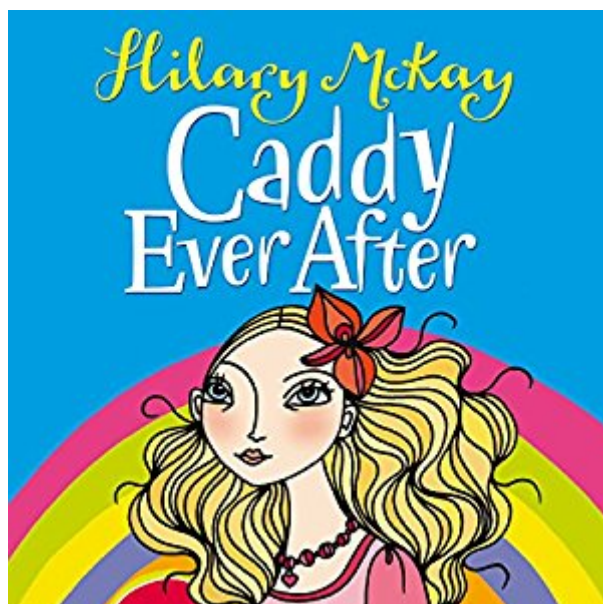


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# Caddy Ever After



## Synopsis

It's Valentines Day and Caddy has fallen in love and is getting married...but not to Michael. With a wedding to plan, everything's a little crazier than normal in the Casson household. Especially as the only one who seems happy for Caddy is Bill. But it's Permanent Rose who is taking the news the hardest. She made a big promise to Michael - how is she going to keep it now?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well, it's happened. I've tried and tried not to succumb to Hilary McKay fandom - "heaven forbid I care for something everyone else loves too" - but with "Caddy Ever After," I admit defeat. The Cassons have won me over at last - "though, looking back, I was halfway there anyway. But this, the best Casson novel so far, has finally left me free to admit it. It may bear Caddy's name, but all four Cassons get to tell their side of the story, and Caddy probably gets the shortest section of all. We get to hear Rose's acute embarrassment at being so scared at a friend's ghost story she wets her pants in the middle of class. We can howl over Indigo's frantic attempts to make the Valentine's Day disco less of a drag" - and to convince Sarah to go with him. We can cringe with Saffy when her odd boyfriend drags her and Rose onto a cold, windy moor only to have his car break down. And when Caddy falls head over heels for the wildlife-photographer older brother of Saffy's odd boyfriend, we (and the younger Cassons are included in this collective) can smack our foreheads in despair. After all, what about Darling Michael? In "Caddy Ever After," my main complaint of the series is at last addressed: the lack of kind and responsible adults. Eve Casson is the former and Bill the latter, and it seems as though

theyâ™re finally getting credit for their better attributes and mocked for their worse (Bill, of course, will always be a bit callous, and Eve, of course, will always be laughably dreamy). Sarahâ™s mother, who has seemed rather stern and overprotective in previous books, is now shown to be organized, helpful, and caring toward even the most trying of Cassons.

If you like Hilary McKay's Casson stories then "Caddy Ever After" is (so far) the best of the bunch. I do not make such pronouncements lightly. To be perfectly honest with you, until I read "Caddy Ever After" I was not a fan of the series. Say such a thing in a room full of children's librarians and you're liable to be pelted with small squares of cheese until you relent and say that "Saffy's Angel" is sublime. The fact of the matter is, though, that prior to "Caddy Ever After" I had resigned myself to a lifetime of not understanding what all the fuss was about. I have a very low precocious tolerance, and McKay too often tips the balance. With "Caddy Ever After", however, the characters we've met in past books are older but fairly unchanged. Indigo is still his own man. Saffy still has Sarah. Caddy still refers to Michael as "Darling" (though she claims to no longer love him). And Rose is still Rose. The essential structure of the series remains the same. The format has simply grown more expansive and the story more enticing. Four kids. Four stories. It all began, in a way, when Rose peed on the classroom rug after an unexpected fright. Then Indigo donated his CD collection for the school dance. Which in turn led to everyone in the school getting sick, including Saffy's best friend Sarah. Still, an unexpected benefit was that Saffy started dating a guy named Oscar ... well, until he managed to abandon her and Rose in the dead of winter. Which, in turn, led to their rescue by Oscar's brother Alex. And when Alex and Caddy met, that eventually led to her decision that he must be "the one". In spite of her family's objections and the fact that Darling Michael is still obsessed with her, Caddy has convinced herself that this marriage is exactly what the doctor ordered.

The newest installment of the Casson family series, "Caddy Ever After," is a novel narrated by all child members of the Casson family--Rose, Saffron, Indigo, and Caddy. Each child's point of view on the days leading up to Caddy's wedding is presented in journal form, with most entries coming from Rose and Saffron. A series of seemingly unrelated events (a school dance, Rose's accident at school, a broken-down car, a lightning storm, Sarah's illness) all culminate in the big event. Many people have complained about the book's title and the fact that it doesn't have much to do with the story. Indeed, Caddy "speaks" very little in the book. But, the intertwined story lines all lead to Caddy's wedding brilliantly. Hilary McKay's eccentric family is as wonderfully unique as usual, and I

really enjoyed the multiple first-person views on a few weeks in the life of the family. Indigo is as taciturn and intelligent as usual, Saffron is suffering from some teenaged angst, and Rose is heartbroken at Caddy's new love-at-first-sight and perplexed by events at school. Rose's school days are particularly poignant. Her best friend Kiran is a hilarious storyteller and her teacher downright funny. When Rose's teacher, for example, hears of Caddy's approaching wedding during "Hot Gossip" time, she responds: "Five team points for being a bridesmaid, then, Rose....And for goodness' sake, stop moping. Thousands of people make unsuitable marriages every day and if you feel that strongly you can always voice your objections at the appropriate point in the service. That is why it is there." "Well, you can guess what happens.

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