

The Heir

Kiera Cass

Reviewed by: Madison Li, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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I am Eadlyn Schreave, and no one in the world is as powerful as me. This is what the 18-year-old princess of Illéa tells herself every day, and it's true. As first-born and soon-to-be-queen, Eadlyn helps her parents, King Maxon and Queen America, shoulder the heavy responsibility of running the country—a responsibility that will one day become hers. She's accomplished, formidable, and confident she can fulfill her duty. Alone. So when her parents suggest Eadlyn hold a Selection, she's dumbfounded.

Even though King Maxon dissolved the caste system, discrimination has endured. Thus, so has public dissatisfaction. To distract her people, Eadlyn is supposed to use the archaic process through which past male sovereigns found their life partners: invite thirty-five suitors into the palace, date them simultaneously, and narrow them down to the one she wants to marry. A Selection may have resulted in a perfect, fairy-tale romance for her parents, but Eadlyn doesn't need, nor want, to share her powers and responsibilities. She eventually agrees, if only to buy her father time. Eadlyn must put on a show of love amidst the political turmoil.

Initially, Eadlyn plans to intimidate her suitors into leaving as soon as possible. Yet as time goes on and the group shrinks, the remaining boys slowly win her over with their sincerity and compassion. Eadlyn begins to question her original intention to pursue a life of solitude. She fears her newfound emotional vulnerability, wondering if it's possible that marriage and power are not mutually exclusive. Still, she struggles to open up, and the media criticizes Eadlyn for being cold, self-absorbed, and fake. As she becomes uncomfortably aware of her own flaws and unpopularity, she worries that the Selection may not be distracting enough. Eadlyn faces mounting pressure from all sides, trying to satisfy the public, her family, the boys, and herself, all at once.

The Heir is a captivating extension of the original trilogy *The Selection*, which tells the classic love story of Eadlyn's parents. I recommend teenagers to read through the entire series, since you won't be able to tear yourself away from these messy but heartwarming romances. This way, you'll be able to enjoy familiar characters and settings, along with a new, exciting storyline. There's also a sequel to *The Heir*, titled *The Crown*, so be sure to read that as well!

Recommended Titles:

The Selection by Kiera Cass

The Crown by Kiera Cass

The Princess Trials by Cordelia K. Castel

Matched by Allie Condie

Shatter Me by Tahereh Mafi