



Power of the Matchmaker

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A prequel novella to the POWER OF THE MATCHMAKER Series

Mystical . . . Beautiful . . . Romantic . . .

12 novels by 12 bestselling authors

Released once a month in 2016

Read the matchmaker's story to find out where it all starts . . .

Mae Li has been in love with Chen Zhu for years, and he with her. But when the matchmaker arrives at the Zhu family home, she recommends another village girl for Chen.

Heartbroken, Mae Li watches as Chen does his duty by marrying another. Mae flees her village with the clothes on her back and her only possession—a pearl embedded comb, given to her as a goodbye gift from Chen Zhu.

Upon Mae's arrival in Shanghai, she quickly learns that she'll starve within days unless she sells her prized comb or joins a courtesan house. She goes to the Huangpu River and promises the River God that she'll always be selfless if he will save her from becoming a prostitute . . . Her wish is granted when Ms. Tan, the matchmaker of Shanghai, finds Mae. But Mae must completely change her future and her name if she is to become the next matchmaker.

Power of the Matchmaker Details

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Author : Heather B. Moore , Karey White , Rachael Anderson , Sheralyn Pratt , Jaima Fixsen , Kelly Oram , Julie Wright , Heidi Ashworth , more... Taylor Dean , Michele Paige Holmes , Janette Rallison , Regina Sirois ...less

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From Reader Review Power of the Matchmaker for online ebook

Muse-ic ? says

Short story made shorter:

Mae Li lives in a Chinese village.

She and a boy named Chen are very in love, and they are sure that the matchmaker will pair them, because the matchmaker's job is to detect true love and make good couples.

Unfortunately, the village matchmaker decides that they should have a different fate. Chen is paired with another girl, while Mae is matched with an obnoxious boy who has bad teeth.

This news extremely saddens Mae and Chen. Mae refuses to marry her betrothed, so she tells Chen to run away with her.

Chen, an honorable young man, feels bound by his duty to marry his betrothed and refuses.

Mae understands, but isn't happy about it. So she leaves. She writes a letter to her family, takes some money, the expensive family heirloom comb that Chen gave her out of love, some clothing, and departs by herself to the large city of Shanghai.

I will spoil everything, though you won't lose much. It's pretty predictable. In fact, in this case it's not really a bad thing because it is simply meant to be a sort of explanatory prequel to 12 novels released once a month in 2016, each by a different author. This prequel is meant to be the string that ties them all together.

As Mae slowly runs out of money, she begins to starve. She has no money, no job, and nowhere to go. She refuses to sell Chen's token of love.

While seeking employment, Mae runs into a brothel, and is helped out by a man after spending a whole day drugged by the Madame of the house. She doesn't take up the profession. In fact, she fears it! Her next possible employment is the position of a servant in a wealthy household. For some time, it looks like Mae may be chosen for the position. However, when she returns the next day, she is told that the position has been filled by the niece of the man of the house.

First of all, may I ask who hires their family to be their servants?? Perhaps this niece needed the money. I still find it rather strange, though.

After some more time of this despair, Mae goes to the river one night to pray. She is awoken in the morning by the local matchmaker, Mrs. Tan.

Mrs. Tan had a dream about the next matchmaker, about a girl sleeping by the river: Mae Li.

Mrs. Tan then takes in Mae who becomes her apprentice for twelve months and adopts the name "Pearl", after her prized pearl comb, then becomes the official matchmaker.

The matchmakers have powers, but they come with a price.

There is a golden coin that holds this power, which not only includes supreme couple-making abilities, but slowing down the aging process as well.

However, the price is that the matchmaker must give up her own chance at finding love in order to find it for others.

Years later, after Mae Li has become the matchmaker and Mrs. Tan has died, Chen comes in search of Mae Li.

His wife has died, he has two children who have already married, and he's still in love with Mae. He wants Mae to marry him.

Mae cannot accept his request and explains as much. Understanding the importance of responsibility, Chen accepts the fact that they can't get married, so he departs. They are left off on friendly terms.

That being said, I would like to express what a lovely short read it was. It was cute, though sad as well. I like that we get a sense of the characters even though there wasn't much time to get extremely in depth characterizations. Never did I get the sense that it was slow. Everything was fast-paced, yet not overwhelming in any sense of the word.

However, there was---not a typo exactly--but a sentence written twice in a row.

The final words by Mae:

Dearest Patron,

In exchange for my acceptance of the power to match true love, I've traded my chance at reclaiming my own love. This I do with honor and I only ask that you open your own hearts and consider new possibilities as you read about my matchmaking ventures through the world and across time. It is my deepest hope that you'll find your own true love in your life's journey.

With much love and luck,

Miss Pearl

Twelve adventures will be beginning soon. This is the doorway to all of them. I advise you to read this prequel!

Free copy provided by InspiredKathy in exchange for an honest review.

Kathy says

Power of the Matchmaker is a prequel novel that introduces us to Mae Li, the Matchmaker that will be featured in the upcoming 12 book series.

I really enjoyed this story and am looking forward to reading this series. This is a 60 page novella which was a quick read. For being so short it did a great job of letting me connect with Mae. Can't wait to read this series!!

Source: Purchased (also received a review copy)

Content: Clean

Melinda says

Power of the Matchmaker is a prequel for a new series that will release one new book each month in 2016.

The story tells of Mae Li, the matchmaker. Mae Li faces heartbreak along with hope and love. Mae's strength is admirable, her selflessness is a major draw of this courageous young woman, you'll be captivated

instantly.

A wonderfully written novella, with a compelling and fascinating character. I didn't want the story to end, although I will be anxiously awaiting other installments in this series, I wish the entire series were available now. Only a taste of what's to come and I'm already hungry for more.

Shash says

Mae Li and Chen Zhu are in love, but are not free to marry. They must wait for the matchmaker. When the matchmaker chooses different people for each of them, Mae Li wants to run away with Chen Zhu. He chooses to honor his family and marry the girl chosen for him. Mae Li cannot do the same and flees the city. In Shanghai, she struggles until Ms. Tan, the matchmaker of Shanghai, finds her.

I am so grateful to live in the time and place I do! I can't even imagine being told whom I was going to marry, especially if I was in love with someone else. My heart went out to Mae Li. I was so glad Ms. Tan found her. Ms. Tan is a special lady. She would be wonderful to know! She truly cares about people.

This is a prequel to the Power of the Matchmaker series. There will be one novel a month in 2016. This was a great way to start the series, and I love having this background information. I am really looking forward to reading all of the books!

I was given a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

[Instagram](#) || [Twitter](#) || [Facebook](#) || [Amazon](#) || [Pinterest](#)

My first thought when regarding this book was one of suspicion. Really, 12 authors wrote this 60-page novella? That can't be right. And yet, there they are, all listed on Goodreads, and stamped onto the cover as well. Apparently this is the flagship book in a series about matchmaking, and this is the principal character.

But who is the principal author?!?! I have no clue...

Let's go with the first author credited on Goodreads. That'll be you, I suppose, Ms. Heather B. Moore.

Luckily, POWER OF THE MATCHMAKER isn't quite as confusing as the author kerfuffle behind it. The writing is actually fairly decent, considering that this book was free. (I don't know how many of you regularly venture into the "free" section of the Kindle store, but you can find some really strange stuff in

there. Hence all the really strange reviews you're seeing on GR from me.)

POWER OF THE MATCHMAKER is about a young Chinese woman named Mae. Mae is in love with her friend Chen and is so sure that they will be assigned together by the local matchmaker. But nope! Instead, the matchmaker pairs Chen with another girl, and pairs Mae with Bohai.

Mae decides that the best solution to this is to say "eff you!" to her parents, fiance, and Chen's parents and fiance, and run away with Chen. She goes to fields outside his house, and he meets her there, but tells her that he isn't going to run away with her because it wouldn't be fair to his family or his fiance. Mae, our charming heroine, says, oh, but that won't matter if we run away together! Chen tells her no, and gives her a beautiful jade comb as a good-bye gift, telling her that he loves her but must be dutiful.

Mae decides to run away.

What follows is a short but thorough journey of idiocy, in which Mae is too stupid to steal food and too stupid to earn food. She cries and whines a lot, expecting opportunity to fall before her, because she's Mae, don't you know, Queen of the Special Snowflakes. She could sell the comb, sure, but no, she says that selling the comb would be as bad as prostitution. Literally, she says that.

Ooookay...

Anyway, after getting drugged by an evil madam and her evil associate, and sitting outside on the porch of this one family while crying and hoping they'll give her a job out of pity, she ends up passing out somewhere and getting rescued by a matchmaker. The horror! Mae hates matchmakers!

But this matchmaker is a good matchmaker, because she feels sorry for Mae's "plight" and tells her that the other matchmaker should have matched Mae and Chen. Anyway, matchmakers apparently have magical powers and the ability to live for about three hundred years as long as they use their powers to selflessly help others while abstaining from love themselves.

This was a lot of ridiculousness to swallow. I felt like there weren't quite enough pages in this book to explain all this, but since this is a prologue to what looks like 12 other stories, maybe explanations are forthcoming in later books. I do want to give the author credit for writing decently enough and providing an ending that isn't quite as happy as what most people would expect in a romance. Honestly, I was gearing up for something infuriatingly sappy - but the ending that the author chose...it fit.

The problem is, the heroine in this book is completely unsympathetic. It's hard to root for someone who just wants to sit and cry and whine about how things don't go her way. Also, the magic angle, when it came into play, seemed out of place and silly because it just came out of nowhere.

I don't think I liked this book.

1 to 1.5 stars

Sheila says

The Power of the Matchmaker, though only a novella and 60 pages long, has a huge message. The matchmaker truly has a tremendous power to change lives for good or bad. At the beginning of this story, a prequel to the 12 book Power of the Matchmaker series coming out in 2016, we see how a matchmaker destroys Mae Li's hopes and dreams to marry the love of her life Chen Zu. You can clearly see through Heather's beautiful writing how much Chen and Mae Li love each other.

Mae Li runs away from home and the man she didn't want to marry, when she realizes Chen Zu will marry another girl arranged by the village matchmaker.

With no hope in her life to be able to survive on her own, she meets Ms. Tan, a matchmaker in the city of Shanghai. Mae Li, now Pearl, is taken under Ms. Tan's wings to become the new matchmaker once the old woman dies. She is given a coin that is the "Power" of the matchmaker, in that it will only work if the matchmaker forsakes her own true love in order to bring together others in love. There is also something very secret that the coin can do, but I'm not going to say what it is because I've already given too much away.

The very end of this short story had me crying. The last scene takes place many years later when once again Chen Zu and Mae Li/Pearl meet again. They still love each other and it's a very tender scene. Pearl stays true to her calling as the matchmaker sacrificing her own love for others. But, there is a moment between them that has to do with a pearl comb that made my heart ache. Oh, Heather Moore, you are a master at your craft in creating emotions and making your readers feel deeply for your characters.

This novella is a must read before you begin reading the first of the 12 books that will be coming out in 2016 about The Power of the Matchmaker. Personally, I can't wait to read each and every one.

This sweet, 60 page novella gets 5 sweet stars***** from me!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I am so excited about this upcoming series! Oh, the anticipation. One novel a month by so many of my very favorite authors? Yes, please! This one is going to be good, friends.

This novella is the prequel to this new series. At about 60 pages, it gives us the background and making of

Mae Li, the matchmaker. Her story is one of sorrow, loss and heartbreak. But, it is also a story of hope and love. Mae is so sweet and innocent. She has a heart full of love. Her promise to be selfless in exchange for her life and her virtue is one she honors. How can you not love Mae Li?

This prequel left me wanting more. A lot more. I'm really looking forward to reading the first official book in this series. Ahh, I wish I could read them all now! :)

Katie W says

Power of the Matchmaker is a prequel for a new series that will release one new book each month of 2016. Each story will be written by a different author. I love having the backstory right up front so that I can understand a little more of who this matchmaker is and why she does what she does.

Mae Li is young and in love with Chen and when the village matchmaker matches each of them with another, she realizes that she can't go through with a loveless marriage, while watching Chen with another. Armed only with a comb, as a token of Chen's love for her, and the clothes she's wearing, she embarks on a journey to escape and find a new path.

Mae has many difficult decisions to make but she shows true grit and strength, even though her story breaks my heart. It's said that to find yourself, you must lose yourself in serving others and I look forward to reading more about her in the upcoming books to see if this is true in her case.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Kathy Jo says

I decided that since there are a few books in the Matchmaker series that I plan on reading, I should probably read about how it all began. I'm not going to lie, I had a hard time getting into the novella and I wanted to just knock some people's heads together! But about halfway in my feelings started to change and I was hooked! My heart broke for Mae but in the end I was very happy for her. I am definitely looking forward to the books in this series. :)

Lenore Kosinski says

<https://celebrityreaders.wordpress.co...>

3 stars -- I received an arc of this book in exchange for my honest review!

I'm finally about to start the book in this series that I've been looking forward to forever, so I figured I should read the prequel novella that's been sitting on my kindle for a few months...whoops. Also, as an aside, I don't actually know who the author of this novella is, since they list all the authors for the series. Somehow I doubt 12 authors managed to collaborate on one story. :P

Most of this novella left me feeling kind of meh. Not bad at all, just nothing too terribly remarkable. But maybe it's my disinterest in historical settings coming through? Maybe I really am that partial to romance?

Partly it was that the story was basically given away in the synopsis...there were no surprises, just extended details if that makes sense. It did stir my emotions -- I felt for her losing the love of her life b/c of a mismatch... And her struggles in Shanghai definitely hit you in the heart... I guess it just wasn't lasting. I will be curious to see what her role is in the upcoming books... I'm mostly in it for one book, but there are one or two others that sound intriguing to me, so it was nice to be introduced to her character and her background.

Tara says

This short story is the backdrop for a new twelve book series. I really enjoyed reading the backstory of the matchmaker.

When Mae's true love, Chen, is matched to another girl in the village (and she with another guy), he tells her he will love her for the rest of his life, but he must honor his family. So a heartbroken Mae runs away to try to find a job in Shanghai. She fights her way in the city--and her strength and resolve was admirable--but ends up poor, hungry and destitute and a woman rescues her and brings her back to full health. It turns out this woman is a matchmaker and wants Mae to shadow her and learn her trade and decide if she wants to be the next matchmaker when the time came for Ms. Tan to pass on her trade to someone else. And so goes the story of how Mae Ling becomes the matchmaker.

Mae's story is one of heartbreak, but at the same time, one of hope--hope for the future and for love--even if not her own...but the ending was a bit heart-wrenching for me. I know she was being selfless for the greater good and giving up her own happiness to give others the gift of finding/being with their true love--a gift she was refused when she was younger. But still...the HEA-lover in me wanted to cry a little bit for her.

I am so looking forward to all the books in this series! And I'm so glad we were given the story behind the matchmaker!

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The thoughts and opinions above are my own.

Julie Carpenter says

This was a fast, short novella. I enjoyed seeing where Mae Li comes from and how she becomes the Matchmaker especially since I plan on reading several books in the series that this is a prequel for. I kept seeing the covers for all of the books and the little medallion thing kept catching my eye and making me wonder if it was just a type of seal to tie these books and their covers all together. But if you are like me and wondering that it is explained in this book. I'm hoping that more will be revealed about it throughout the books.

I was needing a fast, short fluff type read yesterday(it was a very emotionally trying and hard day) and I thought "Well this will be the perfect one." I think I was a little off in that decision. This was not a light fluff read, it was emotional watching Mae's journey from loving someone, who could be considered her one true love or soul mate, to being separated from them and her journey leaving everything behind and heading into an unknown world. The situations she finds herself in and her determination to survive and not become what everyone says she must become for her to survive made me really love her character. The ending was happy and sad, I don't know if I would have it in me to give the same sacrifice as she did. But she embraced her calling with all her heart and sacrificed so that others could be helped to find true love.

It was short and took me a little more than a half hour to read and even though my emotions were in turmoil and this book is sad and heart wrenching to a point, it actually helped me to calm down and forget my emotions for a little bit.

I can't wait to start into the books for the series. My only question is can they be read as stand alones? Or does Mae's story continue to build throughout the individual books that you want to read them in order? Call me OCD if you will but I sure enjoy reading things in order and having everything built up from beginning to end so I don't miss a single reveal or build up.

I downloaded this free from Amazon. It's definitely a clean read and I would recommend it for any age 12 or up.

Happy Reading!!!

Kimberley Little says

I really loved this novella. It was gorgeously written with a compelling and heartbreaking story of a girl in China a hundred years ago who loses the boy she loves due to a conniving matchmaker and yet finds him again in a twist at the end of the book - and becomes a magical and intuitive matchmaker herself when she meets a wise woman who teaches her how to bring true love together. I'm really looking forward to reading the other novels that come out each month over 2016 about the matchmaker's interaction with other young women through the decades. So so good!

Rachael Anderson says

Even though all of our names are on the cover, Heather B. Moore deserves the credit for this story. She's a gifted writer.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

If the "Power of the Matchmaker" series is anything like the prequel, we are in for a treat.

Mae Li has anxiously awaited the matchmaker pairing her and Chen together. They are in love and want to be together. In a tragic mistake, they are not paired and Chen has decided to not risk his family honor and marry the other girl.

The heartbreak she suffers brings her to a place where she can make better decisions and help guide the destiny of other's lovingly. Through her struggles she is able to become a strong woman who gives selflessly.

This is a great beginning. I loved it from start to finish and look forward to seeing Mae Lin (aka Pearl) in action.
