



## Independent Study: The Testing, Book 2

By Joelle Charbonneau

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In the series debut *The Testing*, sixteen-year-old Cia Vale was chosen by the United Commonwealth government as one of the best and brightest graduates of all the colonies . . . a promising leader in the effort to revitalize postwar civilization. In *Independent Study*, 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. But the future of the Commonwealth depends on her.

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## Independent Study: The Testing, Book 2 By Joelle Charbonneau Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–10—In this sequel to *The Testing* (Houghton Harcourt, 2013), Cia is drawn deeper into the political machinations of Tosu City as she enters the University. She is accepted into the Government course of study, much to her disappointment. Now, joined by students from the City who did not have to endure the Testing, she must go through a hazing process that forces her to once again rely on her wits to survive. Cia must win an internship to continue on at the University; the alternative will be her death. Her love for Tomas takes a backseat in the narrative to make way for descriptions of how the factions are fighting for control of the capital and the Testing. The action is fast paced and the story line compelling. Fans won't have time to wonder why those who run the Testing place such a low value on the lives of their teen charges or why parents have asked so few questions about where their children end up. Readers will root for the likable and capable heroine. While the adults' motives are suspect and often inexplicable, Cia struggles to make good decisions, both ethically and intellectually. Fans of *The Testing* will be thrilled with this new installment and will be anxiously waiting for the story's conclusion.—Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH

From [Booklist](#)

Cia is now a first-year student at the University. Her memory of the Testing has been erased, but the messages she left herself in her communicator nurture her unease and distrust as she enters this new phase of her education. Although hoping to study engineering, she is instead assigned to the government studies program, where she distinguishes herself during the induction period. But what should be a sign of achievement is actually an indication that she is marked as suspect by the professors who control the Testing process. The biggest unanswered question from *The Testing* (2013)—why is the Testing so brutal?—is addressed in this follow-up, which is fast-paced and full of crosses and double-crosses, right to the cliff-hanger ending. Grades 7-12. --Kara Dean

Review

"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

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Martha Skaggs:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know which you should start with. This Independent Study: The Testing, Book 2 is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

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