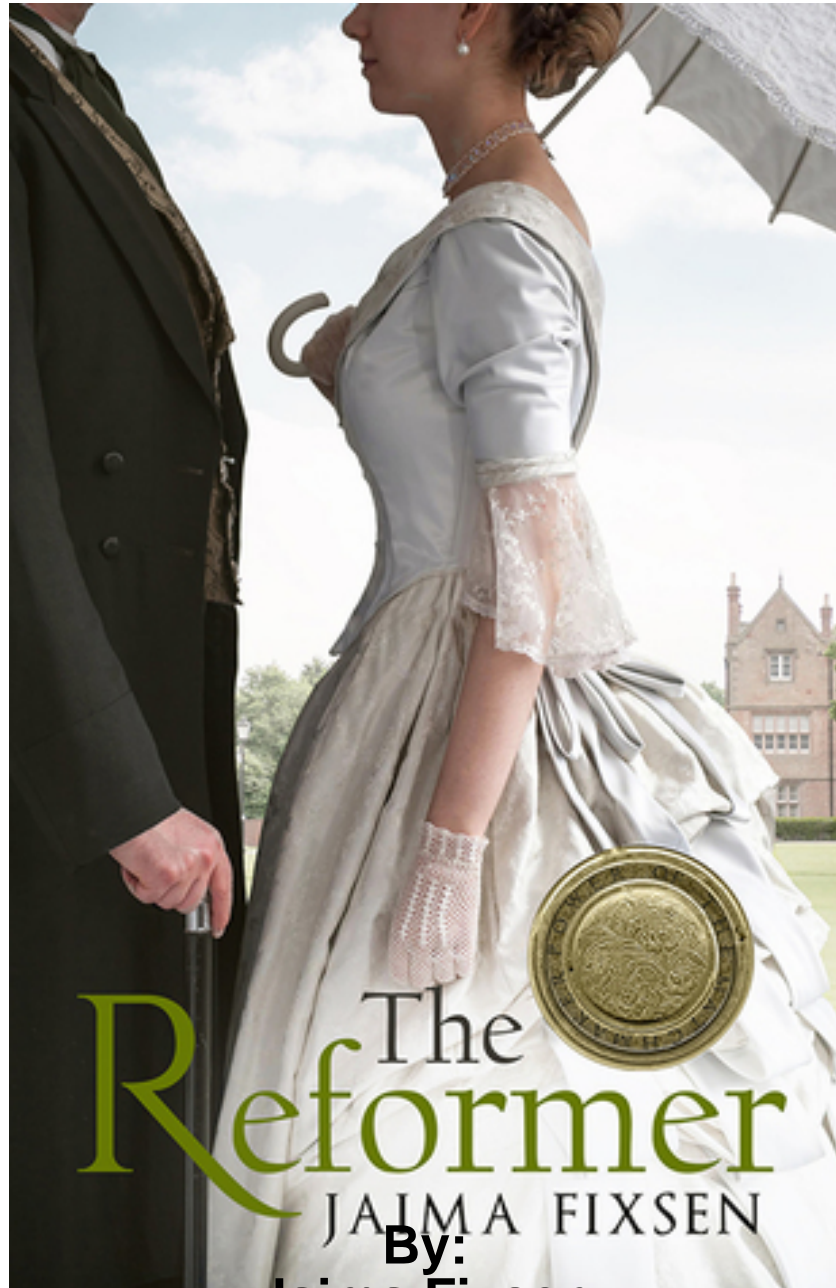


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What people Say:

Katie W

Each book in this series can stand alone, although I recommend reading the very first book to get a feel for who the matchmaker is and how she came to be.

Mary is an oppressed young woman, living with her doctor father and his sister. She is very stifled and a chance meeting with a handsome neighbor opens her eyes to life and causes her to start to spread her wings--in a rebellious way. Samuel is a reformer and that's very attractive to Mary. His best friend, Neil, and another neighbor, Mrs. Chin

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With Mary's new freedom, she longs for love and has a couple of options--although it takes her awhile to realize what they are. Her true passion, aside from her growing love of politics, is her drawing, which she uses not only to support herself independently from her old-fashioned and controlling father, but to put her mark on the Reformation. I like Samuel and his head-in-the-clouds ways and his encounters with the doctor are funny, in a ridiculous way. Neil is argumentative, yet supportive, and I couldn't decide if I liked him or not. Mrs. Chin is sweet and wise and a very good inspiration for Mary.

I loved watching Mary blossom and gain strength. I loved watching character relationships develop, especially as the plot reached the pinnacle of the government crisis. I really enjoyed this last book in this series, but wasn't expecting such a politically historic tale. I'm sad to see it all come to an end and I'm really happy to find another new-to-me author through this series.

Content: mild-moderate romance (kissing, innuendo); mild language (several cuss words); mild violence, due to the Reformation.

I received a copy through eBooks for Review. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...)

Another favorite from the Power of the Matchmaker series, and a new-to-me author discovered! I really enjoyed the writing style, the way the author portrayed the mundane and repressed life of Mary without it being boring, and her transformation into somewhat of a rebel. Mary's one passion she is allowed to have is drawing, and the descriptions of the caricatures she draws of those around her reveal a wry and cynical part of her personality, which make some of her later choices understandable. Sh

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(I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher; all opinions in this review are my own)

Julie Carpenter

This novel is the final book in the Power of the Matchmaker series. It has been such a fun series and I'm sad to say goodbye to Miss Pearl(the matchmaker and the one character who ties the series together), she has been fun to read about. Each author was able to portray her in their own way and give her however much page time they wanted, some more than others. But in all the books she was a fun, witty, sassy and great advocate for true love. If you haven't ventured into any books in this series

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first to get a quick glimpse and understanding of who Miss Pearl is and where she came from. If I had an absolute favorite from the ones I've read in the series(I've read all but 4) I would have to pick

by Taylor Dean but that doesn't lessen my enjoyment of the other books I've read in the series. A great group of authors came together and gave me much enjoyment for many hours.

I know I diverged there for a minute about the series when this review is really about this book, The Reformer. Overall I enjoyed this story, all the little hidden bits that were slowly revealed, which wrapped up all my questions by the end of the book. I will admit it took me a little while to feel connected with Mary Buchanan, our heroine. I couldn't decide if it was because I was really tired when I was trying to read just a few pages at a time or if it was the writing style, or a combination. I found it interesting how the author started out writing, almost as if you're watching a movie and a narrator is cluing us in on what is happening in a certain house on a certain street and all the main players within that home. That narration feel doesn't last long but just for the opening. I thought it was a very clever way to open the book but honestly I think my overly tired brain from a long Christmas break and very little sleep was slow to pick up on anything.

Mary's family life is lacking substantially. She is almost like a prisoner in her own home. Her father is a Doctor and runs his practice from their home. Her Aunt Yates suffers from headaches and ailments that she must rest most of the time and the other amount of time she is running the household with an iron fist. Mary doesn't remember much about her mother and is trying to find out from her father details about her, what she was like, hair/eye color, what she enjoyed doing, who her family was and most importantly how she died. Unfortunately, mum's the word on any talk about her mother. Mary is suffocating in her home and needs to get out. Fortunately for her, the cook and a young housemaid are her friends and help her sneak out every once in a while for some much needed fresh air.

Unfortunately for Mary, on either side of them reside neighbors whom her father cannot abide by. Yet when she finds herself introduced to either, she can't stop her curiosity and need for friendship...and possibly a little romance and love. The newspaper man next door is beyond handsome and her first interaction with him tells her there is a lot of potential for a relationship and marriage between them. Yet again, her father steps up and labels Samuel Brown a taboo subject.

As Mary escapes to the refuge of her other neighbor, Mrs. Chin(Miss Pearl), she finds solace and comfort in their friendship and realizes that there is so much out there in life than she has seen. As our matchmaker starts playing matchmaker Mary finds herself in the presence of Samuel and his close friend Niall Murray. Mary is infuriated by Niall and doesn't understand how one man can be so rude, but unfortunately she is constantly running into him and if there ever is to be a connection with Samuel she must learn to be tolerable of his rudeness.

Mary starts a little intrigue with her drawings and soon finds herself employed and sneaking around without her father's knowledge. Of course it all comes to a head when he discovers her sneaking and he believes much more is happening and won't listen to anything she has to say.

What will come of her newfound freedom and friendships now that she has been discovered? There is danger occurring in the city with reformation coming. Can her father keep her safe from that danger? Will she ever have questions answered about her mother? Will she ever find true love? Or will she be stuck as a prisoner in her home forever, feeling trapped, alone and unloved?

Alisa

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

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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)

Aimee (Getting Your Read On)

I'm so sad that we've reached the end of the Power of the Matchmaker series. What a fun adventure it has been. I have loved reading these books, all from different authors, that span the ages from contemporary to regency. Each book stands alone and you can read them in any order. They all share one common character- the matchmaker Pearl, who we meet in the novella that set this whole series in motion. I would recommend reading that book first before you begin this series, if you haven't already.

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Jaima Fixen is a new author to me. I haven't read any of her books before now but I do have Fair Child on my kindle, just waiting to be read. Someday. :) Hopefully soon.

I enjoyed this book and especially the time and setting of England during the Reformation period. It was interesting to me and I felt like the characters and the setting really complimented each other well. This book moves at a more sedate pace than some.

Mary is definitely naive. She has been securely sheltered by her father and has not been given the opportunities to learn and develop her keen mind. Her wings have been clipped all her life and she has never had the chance to fly. I didn't fall in love with Mary but there were moments that I loved her pluck and determination. I loved that she wanted to learn and become her own woman and found ways to be heard.

Another thing I loved about this book was the role that Pearl played. She was a very large part of the story and she seemed more developed in this book than in many of the others. It was nice to have her as a more solid presence.

Overall, a great ending to a fantastic series. I was really hoping we were going to see something similar this new year, but alas, nothing. This is a series I would highly recommend. Clean romance- a variety of settings and genres. It's the perfect way find new authors to love!

Content: Clean- some talk of sexual matters (Mary is so naive and doesn't understand- she asks questions and reads a book about sexual relations between men and women)

- I received this book for free. I was under no obligation to give a positive review and all opinions expressed are my own.