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The Reformer (Power Of The Matchmaker Book 12)



Synopsis

Love at first sight... “A charming tale, told beautifully” by the author of bestseller Fairchild. Mary Buchanan has little to fill her life besides soothing her father’s monumental temper and fetching pills for her aunt. Things only get worse when a radical journalist takes the house next door and ruins her father’s digestion. Clearly, Mr. Samuel Brown will be nothing but trouble. Then Mary meets him, locked out of her own house and caught in the rain. He’s breathtakingly handsome, intelligent, devoted to a noble cause| Mary knows at once that Destiny has come for her at last. She only needs Mr. Brown to realize it.

Book Information

File Size: 717 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 1, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01LZP5UZQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #450 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Historical Romance > Victorian #7 in Books > Romance > Historical > Victorian #8 in Books > Romance > Clean & Wholesome

Customer Reviews

I'm giving this one five stars. The story is unique when compared to the standard fare currently available in this genre. Jaima Fixsen is a rising star who gives us books with very interesting heroes/heroines. If you haven't read her Fairchild (3 Book Series), I highly recommend those books to you. The Power of the Matchmaker Series is apparently a set of books that are written by various authors. When I first noticed this set of books, I thought I had missed out on Ms. Fixsen's first 11 books of the series. After reading this one, I am certainly willing to give some of the other

books in this series a try, even though they weren't written by Fixsen. A big plus factor is that several are available on KU for those readers who subscribe. In this book, we have a very unique heroine. Mary Buchanan's world is very small. In fact, even to be able to go in the yard and speak to a neighbor might reasonably be compared to a fun day at the mall for a young lady of this day and age. When Mary inadvertently gets locked out of her home in the rain, she is rescued by her "unacceptable" radical-reformer-writer neighbor, Samuel Brown. This meeting and rescue in the rain serves as the catalyst that will eventually bring out the formidable persona that has been hiding inside Mary. From the day Mary meets Samuel, he turns her world upside down. Of course her world is so small, up to this point, her fascination has primarily been limited to her neighbor's handsome footman. Her father has long been set against Samuel Brown and his doings. There is a deeper reason Mary's father has kept her "hidden" away, but this truth will not come forth until much later in the story. In the meantime, Mary's fascination with Samuel and his newspaper articles results in Mary deciding to join in the reform effort by providing cartoons which go along with the written word - anonymously of course. Anonymously because women simply didn't do political cartoons and get credit, plus dear old dad would have a conniption if he knew Mary was involved in such dealings. There is a third main character - that would be Samuel's long time friend - a young Scotsman, Neil Murray. From the beginning of Neil's introduction into the storyline, it's obvious Samuel and Neil have a very close relationship but I won't give any further details about the foundation for their relationship. When Neil and Mary meet up for the first time, it was puzzling to me as to why Neil reacted in the manner he did. Eventually, this is explained and the storyline actually brings in Neil as a third primary character in the book. This is a book about a young, sheltered woman coming of age during a period in England when everything was changing. There were those who were sick and tired of the status quo - that being a world where men and women struggled under a very unrighteous class system. It was the beginning of the end of that class system. We see firsthand, the power of the written word and the accompanying artwork - in this case - cartoons that played a part in the downfall of this system. Of course, years would pass before the system completely breaks down, but reformers such as Samuel, Neil and Mary all had a part to play. Great writing. Not my typical reading fare, but still very romantic. Bonus minor character: Mary's unusual Chinese neighbor - a lovely lady named Mrs. Chin - a very wise, practical, intriguing woman.

This is the final book of the Matchmaker series. I have read all the Matchmaker books and have loved most of them. I love that this series has not been "cookie-cutter" at all! The Reformer was set in the 1830's in England. Mary Buchanan leads a very suppressed and sheltered life while she

keeps hoping for destiny to change that. When political reformer Samuel Brown moves in next door, Mary's life is destined to change. And when Samuel's best friend, Neil Murray, shows up trying to discourage her from pursuing Samuel, Mary's life is going to change even more. My favorite description of Mary in the book is "an unpredictable mix of deviousness, determination, and straightforward honesty." I loved how Mary found her voice and learned to stand up for herself. She grew up a lot in this book, and in the end realized that she was going to have to stand up for herself again if she was going to have lasting happiness. Her character reminded me a lot of Valancy in L.M. Montgomery's "The Blue Castle" so it was fun to read the author's note at the end and see that she was influenced by L.M. Montgomery and Valancy. I loved Pearl's (the matchmaker) role in this book as Mrs. Chin. She seemed the right mix of subtle, devious, nosy and friendly. Rating: 4.5 stars (I kept going back and forth between 4 & 5 stars for this one, and in the end decided on 4.5 stars rounded up to 5 because I really liked Mary) Content: PG-13. There was a part (that wasn't even necessary to the story so I wish it had just been left out) where she learns about "the birds and the bees" from the drawings in one of her father's books, and then she has follow-up conversations with her maid so she can feel more sophisticated and draw salacious cartoons. Source: Review copy (opinion is 100% my own)

Seventeen year old Mary Buchanan lives with her father, Dr. Sidney Buchanan, and his sister (her Aunt), Mrs. Susan Yates. Aunt Yates's favorite hobby is suffering (I love that line. LOL), and her favorite companion is her own ill-health. Dr. Buchanan is dead set on any kind of reform. You can imagine his distress when Mr. Samuel Brown, a reformer and writer for the Times, moves in right next door. It is the worst thing to happen to the neighborhood since an Oriental, Mrs. Chin, moved into the house on the corner. Samuel brings with him his brother-in-law, Neil Murray. Neil doesn't live in the neighborhood but he and Samuel have been best friends since school days and they are often together. Samuel's young wife, Neil's sister, died a short time after they were married; and he is still consumed with guilt and feels responsible for her death. Mrs. Chin is, of course, the matchmaker mentioned in the subtitle. She is about to help a couple of young people fall in love. If Mary is lucky she might be one of them. But will it be Samuel, who she is immediately attracted to, or his best friend, Neil? Neil never attracts the girls but they are always falling at Samuel's feet even though Samuel seems to be oblivious to his effect on them. Neil doesn't want his friend hurt again so he feels he has to do what he can

to discourage the young Mary from bothering Samuel. Too bad that means he ends up spending quite a bit of time with Mary and starts to find her very attractive himself. So the love triangle develops and even Mrs. Chin gives up on them. Only Mary can straighten it out. Who will she choose? This is a great story. I have read a couple of the Matchmaker books and so far have enjoyed all of them. You don't always see what the matchmaker is doing until it all comes together, she is very subtle. I really like stories written by Jaima Fixen and have read several of them. They have all been very good and she is one of my favorite authors. I received a free copy of this book from the author and this is my honest and voluntary review. I look forward to reading more of her books.

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