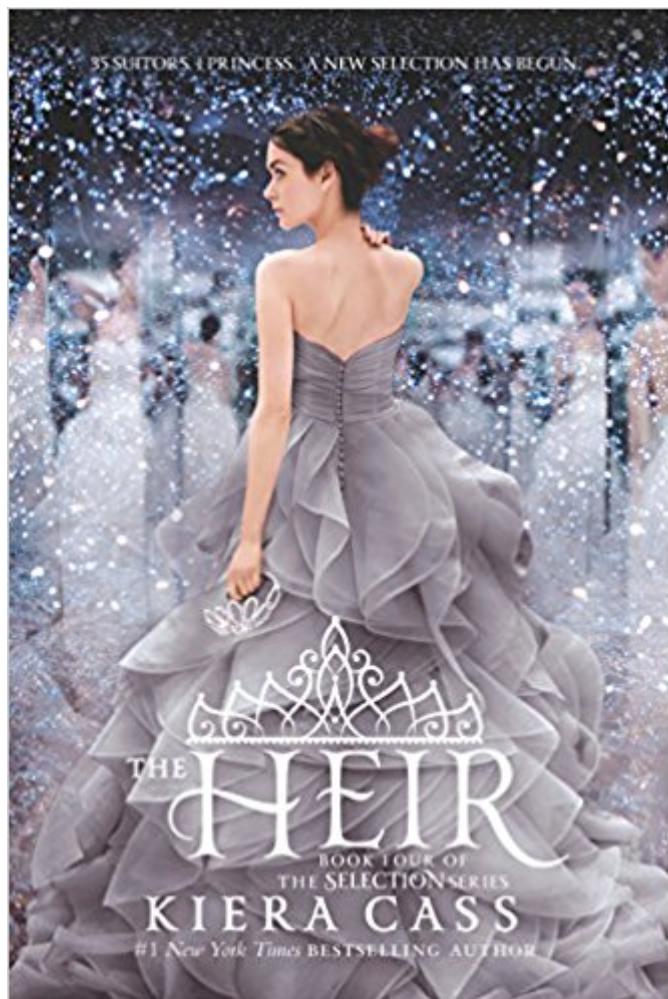


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The Heir (The Selection)



Synopsis

A new era dawns in the world of Kiera Cass's #1 New York Times bestselling Selection series. America and Maxon's fairy-tale romance enchanted readers from the very first page of *The Selection*. Now find out what happens after happily ever after in this fourth captivating novel, perfect for fans of Veronica Roth's *Divergent*, Lauren Oliver's *Delirium*, or Renée Ahdieh's *The Wrath & the Dawn*. Twenty years ago, America Singer entered the Selection and won Prince Maxon's heart. Now the time has come for Princess Eadlyn to hold a Selection of her own. Eadlyn doesn't expect anything like her parents' fairy-tale love story...but as the competition begins, she may discover that finding her own happily ever after isn't as impossible as she's always thought. A new generation of swoon-worthy characters and captivating romance awaits in the fourth book of the Selection series!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up •Cass draws us back into the world of "The Selection" (HarperCollins) with this latest series installment. Taking place 20 years after *The One* (2014), this entry focuses on the lives of Queen America and King Maxon's four children, specifically Princess Eadlyn, who is the heir to the throne. The castes have officially been dissolved, but not without recurring issue, including riots among the people of Ilea. To distract the country and buy time for King Maxon and Queen America to formulate a plan to stop the riots, it's decided that another Selection will take place. Princess Eadlyn is initially not fond of the idea because she is not ready to get married; however she respects

her parents' wishes, and wants to do right by her people. She has two caveats: a three-month commitment and an understanding that she may not find a husband in the end. Fans will simultaneously root for and despise Eadlyn. She is powerful, bossy, and vulnerable. While life looks perfect from the outside, readers learn that things are not what they seem. Physical fights break out among the Selected, and secrets are kept only to be revealed at the very end. The cliff-hanger conclusion sets the stage for future volumes. At times the work feels like a retelling of the first book, but with a different cast of characters. However, readers will enjoy seeing the courtship rituals through the eyes of Eadlyn, her date mishaps, and how things have evolved over two decades.

VERDICT A great addition for collections that have a high demand for "The Selection" series. •Erin Holt, Williamson County Public Library, Franklin, TN --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

PRAISE FOR KIERA CASS: "A real page-turner. Romance, royalty, and revolution in a reality-show format serve Cass's boldly rendered heroine well in her quest for justice and love." (ALA Booklist) "Reality T.V. meets dystopian fairy tale in Kiera Cass's delightful debut. Charming, captivating, and filled with just the right amount of swoon!" (Kiersten White, New York Times bestselling author of *Paranormalcy*) "An engrossing tale reminiscent of Shannon Hale's *Princess Academy* and Ally Condie's *Matched*. Fairy-tale lovers will lose themselves in America's alternate reality and wish that the next glamorous sequel were waiting for them." (School Library Journal) "Deliciously entertaining." (Publishers Weekly) "Cass's immensely readable debut novel is a less drastic Hunger Games, with elaborate fashion and trappings. The fast-paced action will have readers gasping for the upcoming sequel." (ALA Booklist) "A cross between *The Hunger Games* (minus the bloodsport) and *The Bachelor* (minus the bloodsport), this trilogy launch is a lot of fun. Cass deftly builds the chemistry between America and Maxon, while stroking the embers of America's first, forbidden love." (Publishers Weekly)

The Heir is more of a companion than a continuation of the Selection series. I must admit, Eadlyn is a frustrating, annoying, and bratty protagonist who I often found myself wishing I could slap, but by the end of the novel, I realized that somewhere along the way she had matured and developed into a tolerable main character who I could root for. Now, after reading about 35 women chase after 1 man, I was extremely excited to see it play out the other way around. Kiera Cass did not disappoint. I cannot decide which of the several main male characters that I want to be with Eadlyn. I absolutely

loved Kile, Henri, Fox, and Hale. And Erik as well but I don't know if he counts as being in the running for her hand. My absolute favorite part of this novel was, of course, Maxon and America. They were still just as adorable as they were in the first three books. Maxon is still completely devoted to America while America adores Maxon with all of her being. I loved the references to their selection and the shenanigans that occurred. I desperately need the sequel, especially after that god awful cliff hanger. Seriously, give me more now. *The Heir* was a solid 4/5, which is surprising considering it had so much to live up to due to it following the amazing first three *Selection* books.

No, seriously. I know it's tempting to want to get "the conclusion" to the story, but you're just in for a disappointment. You do get some additional information about existing characters from the first three books, but the focus of this is entirely on Eadlyn and that is truly unfortunate. She starts out as a truly bratty girl, and while she does turn around on that point, her entire evolution - indeed, the entire series - seems rushed and awkward. She makes a far greater change from the beginning of book one to the end of book two than America did over three books, and it's entirely unbelievable. She essentially grows a new personality and a new set of morals in the space of 8 weeks, and I just don't buy it. Eadlyn is such a shallow character, with no depth, and I find that time spent with her is uncomfortable from start to finish. The rest of the story feels the same way - shallow and rushed. Perhaps Kiera Cass would have done better to extend Eadlyn's tale over three books as well, so it didn't seem so completely jarring. The end feels completely out of the blue and has the ring of "deus ex machina" about it, and made me wish I hadn't wasted my time. I don't really believe in any of the other characters either; even America and Maxon seem to be carbon copies of the strong, well-developed characters they were only one book ago. The little tidbits about them and the rest of the original gang are not worth the flattening they undergo in this book and the subsequent one, and I'd rather they live in their original form in my mind. I'm still a huge fan of the first three books, but it seems to me that it might be better to simply pretend that the story ends there.

This book is entertaining but not as good as the first 3 books. It doesn't have as much romance and the public unrest isn't as violent. Also, I would NOT consider it a part of "The Selection" book series because of the HUGE jump in time, even though another Selection does take place. **SUMMARY:** This story takes place about 2 decades after America's "Selection". It is taken from the point of view of America's first born child and only daughter, Eadlyn Schreave (age 18). The caste system has been abolished, but the society is still a little unsettled with their situation due to discrimination based on their once associated caste level. In order to try and distract the people, Eadlyn is pressured by

her parents (Queen America and King Maxon) to host her own selection. Eadlyn does not approve of the Selection but says she'll make it last 3 months even though she has no intention of finding a soul mate. She believes she can handle the job of being the queen on her own. During the selection, Eadlyn finds out via a letter from her brother Ahren that the public unrest is caused by her TV image as being shallow and selfish and told her that she needs to not be scared of showing her true self. And she does seem to have the spoiled brat mentality through most of the book, but it might be the author trying to show the strain of learning to perform as a royal but it's not quite clear since none of the royal responsibilities were ever explained. Finally, the book ends with America having a heart attack and Eadlyn finally coming to terms with truly trying to find a soul mate.

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