



Ms. Match (The Wrong Bed #49)

Jo Leigh

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Ms. Match by Jo Leigh released on Sep 23, 2008 is available now for purchase.

Waking up in a hotel room next to a nearly naked Gwen Christopher is a shocker for Paul Bennet.

Hmm, one too many the night before? After all, he's rich, successful and looks more like one of his movie-star clients than their PR rep. Paul can have any woman he wants. Any woman--except Gwen's smokin'-hot sister.

Taking plain-Jane Gwen out as a favor was supposed to be his ticket in. And okay, sure, Gwen's fun and smart and interesting--and absolutely amazing in bed. But she'd never fit in with his parties-and-paparazzi lifestyle. This is a total mismatch. So why's he so ready to dive back into bed with Gwen first chance he can?

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TINNGG says

3.5

This was a hard rating for me to decide because it's an easy read, and really, there's nothing majorly annoying about the H or the h. However, the underlying plot is skeevy.

Ok, the H is in fact, seeing the h's sister. She asks him when he calls her if he can get a date for her sister to take to their parents' anniversary. I might add that their relationship never progresses beyond her stringing him along but still... He agrees, figuring he'll score points with her, only the guy he gets to agree has to back out at the last minute so he does it himself.

The h, well, she's the family changeling. A brain who is merely attractive in a sea of beauty, and she has deep seated feelings of inadequacy when it comes to her looks, though she doesn't really acknowledge this.

They're both good dancers though, and the anniversary party is thoroughly enjoyed...as is the gin and tonic. They share a room - and just sleep it off(!).

He sees her sister not long after this, and is once again left unfulfilled. He calls another girl for a booty call. Ok, at this point I was not liking him very much. However, he finds himself constantly thinking of the h so starts insinuating himself in her life. She figures it's a game so pushes him away, or tries anyway. Chemistry is her downfall I suppose.

Eventually, he has a busy week and can't see her, her sister - in the dark about all this - decides to drag him to her niece's birthday party - the h sees about the time he realizes he's screwed...and the sister is understandably angry.

Of course, she refuses contact with him, deciding he fit in better with her family than she did with his world. They do a mutual mopefest, sister demands to know what she told him about her (well, nothing other than sister likes to string them along until they give up, then she'll sleep with them).

They do eventually get back together - he approaches her friend for help, and her friend sets her up on a blind date with him. She shows up on his doorstep to talk things out with him and he tells her he's the blind date. We never really see an epilogue so no idea how well she worked things out with her family. She said she was trying to bridge the gap, but the sister affected by all this was still at odds with her.

Andrea Guy says

A fast steamy read, though as much as I liked it I found it hard to like Paul through most of the book as well as Gwen's entire family. I truly hope people aren't really that way even in SoCal.

But this is fantasy so all that aside, this book was good for a thrill and a few giggles along the way.

Tina Parreñas says

good light read

Hopefulpuffin says

This is SO much more than an ugly-duckling romance. First off, the h isn't an ugly duckling. That's made clear from the beginning. She's just not as beautiful as her sisters.

Second, and this is what's super important. The h is TOTALLY INTO BASEBALL. She likes other sports too, but baseball is her thing. There's a scene when she gets to meet the Dodgers and there's a lot of name dropping. I'm not usually a fan of that but I also love baseball and I can totally picture the scene. I can even guesstimate the year based on Nomar and Lowe. When they leave the clubhouse she's on cloud nine and I get it. I once lucked into staying at the same hotel as my team and got to try on a World Series ring.

But I digress.

If the baseball-loving h isn't enough for you, she's also well-adjusted with a good job, many friends, a science degree and is a trivia ace. Her family aren't very nice but she rises above that.

This book is fantastic even though the H is a bit of a dog with his "booty call" and lust for the sister. He's confused as to why he keeps thinking about Gwen since she's not like a model.

If you want a fun book, this is a great read. It's certainly better written than the vast majority of categories out there.

Samantha says

This was pretty good quick read.

Paul is trying to get into gorgeous flight attendant Autumn's pants. But its pretty clear from the beginning that she's just leading him on because she enjoys the attention. In the hopes of getting laid by her in the future, he agrees to go to a family shin-dig with her less gorgeous sister, Gwen. At the party, Paul is shocked by how much fun he ends up having. Days later, he's still thinking about how relaxing it was to hang out with Gwen. So he tracks her down at her favorite bar and starts out on a quest to befriend her.

Paul is the main narrator of this book. Gwen also has a good chunk of the book from her perspective, but the story starts and ends with Paul's voice. This made for a really interesting story, because it became less about Gwen's hang ups and more about Paul's quest to transform his life. So instead of the heroine being sucked into the rich and powerful hero's life, its about the hero finding happiness in the heroine's life. It was nice to see Paul's transformation with Gwen acting as a kind of guide. Watching them develop a friendship and really getting to know each other before diving into a relationship was also great. This made them a lot more believable as a couple.

My problem with the book however was a pretty big one. The climax of the story was really contrived and the blow-up that happens as a result seemed really insignificant. It made their time apart look childish because of how small the problem that caused the fight was. This made for a really unsatisfying reunion. There was also the smaller problem I had with Gwen's family. They were really cruel towards her for no apparent reason. Making them all seem like a bunch of cartoon villains.

Despite this though, I enjoyed most of the book. I would recommend this to anyone looking for a quick read with a bit of a different plot.

Saly says

Ms Match was an unusual blaze for me, for one the hero is lusting after the heroine's sister in the beginning and even in the middle and I didn't find it very conventional, it seemed different.

Paul is one of those PR people, handsome and successful and used to getting his own way in life because of his looks. He agrees to accompany Gwen to her family party when the guy he asked falls through.

Gwen is kind of the black sheep of her family. She is not as beautiful as the rest of her shallow family, is brainy and friendly. She doesn't like people who think that there beauty can get them anywhere. Surprisingly Paul and Gwen have a nice time at the party, they dance all night and Gwen shoots down the move Paul makes on her.

It took some to like Paul. He tries really hard to pursue friendship with Gwen though Gwen is not that welcoming. I liked Gwen, how fun and strong she was. She had confidence and knew her place in life while Paul didn't. I liked seeing his transformation. It was just not what I was expecting when I read the book.

Rating 3.5 stars

Nisha says

The ugly duckling and the handsome prince has been done over and over again. But the importance and insecurity toward physical appearances is oftentimes romanticized in romance novels. In this one, it doesn't. The hero, Paul spends most of the book being enamored by the heroine's very beautiful sister yet unmistakeably drawn to the less beautiful heroine, Gwen. He even wishes that the heroine was prettier, because he liked her personality so much.

This is so unlike how most romances have their heroes fall unbearably in lust with the heroines at first sight or at least interaction. Paul and Gwen start off as friends which develops into love. They even spend the first night they met in the same bed in only their underwear, with no sexual tension. Crazy, but really endearing.

Needless to say, I adored this book. I loved how the themes of beauty was presented, with brutal honesty, yet within the comforts of a neat tidy HEA.

I do have to mention that the Gwen's family was ridiculously stereotyped, but it wasn't really that important.

It was kinda entertaining to read their opinions on who Gwen could date, but highly unrealistic (too much malice - family usually say things thinking that they are doing the ugly duckling a favor).

Desi says

Leído el 13/07/2010

Lenore Kosinski says

I am currently wearing my big happy sigh grin. This is a book I have read and reread a gazillion times or more since I first bought it. I don't know what it is about it....I've always been attracted to ugly duckling books, and this one turned out to be so much more. I LOVED Gwen and Paul. Just loved them. They always surprised me. And to watch them both grow and learn so much about themselves...it was satisfying. So many times it's only one side or the other that really grows and changes, but they both had a long ways to go in this one. This is my feel-good read...the one I pick up when I need a pick me up. The back of the book description is a bit misleading too...but if you have a penchance for ugly duckling books, then I highly recommend it.

ChloeLeeNH says

This was a very sweet read. Her insecurities working hard against her and him being outside his comfort zone were great issues to work with. They had chemistry right from the beginning and you just knew it would never be about just sex.

Trudy Miner says

Paul Bennet agrees to take Gwen Christopher to her parents' 50th wedding anniversary because Gwen's sister, Annette, his girlfriend, couldn't go. In a family of stunningly beautiful siblings, Gwen is considered the plain child and she's constantly reminded of it. So when Gwen shows up with the handsome, successful Paul, her family thinks she really can't attract a man like that. As they proceed to dance, and drink, the night away, Paul realizes that Gwen has a lot to offer the right man. Too tipsy to drive home, they are forced to share a room and that leads to complications neither are ready to face. As time went on, Paul discovers depth to Gwen that he never expected and realizes that he had been taking looks for granted while passing off everyone else. Gwen, too, has to adjust her thinking about "beautiful people" that they are not all as shallow as her family.

Another good read from Jo Leigh!

Maura says

Paul Bennett, a PR guy in Hollywood, is a beautiful person attracted to an even more beautiful Autumn Christopher...but he can't seem to score with her. In an attempt to earn points, he agrees to escort Autumn's plain sister, Gwen to her family party. He is surprised to realize how much fun he had and sort of hurt when he realizes that Gwen doesn't really want to be his friend because she thinks he's shallow. So Paul sets out to change his ways, because he considers Gwen a person worth knowing and being friends with. Things heat up fast though, and Gwen, who always considered herself a confident, secure person, realizes that she isn't as strong as she thought and harbors serious insecurity about being good enough for Paul.

This was very cleverly done. I wanted to hate Paul because of how shallow he was...I mean he was pretty damn shallow when it came to Autumn. He spends the first half of the book becoming aroused by this woman's little games, reflecting on how hot she is and looking forward to doing anything to have sex with her. But in the end I couldn't hate him at all because he realizes what he's like and it's suddenly not good enough for him...he wants to be worthy of Gwen's friendship. Gwen, with her prejudice, was a bit easier to dislike, but then that was part of her character growth too. Even her security/insecurity was all part of it and I so appreciate that these characters grow and change and become better people. Normally, I hate separation angst - but it was so necessary in this story because Gwen realized that she wasn't strong enough for a relationship at that exact moment, and she had to get her head on straight again. Although, I wasn't 100% clear on why she didn't seek him out once she had. Paul and Gwen develop a real friendship and their turn to the carnal was very sexy. I really felt the connection between them. Most of all though, I like that this is about more than just two characters hooking up. It really is about prejudice and finding deeper connections with people and letting connections to different people mature you. An intelligent story in the genre with dynamic characters. A definite win...well, except for the cheesy Heinie (as in Heineken) jokes.

Sumaira says

This book was a nice quick easy read, it's one you would pick up on a holiday. The characters are likeable (with the exception of Gwen's family, I mean serious what??) and Paul is sweet. The story is just what it says in the synopsis, Paul wants Autumn who he has been trying to get with for weeks but is having no luck. Autumn asks Paul a favour to get someone to take her not so fabulously beautiful, but smart sister Gwen to a family party as her date. Paul arranges for a friend to do so but he pulls out at the last minute and so he goes as Gwen's date instead. You can guess where the book goes from here, Paul discovers Gwen may not be classically beautiful but he wants to know her and Gwen gets to know that Paul is more than a pretty face.

At first I thought I was not going to like Paul but he turned out to be a good hero and I wanted for him to have a happy ending. Pick this book if you are looking for a quick read with a couple of sex scenes

Robin says

Perfect Match

I really enjoyed this book. It was a great story about two different people who turned out to be perfect together.

Lauren says

Ms. Match

4 Stars

A charming opposites attract romance with some super steamy scenes.

The hero, Paul Bennet, a gorgeous and successful PR executive, initially comes across as very shallow and superficial although he does have an understanding of his own shortcoming. After agreeing to accompany Gwen Christopher, his current flame's less attractive sister, to a family event, Paul finds himself relaxing and enjoying himself more than expected. Gwen brings out the best in him, and he decides that he wants to become a better man.

Gwen, the Plain Jane, heroine is intelligent and witty. She is a lovely person although she can be a bit judgmental at times. Like the hero, she also acknowledges her biases and realizes that there is more to Paul than a pretty face, and it is well-worth the effort of looking beyond external appearances.

My one small nitpick is the lack of an epilogue with Gwen's family (view spoiler)
