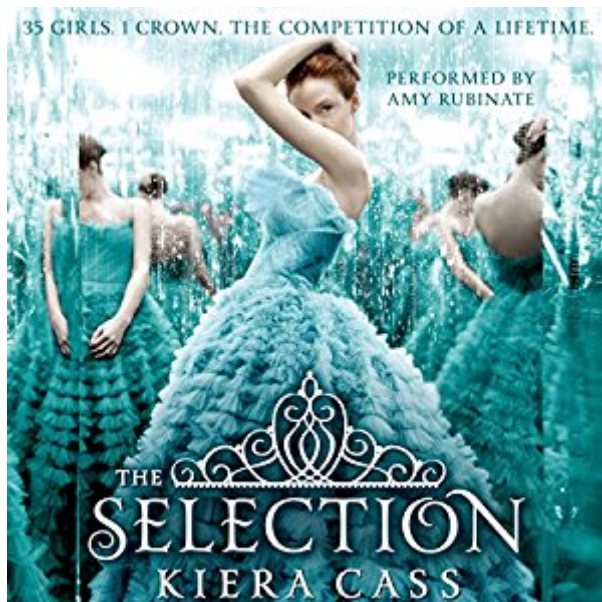


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The Selection: The Selection, Book 1



Synopsis

For 35 girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime: the opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth... to be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels... to live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her, leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want, and living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself - and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a bit embarrassed by how much I love this book, based on the actual storyline and content. If I were to summarize, it would sound like this is a book about a medieval version of The Bachelor. There isn't even much distopia or "extra" storyline to balance out the 90% of the book that is 35 girls fighting over one Prince. Yet somehow, I was hooked. I'm an adult who loves distopian books, but it's been a while since I read one that didn't feel far too juvenile. This book really felt like the character was a smart, capable person dealing with decisions most teenagers would not have to. But at the same time, it stayed relatable to teens and there were definitely moments she made mistakes or acted in ways that only an impulsive teen would. She was not infallible, and she wasn't a lovesick puppy who couldn't live without a man either. There also weren't too many truly heartbreaking, depressing parts of this book. I like a nice upbeat read to distract me from reality

sometimes, and this did the trick. All in all, it's clear that this author is just an expert storyteller who could make any mundane story sparkle.

I enjoyed this story very much. I liked America who really didn't want to win the handsome prince preferring the boy of the lower caste that she has known and loved for years. But he pressures her into signing up by convincing her that he would feel guilty if she let the opportunity pass her by. She is also being pressured by her mother who loves her but wants her to better herself if it is possible. America signs up never believing that she would be one of the thirty-five girls chosen as potential mates for the prince. Once chosen, she is still determined not to marry the prince. She has a distorted vision of who he is. It isn't until he comes to her rescue when she is having a panic attack that she learns that the prince isn't at all who she thought he was. She still doesn't want to marry him, but she offers to be his friend. Friends are something neither of them have had before. This was an interesting society where people are born into castes which dictate what sort of job is available to you. America's caste is composed of artists of various kinds. America is a singer and plays lots of instruments. Aspen, her first love, is one caste lower and is in service to anyone who will hire him. None of the lower castes, America's or Aspen's have enough to eat. That is one incentive for America to take part in the Selection, the meals at the palace are far beyond what she can get at home. Life isn't idyllic at the palace. There is some rivalry between the girls who are competing for the prince though most of them do become friends. There is the requisite mean girl in the story who makes life harder for America than it would have to be. But the main problem is rebels who attack the palace. There are two factions - the North and the South. One faction seems to be searching for something in the palace and the other just seems bent on destruction. This was a great beginning to a series and I am eager to read more books to find out what happens to America and which boy she chooses. I'm rooting for the prince.

I'd like to preface this by saying that I am an avid reader, I can devour fluff and lit alike, once I pick a book up I finish it. There was some potential in the book, when they finally began talking history and the problems with the U.S. and China I perked up, really hoping to actually discover something about the story other than America's self absorbed petulant child routine. It fell short, just as I began getting swept up in the story something would happen, some utterly unrealistic phrase or act that would hurl me out of the pages and back into my own life. Teenagers in a dystopian future and a love triangle has been done, throwing in reality TV hardly solidified the idea that the U.S was destroyed and they were in a completely different world with different ideals and government. Like

Incarceron they were in the future but had chosen to function like an earlier age, a monarchy, formal dress, reserved demeanor. However America acted like a first world self absorbed brat, which seemed incredibly unlikely. As a five the very survival of her family depended upon her working, caring about them more than herself, those conditions make a child grow up very quickly. Her family could starve without the money she made participating in the Selection, her first act on meeting the prince? Yell at him. Even a very understanding monarch would only put up with her for so long, everyone wants what they can't have, but no one wants to play second fiddle. There was no real character development, little back story, no justification for people's way of thinking. Yes I finished it in a day, it wasn't so bad I had to just stop reading, but it fell short for me on quite a few fronts. Maybe Kiera Cass just needs to take a psych class, but she doesn't seem to understand the concept of motivation or how personal relationships function.

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