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Happily Ever After: Companion To The Selection Series (The Selection Novella)



Synopsis

Meet Prince Maxon before he fell in love with America, and a girl named Amberly before she became queen. See the Selection through the eyes of a guard who watched his first love drift away and a girl who fell for a boy who wasn't the prince. This gorgeous collection features four novellas from the captivating world of Kiera Cass's #1 New York Times bestselling Selection series—two of which appear here in print for the first time—as well as exclusive, never-before-seen bonus content. This series companion is a must-have for any Selection fan, and includes: The Prince The Guard The Queen (in print for the first time) The Favorite (in print for the first time) Exclusive new scenes from The Selection, The Elite, and The One Introductions to each novella from Kiera Cass A map of Illíria and other illustrations And more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So, as always, I made another horribly fantastic decision. Downside-I'm getting five hours of sleep tonight. Upside-this book was flawless. I feel like I finally have the closer I needed about most characters, and the only way Kiera Cass could have done better is by writing the whole series from Maxon's point of view :) Hurry up, book five!

Not sure why I thought this was going to be another installment in the series. Just a heads up...it's not. Happily Ever After is a compilation of all the novellas and bonus scenes/epilogues in The Selection series and if you are up-to-date with reading the series then you have already read most

of these. Die hard fans will likely love this one-stop shop for all the extras but I could have done without it. Don't mind me, just a little disgruntled. I should have read the synopsis first. Lesson learned.

The Prince (with the two bonus chapters): This is basically the first 1/3 of *The Selection* from Prince Maxon's point of view. I liked that it showed the stressors Maxon has to deal with, his relationship with his parents, and his personal thoughts about the selection process and the girls.

The Guard: *The Guard* is a novella (#2.5) in author Kiera Cass's *The Selection* series. In the series, the female lead is America Singer who is torn between two loves in her life, Maxon and Aspen. Maxon's perspective is shared in the novella *The Prince*, and Aspen's perspective is shared in this novella. I have enjoyed the series overall and although I thought *The Prince* novella was unnecessary, it was interesting being inside Maxon's head. However, after reading *The Guard*, I almost wish I wasn't exposed to Aspen's point-of-view. There's a difference between a man being in love and a boy being in love and Aspen appears to be the latter. There's nothing necessarily wrong with this. Actually, there's a certain type of sweetness to being oblivious to everything except your heart's desire. But America is no longer a girl who has this luxury. She has grown and has been exposed to the complexities in her world and her eyes are now on more pressing matters. I've been Team Maxon since book one and that hasn't changed for me, especially after reading this book.

The Queen: *The Queen* is a prequel novella (#0.4) in Kiera Cass's young adult, dystopian series titled: *The Selection Series*. This short story features Maxon's father and mother, King Clarkson and Queen Amberly, and includes the story of how they met through their generation's selection process. I think most readers don't like King Clarkson in *The Selection Series*, so I was curious if he would be portrayed any differently during his younger years as prince. The answer is...Nope. I have to admit though, Ms. Cass was much more subtle in her character development of Clarkson, but his need to control and his hard-handed threats are still shown through his interactions with others in this prequel. The cycle of violence rings loud and clear within the portrait of this royal family, but any suggestion that Clarkson is a victim rang on deaf ears with me. Amberly is the perfect little submissive, which is something I didn't really view her as in the series, but maybe I just forgot. Through Amberly's point of view, the two of them have a very promising future together, and they may very well be just what each other needs. *The Queen* gives quite a bit of insight into these two characters, and when compared to the series, does a great job of reinforcing the fairytale aspect of Maxon and America's love story. This novella is a wonderful addition to the series and I would recommend it to fans.

The Favorite: *The Favorite* is a novella (#2.6) in Kiera Cass's

young adult, dystopia series titled *The Selection*. This short-story was a refreshing addition from Marlee's point of view. The characters in this series are great, but sometimes it's nice to read a new perspective...and see a new love story. If you have read the series then you know that Marlee falls in love with a guard: Carter and when discovered, they are caned as punishment. But Marlee's POV provides insight into a beautiful bond between two people that gets them through the hard times. I found the novella rather choppy and it didn't flow well in my opinion but the content was good. Three stars.

Three scenes from Celeste's POV: ...
Celeste isn't the cold-hearted b*tch I thought she was. She's still a stuck-up snob who will do anything to be first but she is a bit complex like we all are. Can't say I like her character but I didn't mind reading these few scenes from her perspective.

Lucy's scene (bonus scene from *The One*):
This is a tiny little scene from the maid Lucy's perspective. If this was a deleted scene collecting dust, then I see why Ms. Cass wanted to eventually offer it to readers but I certainly wouldn't have sought out *Happily Ever After* just for this.

The bonus epilogue:
Another tiny piece that gives fans a peek of their favorite characters' after the ending of *The One*. Again, it didn't really do anything for me but I'm sure there are some fans out there that will just squeal with joy at any little bit that extends the story for them.

I was so excited when I saw this "prequel"/companion novel was releasing. Of course, I thought it was just the Prince, the Guard, and then the Queen and the Favorite in it with some extra pages with maps of Illea and author notes back then. Nevertheless, I still bought it because, um, hello!--it's still a *Selection* book! I was pleasantly surprised to find that I enjoyed (read: loved) this a lot more than I thought I would. It gives so much more insight to Marlee, Carter, Maxon, Aspen, Lucy, Celeste, Clarkson, and Amberly. You get to see scenes taking place that America never saw and what the other characters seemed to think about certain events and America, which is really cool. There's also a lot more to it than I gave it credit for! I mean, I think it's the biggest book of the series yet. It truly is a "must have companion"!! And besides... the bonus epilogue to *The One* is so sweet that it's worth buying just to read that part. I mean, c'mon, we all don't mind reading a bit more from America's perspective! ;)

The book is great but you have to read it in a particular order with the other books in the series. Please look below for that because two of the stories should be read before the first book. The second could be read before or after depending upon the reader.

The Queen (*Happily Ever After*

Companion Book)The Prince (Happily Ever After Companion Book)The SelectionThe EliteThe Guard (Happily Ever After Companion Book)The Favorite (Happily Ever After Companion Book) Pt 1 This takes place before The OneThe OneThe Favorite (Happily Ever After Companion Book) Pt 2 This takes place during the book The One so better to read after this book is done.Scenes From Celeste (Happily Ever After Companion Book)The Maid (Happily Ever After Companion Book)After the One (the Epilogue) (Happily Ever After Companion Book)Where are they Now? (Happily Ever After Companion Book)The HeirThe CrownThis book might repeat certain scenes but its great to see it from someone else's POV.

This is a time that I really wish that I could give half star reviews. Personally I really feel like this book was saw great. Amazing but not quite fabulous.Reasons why it was great;I loved all the novellas. Personally I am just one of those fans who would be super happy if Keira kept the series going just for America. So because of this I really liked getting the extra scoop on all the other characters.I also believe that the after scene (for America and Maxon) was worth the ten dollars in itself. It was one of my favorite parts along with Celeste scenes.The only thing I had an issues with was the illustrations. They were great, but nothing special.So I think that this is a great buy and you should definable get it if you love the selection as much as I do!

It was ok, if you've read the books, you'll enjoy this. The only newly released novella was The Favorite, the rest were all released on Kindle, and I didn't love it. The Prince and The Guard are the best of the 4 novellas, and I enjoyed the epilogue to The One and the Where Are They Now? I thought the scenes from Celeste's perspective lacked thought and didn't add much at all. Except that Celeste had more anger issues that we originally saw. I think they were meant to redeem her, or continue to, but they didn't.

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