



The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker

E.D. Baker

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Cory is a young tooth fairy in training who wants to be *anything* but that, except there's no way the Tooth Fairy Guild or her mother will let that happen. After yet another bad night on the job, Cory quits to explore other things—like babysitting an adventurous Humpty Dumpty, helping Suzy organize seashells by the seashore, and attempting to finally rid the spiders that plague Marjorie Muffet. But it isn't until Marjorie asks Cory to help set her up with a boy that Cory taps into a power she never knew she had. As she tries to understand her new-found romantic visions, will Cory finally discover her own true path?

The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker Details

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From Reader Review The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker for online ebook

Lia Marcoux says

This book contrasts simplistic language, strangely grounded conflict about what it means to have a job versus a career, many descriptions of breakfasts, a violent mafioso-style guild system that controls the government through buying the judges and whichever of the police are corrupt instead of incompetent, and dopey fairy-tale puns. So I guess my question would be: whaaat?!

Becky B says

Cory is through being a tooth fairy. After going through the training and giving it a chance, she just knows it isn't the job for her. She wants to do something that really helps people, though she's not sure what. Of course, that answer is nowhere near sufficient for her mother, who is a tooth fairy herself and believes Cory is making a huge mistake in leaving the guild. Unable to stand her mother's constant nagging, Cory moves in with her wise and understanding Uncle Micah. Cory starts looking for odd jobs to tide her over while she tries to figure out what it is she really wants to do. In the process, she meets some very interesting characters, and inadvertently starts getting asked by people to set them up on dates with others. So far, her matchmaking skills have been woefully inadequate, but her little odd jobs have had fun moments. That is until the Tooth Fairy Guild starts making good on their threats to make her sorry for trying to leave. Cory doesn't know what to do. It's going to take something or someone extraordinary to help her out of the mess with the guild and to figure out what occupation best fits her.

Baker has built a very fun fantasy world filled with all sorts of fairy tale, nursery rhyme, and legendary characters. I loved watching Cory babysit for Humpty Dumpty, a precocious child with a penchant for heights, or trying to help her friend Miss Muffet with a serious spider problem. It's a creative and fun world with the serious touches the guild adds. The matchmaker part of the plot is really secondary to watching the fun and hazards of all the little odd jobs Cory does and getting to know her circle of friends. Eventually the Tooth Fairy Guild and her frustration about the matchmaking come up, but they are dealt with much more lightly than could have been. I can see someone else writing this same story but turning it into a nail-biting psychological thriller with the way the guild is after Cory. Baker kept it light enough as to not scare off fantasy readers, but it does add some depth to the world building and plot. The rest of the series promises to be fun, but I might miss Cory doing all the odd jobs. Part of the fun of the book was waiting to see what fairy tale character was going to pop up and ask her to help them next.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content beyond a kiss. There are two kidnappings and some vandalism, and a witch puts a spell on two people (who aren't really harmed and totally had it coming). No serious violence.

Amber says

It took me a really long time to read this book, cause I got busy, and at first I also had a hard time getting into the book. The writer has a lot of details I felt were really just fluff, while the story was lacking in some other details that would've made the book a bit more interesting. For me the story would have a good chapter that

held my interest, followed by one that I felt had more fluff than anything else. As I got about a little less than half way through the book I found myself wanting to know what happened next, and excited to continue reading. Tonight I started reading on page 222, and couldn't stop until the end page 341. By the end I loved the story and the excitement that Cory (the main character) faces that I was a little sad the story was over, however I also loved the ending! Truthfully from the way the book was going I never would have guessed the direction the book went or how it ended.

Cory starts out as just an ordinary fairy, then goes on a personal journey to find what she's meant to do with her life because her dream is to help others, and in the end she becomes so much more than what she started out as. I'm so happy with the outcome of this story! Over all it was a really good book!

Emma says

Grade: C-

Release date: October 7, 2014

This e-galley was provided by Bloomsbury and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Like I've said before, middle grade has been very hit-or-miss for me lately. Unfortunately, The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker was not one of the better ones I've read. Throughout the whole book, I felt very confused. There wasn't enough world-building - just many, many characters introduced - and the plot was much too slow for MG. It's mentioned in the synopsis that Cory takes up matchmaking, but that plot doesn't appear until at least 60% in. Most middle schoolers I know would give up if the plot took that long to develop. Also, throughout the entire book, I was very confused about the characters' ages. They talk a lot about dating and a school that sounds vaguely like high school, but most protagonists in MG are 11-13.

Other stray observations, the sentences were a bit choppy. Voices weren't unique. I did like Cory's grandfather, and I wish we saw more with him. I also enjoyed seeing familiar nursery rhyme and fairytale characters. Plus, the Boogie Man actually boogies.

The Verdict: Not at all what I hoped it would be. If you're unsure about The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker, I'd skip it if I were you.

Shazzer says

This book was slow going for me. I wasn't very interested in Cory as a character, and the audience was unclear. The writing style is perfect for middle graders, but the subject matter/interest level is more suited for older readers. 6th graders might not be too interested in reading about someone's job search. The last third of the novel did start to pick up steam, and I felt it ended well. Still, not my favorite Baker.

Lula McCuela says

I liked this book. I thought it was a fun, light read, the was funny at parts and sad at parts. E.D. Baker is one of my favorite authors, and I will definitely be read this sequel.

Kenley says

I am a huge fan of E.D. Baker's books, and have been for a very long time. "Twisted" fairy tales also happens to be one of my favorite genres, so when I saw that E.D. Baker was releasing a new book, I was very excited. However, *The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker* did not quite meet my expectations. Whereas Serafina (the heroine in *A Question of Magic*) was very realistic, Cory is a slightly two-dimensional protagonist. I really, really liked the premise of the story, but the actual book did not carry through for me. I did love the background story and the fairy-tale characters like Miss Muffet and Humpty Dumpty sprinkled throughout, which is why this book is getting 3 stars. I would definitely recommend E.D. Baker's stories to any other fairy-tale enthusiast, just not this particular story.

Angie says

Cory hates being a tooth fairy. She isn't very good at it and doesn't enjoy it, but her mom is a tooth fairy and convinced her it was the career for her. When she quits her mom is furious as is the Tooth Fairy Guild. Cory just wants to help people and wants to find a career that will let her do that. She starts taking odd jobs like babysitting (for Humpty Dumpty and the old lady who lived in a shoe), mowing yards (for the three little pigs of course) and doing inventory (for the lady selling seashells on the seashore). She also starts setting up her friends on dates trying to find them the perfect match. The Tooth Fairy Guild does not take quitters lightly and starts a campaign of harassment that follows Cory wherever she goes. They send rain and gnats and crabs and the big bad wolf. None of it convinces Cory that she should go back to being a tooth fairy. As the harassment escalates so does her determination to find something truly helpful to do.

I had high hopes for this book as I really enjoy fractured fairy tales, but this book was a bit of a disappointment. I liked the fact that we got to see such a nice mixture of fairy tale characters, but I wanted more of a story. The story itself seems very disjointed with Cory moving from one odd job with a fairy tale character to another. The only truly cohesive thing seems to be the harassment by the TFG, but even that seems a bit extreme. I liked the ending and how Cory's matchmaking desires finally makes sense but I also thought it was a bit rushed. There was a lot of story about Cory babysitting and such but very little about what happens when she finds her true calling.

Jaina Rose says

This review is also available on my blog, [Read Till Dawn](#).

When I originally saw this coming out, I thought it looked really dumb. I mean, a book about a girl who goes around setting up couples? How dumb would that be? I barely scanned the synopsis before clicking away, and never even gave it a try.

Until a week ago, when I saw it sitting on a library shelf and grabbed it because, well, I might as well because it was there anyway. When I got it home and started reading, I realized that I'd made a mistake: *The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker* was nothing like what I'd expected to be - and it was much the better for it.

After all, just for starters Cory's world is really fascinating. I read a lot of fairy-tale mashups, but this has to be one of my favorites. I mean, a world where people communicate by basket mail (which is just like texting, but way cooler) and various fairy-tale characters and stereotypes are all mixed together in a magical land that lives next to but is completely separate from the human world.

Another great thing about The Fairy-Tale Matchmaker is that it's realistic (if the word can ever be applied to fairytale mashups) - Cory is an adult trying to find a job that suits her, and she bounces around doing odds and ends in the meantime. There's a beauty in watching the little random things come together in new ways, as by the end of the book Cory's found ways to make almost everyone's life a little bit better by introducing them to other people she's encountered in her wanderings. I like to think that this same sort of falling into place can happen in real life, though I know that's not always the case.

My biggest trouble with the book, honestly, is the ending. Once things get a little darker for Cory and she starts uncovering the hardcore secrets her mother kept from her the book lost some of its appealing rationalism. There's a certain appeal in what happens, though, and I think that it just depends on what sort of mood you're in when you read it. For me it worked, though just barely, and I was interested enough in the turn things took that I immediately went and requested the sequel. I haven't gotten around to reading it yet, but I'll be sure to post a review once I do!

Marlee says

I read this book aloud to my children, and we all enjoyed it. I was surprised by how much the guilds or "government" I suppose were able to be vicious, threatening, and cruel. I would say that some fans of the frog princess series may be too young for some of the ideas in this book. My daughter is 10 and I think that is about the youngest that may be able to read this and try to understand the ideas, without being horrified or frightened. Contrarily, my son who is 13 may be about the oldest child that would not find it too ridiculous to stick it out. If one is open to silliness, willing to accept horrible ideas, and also ready to enjoy some fun and adventure, this can be a great book to read. Despite how crazy and contrary everything was at times, it was a really interesting story to follow and had a lot of fun characters.

Lori says

This book ended up being very cute. If you can get past the very rough beginning, you might actually enjoy it. The fairy tale characters that show up along the way are fun and I liked the arc of the main character and the lessons she learned along the way. Especially because I did not like her at all in the beginning of the story. But she went from whiny and spoiled and very annoying to someone who actually wanted to help people and made a very good friend. This wasn't the best middle grade book I've ever read but I do think it's one that kids will enjoy.

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Jessica says

This is a very fun look at the life of fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters and their world. Cory is a tooth fairy, but she really hates it. It's the family business, though, so she encounters a great deal of resistance

when she tries to find new work. She flits from job to job, looking for one that suits her, and along the way she babysits for the old woman who lives in the shoe, sells seashells by the seashore, and has other whimsical adventures. This is the set up for a new series that is going to be utterly delightful. It also, to me, skews a bit younger than Baker's books like *The Wide-Awake Princess*.

Rachel says

This was a cute story with a ton of fairy tale references in it. I enjoyed it and am looking forward to the rest of the series.

Elevetha says

1.5 stars. (Purely for a stunning lack of interest)

The long (and the short) of it is that I honestly didn't care about Cory or her life or her clients or her friends or her mum or anyone or *anything*. Okay, I slightly cared about...Blue. Was that his name? Well, it was something like that. Obviously not very much though, as you can tell. This whole book was just so dull and pointless. Never again.

"The wind died down as soon as it could no longer blow her around."

Erm, pardon me, but isn't the wind not being to blow Cory around an *effect* rather than a *cause* for the wind dying down?

Maddie says

I think the book should've been a little longer. I liked it but E.D Baker needed to keep on writing. I loved the characters but, as I said, it wasn't long enough to tell the whole story and make me LOVE it.
