

The Selection

by Kiera Cass

35 girls all competing for the love of one prince. The Selection is a way for these girls to move up in life and escape the life already made out for them. What will happen? Whose hearts will be broken? Who will fall in love? Find out by reading this book, the first book in a five-book series.

16-year-old girl America Singer lives in a dystopian world where her country called Illea has strict laws on what caste (level) people are and what they can do with their lives. America belongs to the fifth caste where they are assigned to be artists and performers who rely on patrons for financial support and are pretty low in their economic standing. The caste go from ones who are royalty and higher than anyone else to eights being abandoned and homeless. In *The Selection*, 35 girls who were picked are competing for the crown and if they want, for the heart of Prince Maxon but that might be a harder task (for some).

I was pretty pleased with how this book and the rest of the series turned out. Its plot was kind of a bachelor type show but with a twist with royalty/commoner and with a war also happening. For every girl it's their absolute dream to be picked for the selection but America dreads it. She knows that participating in it will benefit her family so much, but that it will also mean leaving her secret boyfriend of two years (also best friend since they were kids) and pursuing Prince Maxon. Aspen (secret boyfriend) is one caste under and his career was to be a servant. They loved each other but it was forbidden to marry someone that's below your caste, and it would also end her chances of lifting her family out of poverty. Aspen didn't want that for her (even though America didn't care) and encouraged her to join, and that had them both thinking that it would be the end of their story (but nope, it isn't). When America joins she has to adjust with new puffy dresses, new place/people, attention from the public, free food, and a prince she doesn't even know. When she does get to know him, she is very surprised, and you will find out if it's in a good way or a bad way.

I would really recommend this to anyone that's looking for a good series to start. I personally loved the first 3 books of it, but the last 2 were pretty questionable (to be honest). I would definitely read the whole series, though, to get closure and all of that. I really loved this book and the characters, but let me say that I am Prince Maxon's biggest fan and love him all throughout the books, and when you read it you will definitely love him too. The romance, suspense, and the heartbreak will definitely interest you into flipping to the next page!

-Victoria, age 13

