



Happily Ever After

Kiera Cass

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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, 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

The Favorite

Exclusive new scenes from *The Selection*, *The Elite*, and *The One*

Introductions to each novella from Kiera Cass

A map of Illéa and other illustrations

And more!

Happily Ever After Details

Date : Published October 13th 2015 by HarperTeen

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Author : Kiera Cass

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From Reader Review Happily Ever After for online ebook

ambsreads says

There isn't much to say about this collection of novellas apart from *wow*.

I'm Selection series trash. I adore it, despite how absolutely ridiculous the whole series is. I can never stop once I start. I absolutely adore the characters, with the exclusion of Aspen, and **loved** getting more perspectives of the original books. Plus more.

If you're Selection trash like me, I highly recommend picking up this little extra. If not just for the snippet we get of Maxon and America after *The One*.

Selene Matheson says

The Queen (Amberly) - 1 Star

The Prince (Maxon) - 2 Stars

The Guard (Aspen) - 1 Star

The Favourite (Marlee) - 1.5 Stars

Celeste's POV - 2 Stars

Lucy's Scene - 1.5 Stars

Where Are They Now? - 2 Stars

Mikee Andrea (ReadWithMikee) says

Sigh. So many people have complained about this bind-up being a ploy to leech money from its readers, but I DON'T CARE. The cover is beautiful. The illustrations were beautiful. I love the Selection series. Judge away! :P

In all honesty, *I don't really bother reading novellas*. Don't ask me why because I don't know the answer myself haha. I'm probably just too lazy. Or maybe because I would rather read new books with new stories and characters. It better be one **HECK** of a series for me to even consider reading a novella. But I decided to purchase this bind-up anyways because as previously said, I LOVE the Selection series. It's actually one of the first series I've read that brought me back to my love for books and reading. So I didn't mind spending money on this beautiful piece of work because I never spent money on the novellas that were released prior to *Happily Ever After* in the first place.

With that being said...

The Queen: 2/5 STARS

Sadly, I did not like Queen Amberly's story mainly because I didn't particularly like her character. I never gave Queen Amberly much thought in the original books. I figured she was kind, humble, and loved by her people for good reason. Nothing more to it than that. Instead, the Amberly in this novella was just plain **weak** in my opinion. She was head over heels in love over a prince she only knew from what she saw on

television and hadn't even had a proper conversation with him. She was a complete *pushover* and would jump if you told her to jump without question. This girl honestly had no backbone and it irritated the living *crap* out of me. The insta-love felt super cringeworthy and I didn't really connect with any of the characters. The Queen is definitely my *least favorite* novella from the book.

The Prince: 4/5 STARS

Honestly, this should've been more of a novella during the Selection told in Maxon's POV instead of making Daphne and her unrequited love for Maxon play even the slightest role in the story. She was *irrelevant* to me and all I really wanted was to finally get to the part where Maxon and America meet. Not to mention the fact that her character was just so **annoying and needy**. And the "*romance*"... Ugh. It's so weird. All the newly introduced relationships so far up until this point are so rushed and cringeworthy. I get that these are just novellas and there aren't enough pages for development but *ugh*. This is why I don't read novellas! But it all got better when Maxon and America finally met. They were just so adorable and just... **AWWWW!** And Maxon is such a great guy! I loved getting a peek of what his thoughts really were during the Selection. I was so disappointed when the story ended and honestly wouldn't mind it one bit if Kiera rewrote the whole book in Maxon's POV. It was just crazy realizing how much I've missed Maxon and America! <3

The Guard/The Maid: 3/5 STARS

I don't think I really enjoyed this one as much. I love Aspen's character but I felt like I was basically rereading the Elite all over again. I didn't get much out of it as much as I did with The Prince. We spent most of the timing just going over what happened in the original books but never really getting anything new. At least, nothing new that was overly exciting. I wanted to know more about Lucy and Aspen's relationship because their romance *came out of nowhere* in the One. I had hoped that Kiera would've shed some light on when and how Aspen's "*love*" for Lucy triumphed over his love for America but I still didn't really see it. They only had about two scenes together in The Guard and they were nothing more than friendly conversation. I wanted to see that moment when Aspen **KNEW** he loved Lucy. But since we never really got that in The Guard or The Maid, I think I'll always feel that Aspen only ended up with Lucy for the sake of ending up with someone and having a happy ending.

The Favorite: 5/5 STARS

Omg this was by far **my favorite** novella! I absolutely loved Marlee and Carter. The only complaint I have is that this story was simply not long enough! Even though we couldn't get much development because this story was just a novella, the romance between Marlee and Carter was still perfect. Unlike Aspen and Lucy's "relationship" in The Guard, we actually got to see Marlee and Carter's love *flourish*. I was definitely sold! Marlee and Carter are my second favorite, if not the only other couple I ship besides America and Maxon. <3

Celeste: 4/5 STARS

I AM STILL UPSET OVER HOW CELESTE'S OVERALL STORY ENDS. I don't think I can ever forgive Kiera for this! I hated Celeste with a burning passion and loved her instantly as soon as she redeemed herself in the end. **BUT WHY WHY WHY DID YOU HAVE TO RUIN IT!!!** As much as I loved reading Celeste's POVs, it made me even more upset that she didn't get a better ending. *Ugh!!!!*

I still can't believe the Selection is over! :(It just feels so bittersweet to finally see everybody have their *happily ever after*. I truly believe that Kiera Cass should've ended the series after America and Maxon's story. As much as I want this series to go on forever, it just isn't the same anymore even with the original characters still there. Just let them have their HEA. Let us believe that Illea was finally in a state of peace after everything has happened.

Muse-ic ? says

I'm not covering this review for spoilers. Just be warned that there will be spoilers for *The One*.

That was a lovely read!

Mostly.....

The Prince

I miss Maxon. He is definitely in the list of my top five book boyfriends. I've already read *The Prince*, but this one had two extra chapters. LOVED 'EM!!



The Guard

Let's be honest here. I don't like Aspen. So I skimmed through *The Guard*. I read Lucy's POV that include Laspen (Lucy/Aspen).

I'm not going to lie: I feel bad for Lucy. Aspen was kind of a jerk. Not like a mean jerk, but Lucy asked him if he still had feelings for America and such and he told her that "no" but his instinct to protect her would always be there. It makes sense, but that comment really hurt Lucy. She told him to leave her alone, but he didn't. It worked out in the end, but I still wasn't feeling it.

The Queen

I didn't even bother to reread this. I read it already and lost respect for Amberly and hated Clarkson even more. I just skipped over it.

The Favorite

I loved *The Favorite*. It was great to find out how Marlee met Carter and what happened to them after their beating. Awesome!

Lucy's Chapters

As mentioned above.

Three Scenes from Celeste's POV

Holy Crap! I miss Celeste. These scenes made me miss her more. I loved reading them!

The Bonus Epilogue

I've already read this, but I read it again just because. Awesome and adorable!

Where are they now?

This was a follow-up of Natalie, Kriss, and Elise (no Celeste because we know where she is now :()

Natalie's was interesting and made complete sense. She got married, divorced because she's too much of a free spirit, and became a famous jewelry designer.

Kriss was so sad. She just went back to teaching at her father's university. Eventually she met Professor Elliot, who was seven years her senior. He didn't treat her like a prior-selected because he was on a research trip away from Illea and never knew about it. They fell in love and got married.

Elise was so devastated by her loss that she wouldn't step foot in the palace. She didn't even attend the royal wedding! But once Maxon learned that his father started the war in New Asia for sh*t's and giggles, he took out the troops, made peace, and made Elise the ambassador for New Asia. Then she met an amazing man

from New Asia, found love, and married him (not out of duty). They had kids.

The whole war in New Asia thing made me hate Clarkson even more. In the One, Queen Amberly told America that Clarkson seemed harsh because he cared and tried so hard and that it was really stressful to be in his shoes. I lost even *more* respect for Amberly after this. Was she *that* stupid???

Clarkson was evil. Everything he did was for power and for himself, not for the country. It was mentioned that if the Southern Rebels came to power, everything they would do would be for power.....Doesn't sound too different from Clarkson. **I hate him from the bottom of my heart!!!**

The illustrations from this book were gorgeous :D I tried to put some in this review but they didn't work unfortunately.

If you've read the Selection series, I would definitely recommend reading this as well :D

Jennifer says

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):

Review from July 2013:

★★★★?

Novella #0.5. 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:

Review from March 2014:

★★★??

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:

Review from March 2015:

★★★★?

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...

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:

★★★★??

Wow, so 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.

Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

The Maid: ★★★★★

Scenes from Celeste: ★★★★★★

The Prince: ★★★★★★

The Guard: ★★★★★

The Queen: ★★★★★

The Favorite: ★★★★★★

The One Epilogue: ★★★★★★

THE MAID

The Maid hace parte de los relatos cortos de *La Selección* que encontramos en el recopilatorio *Happily Ever After*.

Esta historia nos muestra a Lucy y Aspen hablando seriamente del punto en el que se halla su relación. Los dos están enamorados, los dos han perdido un montón a lo largo de su vida y, por supuesto, los dos quieren evitar el ser heridos de nuevo por sus sentimientos. En *The Maid* vemos cómo Aspen sigue un poco enredado entre lo que siente por America y lo que siente por Lucy... pero lo mejor de todo este relato es ver a Lucy plantándose firme y no dejando que Aspen juegue con ella por su confusión sobre America.

La verdad es un relato cortísimo, pero que disfruté un montón pues, en primer lugar, ni siquiera sabía que existía. Lo encontré por casualidad pues, tras terminar de leer el libro en español de *La Reina y la Favorita* fui a mi edición en inglés a ver si había cosas extra y... VOILÁ!.

SCENES FROM CELESTE

¡Las *Scenes from Celeste* fueron otras de las sorpresas que me encontré mirando mi ejemplar de *Happily Ever After*! Confieso que eran las 11 de la noche y cuando llegué a esas páginas pensé que iban a ser de lo más aburridas, que me iban a hacer odiar a Celeste más de lo humanamente posible y que más me valía dormir que perder el tiempo con ellas... pero no.

Estas escenas nos meten en la cabeza de Celeste durante su llegada a la Selección, su beso ultra apasionado con Maxon en un pasillo y el momento en el que es eliminada. ¡Y es que el cambio mental que vemos en la cabeza de esta mujer es brutal! Si bien empieza la competencia siendo una mujer despiadada y con un sólo objetivo, sobre el final entendemos que está rota por dentro y que no se quiere ni un poco. Me pareció preciosa la conversación final entre ella y Maxon, de verdad.

Quizá lo que más me dejó en *shock* de estas escenas fue el momento del beso y todo lo que pensaba Celeste en ese momento. Como una máquina que va calculando cada pequeño paso y movimiento. Fue escalofriante.

Si por casualidad encuentran el libro *Happily Ever After* no duden en leer estas escenas. Es una lástima que no estén en los libros de historias cortas en español.

THE PRINCE

Nunca voy a tener suficiente de Maxon, ¿okay? Podrían escribir un libro entero sobre cómo limpia los lentes de sus cámaras para tomarle fotos a America y yo lo leería. Ese es el nivel de amor que tengo por este personaje... que no existe... que nunca va a salir de las páginas de un libro... *llora desconsoladamente*, jajajaja.

El punto con esta historia corta (QUE ES DEMASIADO CORTA Y ME PARECE FATAL PORQUE LA DE ASPEN TIENE MÁS PÁGINAS ¬¬) es que vemos a Maxon unas semanas antes de que empiece la Selección. Conocemos sus dudas, sus miedos y, sobre todo, un poco del ambiente del Palacio y de las relaciones entre el Rey y su hijo. Porque, vamos, todos los que hayamos leído *La Selección* sabemos que el padre de Maxon es un capullo y que no se merece nada de lo bueno que le ha pasado, empezando por la Reina Amberly y su hijo Maxon.

Ahora, lo mejor de esta historia es que vemos algunas de las escenas de *La Selección* desde el punto de vista de nuestro *crush* literario favorito <3. Ver desde los ojos de Maxon ese primer encuentro con America en los jardines, o la primera entrevista que tiene con ella... y darnos cuenta, a la vez que él, que quedó totalmente fascinado por esa chica pelirroja y de respuestas inteligentes es precioso.

¡Ojalá existiera toda la saga contada desde el punto de vista de Maxon! Jo, cómo lo extraño.

THE GUARD

Vamos a ver, el que yo odie a Aspen no quiere decir que le vaya a poner una estrella a este relato... aunque me haya sacado de quicio, aunque haya querido golpearlo durante 60 páginas, aunque sus delirios hayan sido tan absurdos que me daban ganas de recomendarle un psicólogo. Vaya, que ni así le he puesto una estrella porque es una historia corta que terminó de reafirmar lo que pensaba sobre este personaje: que me cae fatal y que menos mal las cosas en *La Selección* se desarrollaron en la manera en la que lo hicieron.

Ahora, si hay algo que rescato de este libro es esta nueva perspectiva que tenemos de los ataques al Palacio por parte de los rebeldes. En la saga principal siempre vemos cómo los protagonistas se esconden en los refugios y dejan que los guardias defiendan en castillo. Mientras que aquí, en *El Guardián* sí que vemos cómo reaccionan a los ataques de los rebeldes, a la muerte, al peligro y al haber perdido a America en los bosques.

¡Oh! Esa escena, por cierto, me partió el corazón porque, a pesar de que está narrada a través de los ojos de Aspen, vemos lo mucho que sufre Maxon al no poder ir tras ella a los bosques mientras es arrastrado de vuelta al castillo con su padre. Pobrecillo mío :'(

THE QUEEN

Esta historia corta es... extraña. Vamos, todos los que hemos leído *The Selection* sabemos qué clase de persona y de rey es Clarkson. Y muchísimas veces nos preguntamos cómo alguien tan dulce como Amberly llegó a ganar la Selección y destinar el resto de su vida a ser la esposa de un hombre como Clarkson.

The Queen nos muestra todo eso. Conocemos el origen humilde de Amberly, su profundo enamoramiento en el príncipe desde que tenía siete años, su personalidad calmada, sus problemas de salud, su temple. Además, también conocemos a un Clarkson joven, lleno de ideas y de energía para dirigir a un país; pero también conocemos a un Clarkson perturbado por la horrorosa relación de sus padres, obligado a ser fuerte, mentir y

tener todos sus movimientos absolutamente calculados.

Es extrañísimo leer este relato y ver que Amberly, aún entendiendo y siendo partícipe de las explosiones en el carácter de Clarkson, haya querido ser su princesa, su reina, y estar a su lado. Es un relato duro de leer porque se desmorona un poco la idea que teníamos de la Reina Amberly gracias a los libros de *The Selection*, pero tampoco creo que debamos juzgar rápidamente. No todas las parejas son perfectas y, como en la realidad, los libros tampoco pueden escapar de eso. Y, más importante aún, el que un escritor plasme relaciones abusivas en un relato o libro, no quiere decir que las condone.

THE FAVORITE

Esta historia corta casi me mata de todos los *feels* que me produjo. Miren, Marlee no era de mis personajes favoritos en *The Selection* y, a pesar de lo que le sucede llegado cierto punto de la historia, no me importó mucho en su momento.

Sin embargo, leer toda su historia desde **sus** ojos es una experiencia totalmente diferente. Sobre todo porque no es una historia lineal, sino que va dando saltos del presente/futuro al pasado. Creo que mi problema con Marlee es que no conocí su historia de amor prohibida con Carter de primera mano en los libros de *The Selection*, así que todo fue muy "se enamoró de un guardia y ahora los tienen que azotar, volver Ochos y echar del Palacio". ¡Pero todo cambia cuando lees *The Favorite*! Con esta historia corta ya conocemos cómo fue el primer encuentro de Marlee con Carter, cómo coqueteaban a escondidas, cómo se robaban sonrisas, roces, guiños... cómo se enamoraron perdidamente el uno del otro.

Creo que lo que más me llegó de *The Favorite* fue el amor que se sentía a través de las páginas. A pesar de ser un relato corto, llegamos a percibir los sentimientos de Carter hacia Marlee y el gran lazo que se forma entre ellos. Y, además, gracias a esta historia también vemos la infinita bondad de Maxon al ayudarlos en sus peores momentos... tanto en los inmediatamente posteriores a los azotes, como meses después cuando él ya es el Rey de Illéa.

THE ONE EPILOGUE

Otra de las grandes joyas del recopilatorio *Happily Ever After* es este epílogo de *The One* <3.

¿Qué más se le puede pedir a la vida que unas páginas en las que Maxon y America son absolutamente felices dos años después de acabada la Selección? ¿Qué más que uno despertando en los brazos del otro? ¿Qué más que dos de mis personajes favoritos viviendo su sueño? PERDÓN, ¿OKAY? PERO ES QUE LOS *FEELS* SON DEMASIADO FUERTES PORQUE RECUERDO TODO LO QUE SUCEDIÓ PARA QUE LLEGARAN A ESE PUNTO: LAS DUDAS, LAS PELEAS, LAS CARTAS... Y M U E R O.

Audrey says

SO GOOD AHHHH

Full review to come soon!

Ana M. Camila says

I'M LIKE:

Chelsey the crazy cat lady says

Oh my gosh. Loved this book so much!!! My favourite parts were The Favourite and After The One. Loved hearing from the different characters and seeing where they ended up. I LOVE KING MAXON!

Itramsunshine says

I'm so happy to have finally read this!! Huge shout-out to Rizoli for lending it to me, by the way. This made me remember why I love Kiera Cass' writing so much. It's because I don't have to think at all and because it is so addictive. It took me so little time to read even though I'm so busy in school! It was also nice to be back in this world and the feels hit me hard with the pictures and the happiness and I just... I feel happy.

Melissa says

OHMYGOD!!!!!! THIS WILL BE FREAKING **ILLUSTRATED**!!!

Bašenka says

Dannii Elle says

While I wouldn't rate every story in this collection 4 stars, it was interesting to garner an insight into the other characters from The Selection series and further my understanding of their motives and actions. I found some parts a little repetitive as a lot of the scenes were featured in the main series but viewing them from an alternate perspective was fascinating. Also, knowing the ending of each story did not impact my enjoyment of them, as I thought it might. I love an author who takes the time to expand their fictional worlds in this way so this collection combined is wholly deserving of 4 stars.

Tamara says

Enough is enough. This series is turning into a money trap. I feel so bad for people who bought the first collection. Let it go Ms Cass, please let it go...

Neil (or bleed) says

It's ~~not~~ about the money, money, money.
We ~~don't~~ need your money, money, money.
We ju\$t wanna make the fan\$ read.
Forget about the price tag.
