



The Testing Guide

Joelle Charbonneau

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In the scarred and war-battered United Commonwealth, ten-year-old Cia Vale watches her older brother Zeen dream about being chosen for The Testing. He's graduated at the top of his class, and being chosen, like his father was before him, means a chance to attend The University and help lead the effort to revitalize postwar civilization. Cia is conflicted--she hopes Zeen is chosen, but dreads him leaving home. She also realizes that one day she too must set her mind on being chosen. But does she realize the deadly path she will have to take?

THE TESTING GUIDE is the short story prequel to "The Testing, " the first novel in the stunning and epic Testing Trilogy.

The Testing Guide Details

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From Reader Review The Testing Guide for online ebook

B.A. Wilson says

It's free, which is great. It doesn't really add a lot in terms of the world or story, but if you just want to read a little bit more, it's good for that purpose. I typically love novellas but don't find this one to be a necessary read. If you are a die hard fan of the story, then downloaded it for free. There's nothing to lose, so you can give it a try and decide for yourself.

Pages: 46

AH says

This is a short 45 page prequel to *The Testing*. It also includes the first three chapters of the book. Once again, I'm really not sure if this prequel would make me want to go out and purchase the book. *The Testing Guide* gives a basic backdrop to a world destroyed by war, earthquakes, and bad weather. Resources are limited. Graduates of school compete to get a place in the capital city for the Testing which upon successful completion ensures a spot in university.

It kind of has *The Hunger Games* feel to it, but it's kind of early to make that assumption.

As I received a copy of *The Testing* for review, I think I will continue reading, just to satisfy my curiosity.

The Testing Guide is available for free download [here](#).

Stacy says

First off, it's a darn good thing this puppy was free, or there would've been a lot of irate people out there. I wouldn't even say it qualifies as a short story--it's a bonus chapter, one that really can't be included in the book because the book is told in first person by a different character. I can't say that it particularly adds anything to the book--the only reason I'm rating it as high as I am is because I happen to like Zeen from the few small glimpses we've been given of him. All we get from this chapter is that Zeen resents not being chosen for *The Testing* (which we already knew) and that he sticks around only for the sake of his sister, Cia (which we could pretty much figure out). What this chapter did give me is 1) hope that Zeen will be given a more prominent role in future books and 2) an answer to where Tosu City actually lies, which I admit I was quite curious about.

If the point of this prequel was to provide a bit of background on the world of *The Testing* before actually reading the book, then there's perhaps enough here to do that--of the 40 pages, 10 of them are this bonus chapter, two are Q&A from "*The Testing Guide*" which gives you a smidge of the official history of the Seven Stages of War and its aftermath, and the remainder is the first three chapters of *The Testing*. The problem with that is that I have a hard time believing a lot of people are going to pick up a random prequel--I know I, at least, only read these companion pieces if I've already read the original source material. So, what I'm basically saying is, it's free, so you might as well read it, but you're not missing anything if you don't.

Rossana says

4.0?? — Good — Short Story

I liked this short story, but I was surprised that the main character in the story is not Cia, but her oldest brother. It kind of made me a fan of him, and wished he was the main character of the story, since I liked him from first page... I'm kind of asking myself what's happened to him????

? Good reading! ?

Annika says

The free prequel can be downloaded [here](#).

Mehsi says

Well... I had hoped for a bit more story and I am a bit disappointed. You got about 10 pages of bonus story, and 3 or so with a bit of history information, and after that a first look at the Testing. Which is a shame.

I am now still not sure if I should read the Testing or not. For now I am lingering to the no.

It was an interesting story, but also slightly confusing. Still don't understand stuff about the testing or what it means, and I was hoping this story would let me know a bit more.

Igrowastreesgrow says

I am really interested in reading the series. It was slightly different than I thought it would be. Also, even with just a small bit of material, I was able to get a lot of information about the world that the characters live in and feel somewhat attached to the the characters. So, I think that the main books for the series must be something to really look into reading.

Nj Sun says

Das war aber sehr kurz...

Carrie says

A great teaser for the up and coming book The Testing. Besides giving us a glimpse of what to expect for the story, the eprequel also includes the first 3 chapters of the book.

I am happy to say I am VERY excited to read it and looking forward to this series by Joelle Charbonneau.

A free download can be found here: [The Testing Guide](#)

Adinde says

Shortest short story ever. It was just 3 pages....

Jenn says

Literally the shortest novella I have ever read. It's only one chapter and then the rest is part of the first book, The Testing. But I did like seeing more of Zeen and hope that the author showcases his character more in the next books, or does a full novella with him.

Nick Turner says

This eleven-page story, teaser prequel to novel, The Testing (with a forty-page excerpt of The Testing after the prequel story), sets the scene locating the future post-apocalyptic world of The Testing in a post-war North America a century after war and global catastrophes destroyed much of the Earth's population and biomass leaving coastal cities submerged and toxic tainted soil.

The prequel tells the story of Zeen (elder brother of The Testing's protagonist Malencia - "Cia") and how it was that Cia came to have a burning ambition to be chosen for the Testing, after what happened to her brother.

Young adults who desire one of the few University places hope to be chosen for the Testing - a strenuous examination which is not merely academic - Zeen's father, who passed the Test, (despite being subject to the procedure to take away the memories' of Test subjects ensuring secrecy) reveals that he wasn't the first in his class of the applicants during the Testing, but those smarter students didn't make it.

Joke says

This is the shortest short story I ever read..

Angela says

I liked *The Testing Guide* but this was WAY shorter than I expected it to be. Most of it was just a preview of *The Testing*. This can hardly be considered a "short story."

Nonetheless, *The Testing Guide* was interesting. I've heard of *The Testing* but never actually knew what it was about. Now that I've read this, I'm more interested in starting the series.

But like most prequels, this really was pointless. I can't say I see the point of this. It's an okay set-up for the series, because it explains some things but it was too short to actually get anything across. If this was just more in-depth, I would have really liked it.

You can get this for free here.

Myndi says

What I'm guessing is just a peek into the world that I'm about to learn about in *The Testing*. I actually hopped on GR to show someone the series I was about to read and learned about this little novella. So I clicked the link and got it for my Nook. We learn about who I've learned is the main character of the series' big brother and what happened at his graduation and shortly after. We also get to see what his relationship with his sister was like. Only a bit though because the novella really was just a little sample of what was to come. I'm anxious to see how *The Testing* goes now that I've had this little taste.
