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The One: The Selection, Book 3



Synopsis

The time has come for one winner to be crowned. When she was chosen to compete in the Selection, America never dreamed she would find herself anywhere close to the crown - or to Prince Maxon's heart. But as the end of the competition approaches, and the threats outside the palace walls grow more vicious, America realizes just how much she stands to lose - and how hard she'll have to fight for the future she wants.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have erased the first line of this review six times because I want to be fair and accurate and each of my previous attempts at starting this review have come off too negative. I want to be clear this is my opinion and while I will point out some negatives; I would still read the book and the series due to the concept it has - which had unlimited potential. I have faithfully followed America, Maxon and Aspen through to the end in hopes of...more. It seems to me there was a wealth of possibilities that all fell short with the series. This could have been great if the story telling wasn't quite so single minded and there was more focus on where to place emphasis on expanding details and background, and when to stop over cooking a plot point or even a chunk of information. Quite a bit of information was laid out that was interesting but never explored. It felt like it should or would have value within the story, but never did. Alternately, information with superficial value was often expounded on, many times, ad nauseam; which learnt nothing to the story save a cringe. The groundwork was laid for a look at an socially unraveling post war American society with a royal

family. What an intriguing concept! America (Country: not the heroine) with a royal family - in a post war with China setting - in and of itself had all the possibility of great things to come. I enjoyed the premise of the story but all in all it provided very superficial entertainment. I know there is a "The Bachelor" element to it that combined some attempts at serious looks into a society that is flawed but overall; I've been left wanting. The beauty of this series is only skin deep. You never really get a true peak behind the curtain. It felt like a reality show in truth.

****If you don't want any spoilers of ANY kind of Divergent or The One series, Do NOT read this review, in my review I make a comparison that has a huge Divergent spoiler, so you've been warned.****This isn't going to be the best of reviews if you are one of those "OMGOSH I LOVED THIS BOOK/TRILOGY/ETC" kinda person, I'll probably disappoint you. I'm going to try to be short and sweet and to the point. It's just a viewpoint. It's just my thoughts. If you don't agree, great. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I had problems with this "love story", due to the characters so very fickle in their "love". I had trouble with "America" as in, I don't know, seeming egotistical? Yep, I recognized the whole Ester/Cinderella story in this, but would this story have worked if she would have stayed with Aspen? Think "Twilight" with Edward/Jacob/Bella. Think the Hunger Games with Peeta/Gale. Those characters had character. I would have respected Aspen a bit more if he'd stay true to the end in his love for America, as did Jacob, or even as did Gale. They never wavered in their devotion to their heroines and these guys did. It was so frustrating to see America play them. Yeah, I get she was "torn", but I'm just calling it as I see it. She pretty much played them, didn't have to have any real accountability, until the end when her sister called her on it, but it took till book 3 for someone to call her out. And the whole "Bachelor" thing. I hate that reality show, but only because it's hard to take anyone seriously who says, "I love you will you marry me" after kissing loads of other girls. And all the whole kissing/making out sessions? Yeah, I get Twilight did the whole scene too, but at least they actually said, "I LOVE YOU!" Maxon and America?

I started a series without all the books out, so I had to wait to read the last one. It was a novel feeling (pun intended). This meant I really didn't remember a ton of smaller plot details - I had forgotten about Marlee's caning (whoops), the specifics of America's interactions with the king, smaller ultimatums between characters. However, since the plot of the book didn't rely heavily on intricate plot details, I continued reading with some holes in my knowledge rather than going back or rereading the other books (still too new in my memory). Some non spoilery critiques... The Bachelor style reality show element of the Selection, which was already pretty weak in the first two books, all

but ceases to exist in The One. This kind of disappointed me because I always thought there was real potential in that format. The weekly addresses seem unimportant to begin with, and I can't recall one from The One.~~Beware - this review has some SPOILERS. In my book, spoilers don't ruin anything (if something's enjoyable, you're not just reading to find out what happens) but I know some people want to be surprised!~~ The problems of the previous books continue on in The One. However, the need to end the series means that these problems are not made even more problematic by the other book's unsatisfactory conclusions. To me, these problems have been: a) the splitting of this story into three novels. Unnecessary and unnatural given the pace of the books. b) Aspen. He's not a bad character and he is necessary, because without him Maxon and America would have had nothing (or very little) in the way of their relationship and the selection bit of the books would have ended quite quickly.

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