

The Heir

Kiera Cass

Reviewed by: Sierra Irvine, 19

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Eadlyn Schreave (18) was doomed from the moment she was born before her twin brother, Ahren. Being the daughter of the King and Queen of Illea, Eadlyn was left little option but to step in line to her duties of becoming future queen. However, as the country of Illea continues to descend into chaos after the removal of the caste-system, Eadlyn's parents propose a Selection as a means to temporary peace. The Selection is a tradition of Illea, in which the soon-to-be heir to the throne engages in a competition amongst the most eligible bachelors/bachelorettes for their hand in marriage. At first, Eadlyn is hesitant to accept the idea, but agrees on the condition that she will not be required to marry one of her suitors if she does not wish. However, a Selection is anything but predictable and as tensions and emotions run high, Eadlyn may find herself entranced with tough decisions and the weight of her country on her back.

The Heir is what I consider to be a true classic dystopian love story. Having to live up to the success and acclaim of *The Selection* trilogy, Kiera Cass manages to do it once again in this spin-off/sequel novel. While the plot of this novel is very akin to its predecessors, *The Heir* still somehow manages to feel fresh and unique, especially with the stark contrast between Eadlyn and America, who is the main female lead of the original trilogy. In *The Selection*, we see America Singer enter a similar circumstance from the entire opposite perspective, being a contestant from outside the royal family, while in *The Heir* we see a perspective of what a Selection is like from the object of the competition. Eadlyn is a wonderful protagonist to carry this novel and while I wasn't exactly fond of her in the beginning, I found myself rooting for her till the very end. She's strong, determined and a little stubborn which makes her interactions with her suitors very dynamic. This novel will leave you wanting to grab the next one right away to see how the events unfold and how Eadlyn will finish her Selection if she does at all.

In terms of what I disliked about this book, there isn't much. I would say the biggest downfall of this book is Eadlyn. Despite becoming a favorable protagonist toward the end of the novel, her attitude towards the beginning could be enough to throw people away from finishing the story. I understand now why Kiera Cass intended to write her this way, but reading a story with a main lead you find whiney and rude can be challenging. I wouldn't say this should be enough to deter anyone from reading, but it's something to be cautious of.

In conclusion, *The Heir* is a book I could not put down, much like *The Selection* Series, with a perfect blend of romance, drama and dystopian flair to keep you guessing. I would highly recommend the book to anyone who is a fan of dystopian romance. There is nothing too intense within the book that would keep it from being too harmful for younger audiences, however due to the book's more mature themes and romantic aspects, I would recommend it for no less than a tween audience. The cover art of the book is beautiful and would be a perfect edition to any collection as a gift. In addition, you will most likely find yourself wanting to read it again soon after you finish, so I would recommend buying this one over renting.

Recommended Titles:

The Siren by Kiera Cass

Glass Sword by Victoria Aveyard

Scarlet by Marissa Meyer

Caraval by Stephanie Garber

A Court of Thorns & Roses by Sarah J. Mass