



Failing Test

J.M. Pierce

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You know him, but you can't remember his name. He is the one that is always there, in the background, all but invisible to those roaming the hallways. What if he had a secret? What if it was a secret that even he didn't know?

Test Davis has always been a blur to those around him. He's a shadow like a million other kids--not smart enough for the academic team, not beast enough for the football team, not extroverted enough for the drama crowd. In all things Test is just...not, which is why no one ever notices him.

But what happens when someone does notice him-- Nicole Paxton, a cheerleader, no less? What happens on the night that Test finds out there's nothing average about him and that a powerful gift has been hidden within, secretly waiting to be set free and alter his life forever? The question is, will that power save him and those he loves or tear them apart?

Failing Test Details

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From Reader Review Failing Test for online ebook

?✿✿ Maki ✿✿? says

I didn't like Failing Test as much as I thought I would, based on the synopsis. It definitely had its moments, but overall I just wasn't very impressed with the book.

The biggest problem I had with the book was the reaction of the law enforcement when they hear about Test's powers. For instance, he accidentally reveals his powers to a bunch of his classmates when he defends his girlfriend from some of her old friends, who weren't happy about her leaving their clique to date Test. He smashes up a car, and levitates two jocks, then melts a fiery log into a puddle of goo. He runs off, and naturally, the classmates call the police to report the attack.

Here's my problem - a bunch of incredibly drunk teenagers call the police and report that one of their classmates has magical superpowers that he used to attack them...and the police don't think twice about it. Their reaction isn't to laugh at how ridiculous the story is. They don't stop to question the source at all. The very next day, the front page declares Test a national threat who definitely has magical powers. And when the police see Test for the first time, they open fire on him immediately, without even waiting for him to prove if he has the alleged powers or not. So drunken teenagers are a completely credible source in this world. I'd hate to deal with their legal system.

And that's another thing. Why did Test keep using his powers against the police? If he had never used them to attack the police, he could have just looked at the police and said, "Really? A bunch of drunk kids told you I had superpowers?" He laments that if he'd taken a bat to the kid's car instead of mind-crushing it, he wouldn't be in trouble. Then why not tell the police that that was what happened, then? He could have saved himself and everyone else a lot of trouble.

But, I suppose the book would have been a lot shorter if that had happened. Suspension of disbelief is one thing, but there's only so far you can suspend that disbelief in what is supposed to be such a realistic world.

Another problem I had was how Heather and Chad acted. People don't act like that. Popular cliques are one thing, but Heather and Chad were completely hostile. They had to "protect their Alpha status". Really? It just felt like the book tried way too hard to make them the villains. Once more, it might not be such an issue if the book wasn't going for normalcy.

Finally, Nicole's reaction to the whole glowing thing was confusing. Her boyfriend can levitate things, destroy cars, and fly? No problem. His hands start glowing? GOOD LORD, IT'S TOO HORRIFYING! She faints because his hands glow. Flying is not an issue, but his hands lighting up like a lite brite is faint-worthy?

I think Cliff was my favorite part of the book. He was definitely a fun character.

Mj Hangge says

Fabulous first novel by a fantastic novelist. JM Pierce has a grasp of drama and suspense which might just grasp his readers by the short hairs on the back of their necks. Characters are lively and fleshed out, dramatic

scenes are dramatic, and build ups are both interesting and rich. The novel held my interest from cover to cover and I'm eagerly awaiting the next story to come out of the mind of a future NYTimes best selling novelist.

~ Rose ~ ?Desert Rose✿ says

Every loner teen-age guy dreams of having super-powers, and being a hero. They daydream about that pretty girl who doesn't seem to ever take notice of them. They have one friend who's been there since Kindergarten. They hate their home life, and can't wait to turn 18 so they can get out on their own. They have a car that's an extension of themselves, that they love til the end, even if others spit at it. Sound familiar? Well, that's Test's life in a nutshell. Til now...

What do you do, when you suddenly have super-natural powers that seem pretty limitless? Apparently, in Test's world, you just try to fly under the radar and not cause trouble...after impressing the girl of your dreams, and your best friend, of course.

After some unfortunate accidents occur from his new powers, Test is thrown into a world of running, survival, and searching for answers. With the help of friends, both old and new, he sets out to figure out the secret behind his past, and try to figure out a future that doesn't include being a lab rat, or prison.

With good writing that flows well, this fast paced story keeps you on your toes until the last page, and leaves you wanting more. It is a story I think any guy can relate to, and any girl will enjoy. I'd recommend it to any YA fan.

Nephilim says

I've now read the three books in the Shadow Series and I have to say I love them all. I was a bit hesitant at first about reading Failing Test. However, once I started reading it I couldn't put it down and could not wait to start the next book in the series. The only disappointment I had after reading these books was that I had read the three of them and there was no more.

Lisa Gibson says

The story of Test Davis pulled me in right away. I became absorbed into what was going on with him, would he wind up with Nicole, would he and his mother mend their tenuous relationship? To be honest the book was a little heavy on the description, which made it somewhat long as well. I was grateful that the story was as strong as it was. The character of Cliff, who comes towards the later portion of the book was fantastic. Overall, I enjoyed it

Rebecca Graf says

What if you suddenly had super powers that were dangerous and scared you? A young teen named Test finds that he does and it will change his life forever. He tries to understand his powers as he tries to keep it hidden but discovers that is easier said than done.

I found this a very interesting read. The fact that the young boy had no idea had me intrigued. Also, he was a typical teen struggling with his emotions. I loved how the character was developed and so realistic. His emotions and that of his friends were so much like my own teenage kids though without any superpowers involved.

A great read with a soft cliffhanger that had me buying the next book. I thoroughly enjoyed the read.

Note: I purchased this book with my own funds with no expectation of a positive review.

Imogen Rose says

Just as teenager Test Davis delves into a blossoming romance with his long time crush, Nicole, he discovers that he has supernatural abilities. His powers are so intense that he struggles to control them, exploding his life into turmoil, violence and angst with the result that he becomes a fugitive running from the authorities while coming to terms with his powers. Will his romance with Nicole survive? Will he be able to come to terms with his powers and learn to control them? Will the world be able to accept him?

JM Pierce has written an engaging story told by two voices, by Test and by Nicole. Both characters are well fleshed. Test's frustrations and angst left me rooting for him. I felt Nicole's pain as she tried to decide whether to lead a fugitive's life with Test or give him up. The story is far from over and I look forward to the sequel.... Get writing, JM!

Nicole Storey says

I really liked the idea of this book. It would have made a great plot. However, the characters' dialog was way over exaggerated and unreal. Their emotions swung from one extreme to the next in two sentences. There were many editing errors in the book. I could go on and on...

I realize this is fiction, however, in order to have a GREAT book, at least part of it must have some basis in reality. You have to make the readers BELIEVE that your story could really happen, no matter how off the wall it is. This entire book was so unbelievable that it reminded me of something a kid in middle school might write -- not a bad attempt for a 12 year old, but horrible for an adult that is supposed to be a professional author.

Sara says

I loved the premise of the book, but it failed to deliver for me. I felt like I was caught in an endless cycle of Test getting angry, saving someone, scaring them, and then convincing everyone it would all be okay. I wasn't sure I would ever slog past all of the Nicole business and discovering powers business to get to any actual plot. The romance and dialogue seemed forced. It was a fast read; if you're into the supernatural teen

stuff, you'll probably really like it. I was hoping for more.

Lisa says

Nice fresh summit read

I enjoyed a beach reading while scores of teens walked. Always wanted to test the powers that Test possess. Would I pass as well?

Jamie says

Failing Test is like a thrill ride that is over before you are ready to get exit the ride. I was drawn in from the start and still wanting more at the dramatic ending.

Test Davis is a somewhat normal teenager who tries to stay in the shadows. That is until his crush Nicole tells him that she has been interested in him for a long time too. They have a sweet romance that quickly becomes complicated when Test discovers and reveals that he has supernatural powers. Test has trouble controlling his new found powers and things happen so fast that now he is a fugitive on the run. Nicole and Test's friends Mark, Marcy and Cliff must decide whether to help him or turn him in to the authorities.

I would love to tell you all the cool things that Test can do with his powers and how awesome some of the people in his life are. But I don't like to give away spoilers so you really should read this book for yourself. I loved it and didn't want to put it down. I found myself picking up my Kindle every chance I got to read it. This is one of the best stories that I have read lately. With the heart pounding action that seems to never end, a sweet romance and lots of suspense you will enjoy it too. I am looking forward to reading the sequel and finding out more about Test and his story. This e-book was provided to me by the author and/or publisher for review. This did not affect my review in any way.

Dee Pierce says

This book is a phenomenal reading experience that takes its audience on an engaging and inspiring journey from the very first page until the final conclusion. The author grips the reader's interest by offering a compelling storyline combined with intriguing and introspective characters. The writer presents a realistic and colorful canvas that enables his audience to connect and relate to the all too familiar teenage emotions, inner struggles and personal triumphs that are encountered during that phase of life. J.M. Pierce constructs a unique narrative that guides the reader through dynamic characters and masterful plot descriptions.

The storyline reflects the notion that even though the main character faces ultimate and extreme abilities and powers, he is still bound by seemingly insignificant yet integral choices and decisions that dramatically affect the course of everyday life events. There is no doubt that "Test" mirrors our own reality and the challenges we face each day. Our decisions & choices, whether good or bad create and direct us everlasting down the pathways we design. What would you do if you held a quintessential life changing secret that would affect the very foundation and core of your existence? This book explores and expands upon that point while allowing the audience to explore its own answers to such life altering thoughts, questions and ideas.

Read this book...it is your destiny...

Jaidis Shaw says

I recently finished reading Failing Test by J.M. Pierce and I must admit that I was a little hesitant by the description because it sounded like one of those books that has an awesome idea but could easily be taken in the wrong direction or have what I like to refer to as the 'sparklyness', which in my opinion is not a good thing to have, but I still found myself intrigued by it. I originally planned on sitting down and reading a few pages, just to get a feel for it, and then come back to it later after I got some things done around my house. I found myself pleasantly surprised that my original plan was shattered as I was staring at the last page of the book on my computer in disbelief that it was over. I believe Failing Test is beautifully written and gave just the right attention to details. Not long and drawn out details that make you skip down a few sentences just to get to the main point, but details that draw you in and make it easy for you to imagine yourself in the story along side the characters. The main character, Test Davis, gives off the 'can't live with him, can't live without him' vibe which makes me feel even more sympathetic towards him and the struggles that he is faced with. I'm actually finding myself having a difficult time writing this review because I want to keep telling you about his powers and the struggles he is facing, but would most definitely prefer that you buy the book and read it for yourself. I know that you will be pleasantly surprised by Failing Test's smooth paced twists and turns. I enjoyed reading it so much in fact, that I am going to buy a paperback copy just to have on my bookshelf because I will definitely be reading this book again...and again

Maria Hooley says

Failing test excels at an aspect of the superhero genre that isn't typically tackled. Most of us would love to super powers, but we don't think about the consequences of those powers and what they would mean to those we love. While Test is a good person, the power within him can be destructive, and it changes the landscape of his life.

While there are many vampire novels to choose from, Failing Test stands on its own merits as a coming-of-age story mixed with a wonderful what-if scenario, proving that while Test is in some ways super human, he is also just as vulnerable as the rest of us, and pain is pain, even to someone who can easily throw cars and pulse his way around the world. I would love to see this character five years down the road when he has finally come to terms with who he is. Something tells me his world will be better for having him in it.

Aundie says

This is a wonderful book full of creativity and is full of excitement.
