erinnerte der erste Teil noch ein wenig an die Tribute von Panem, langweilte man sich eher so durch den zweiten Teil, der aber immer noch mehr zu unterhalten wusste als das Finale. Ich musste mich zwischendurch zwingen, das Buch in die Hand zu nehmen. Der Schreibstil ist trocken. Einfach nur trocken. Ich weiß nicht, wie es anders beschreiben soll. Es kamen keine Gefühle bei mir an, da kann Tomas (den ich übrigens nachwievor verdächtig finde, aber anscheinend ist Cia das egal, obwohl sie auch skeptisch ist) sie noch so oft "mit Augen voller Liebe" anglubschen. *schüttel* Auf jeden Fall hat man zu keinem Zeitpunkt das Gefühl, mit im Geschehen zu stecken. Das einzige, was dieses Buch bei mir aufgelöst hat, war Langeweile. Dass zum Schluss doch alles irgendwie nicht so ist, wie man dachte, verwirrt zusätzlich und machte mir das Ganze nicht unbedingt schmackhafter. Cia wurde mir immer unsympatischer und es war mir im Grunde egal, was mit ihr passiert.

Rachel Maniacup says

Reading the final book in a trilogy, most of all in dystopian is always a dread for me (especially after having read the Divergent series), 'cause I never wanted to experience any more frustrations after having read an awesome starting of the series, when at the final book, you'll only be devastated on the series' ending! that sucks big time!

So to be honest, I want to tell you that I enjoyed reading this book, but not as much as I enjoyed the first two books in this series.

In this final book, Cia was given a big responsibility she never expected. And that responsibility who put it on her, surprised her even more. The task that was given to her is to find a way to get rid of the highest ranking officials of the Testing, so they could finally stop the whole process of the Testing. But I felt like Cia had fallen out of her character a bit, that her being indecisive here made me worry if she would be able to save her friends, and her entire country.

I just wish that there should have been more to this book, because I felt like the story had more to say, especially when there was a huge twist at the ending. I wanted more, really!

All in all, this is still a good ending to this series that I highly recommend to anyone who's a fan of dystopian genre. ^^

Jilly says

Well, thank God we have Cia in the future because she seems to be the lone possible savior of the entire world. Literally. Even the president needs this teenage girl to save what is left of the country because she has not one other person in all of her government that can do what Super Cia can do! So, don't worry for our future, kids, Cia is on the case!

Seriously, I've read some annoyingly too good at everything characters before, but Cia takes the cake. I really liked The Testing, and enjoyed Independent Study, but I struggled with this one a bit. The fact that Cia is given a job to save the country, basically, by the president, makes no sense. But, hey, it's fiction, so I guess that's just part of what we are supposed to accept.

Another thing that was disappointing in this book was the amount of time that Cia spent thinking things through. Pages and pages of thinking things through. I get that she was under a lot of pressure - you know, saving the world and all, but do we really need to read her every thought? Less thinky thinky, more do-y do-y.

The ending was meh. Super Cia is a bit of a selfish girlfriend. I guess that is her great weakness. All superheroes have them. But, she knows that she can't possibly NOT be important anymore. That just wouldn't be okay. She is said to be 5'1 in the book, I'm guessing most of that is head.

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

Okay...as much as I would like to tell you that the finale to this dystopian series wouldn't end in a rebellion, I couldn't tell you that because that is exactly the direction of the entire series.

Having said that though, I am still satisfied with the outcome of the story and that is saying much especially when it comes to a dystopian series finale.
