



Perfectly Matched

Heather Webber

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The heat is on...

When Boston psychic Lucy Valentine finds herself involved in a group of eccentric psychics trying to learn more about their abilities, she is convinced a rare spring heat wave has flushed the crazies out of hiding.

Adding to her theory is her newest client in the Lost Loves division of Valentine, Inc., her family's lucrative matchmaking firm. He's an animal communicator who hires Lucy to find his purrfect mate—because his cat told him so.

But craziest of all is The Beantown Burner, a serial arsonist who is targeting private eye Sam Donahue, the brother of Lucy's boyfriend, Sean. With the help of her kooky psychic group, Lucy must tap into abilities she didn't know she had to catch the firebug before the fires turn deadly. What she never expected to discover is that the motive behind the flames hits a little too close to home...and her heart.

Perfectly Matched Details

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Aurian Booklover says

With the help of Orlinda Batista, Lucy Valentine is trying to get control of her psychic powers, and develop more of them. So far, is it a bust though, and the other fledgling psychics under Orlinda's wings are trying to get her kicked out. As an exercise for them, Orlinda has brought with her the teddy bear of a young girl who has been missing for six years. All of them have seen something of what happened, and Orlinda has confirmed it as truth, but Lucy doesn't get anything. Add to that a Boston heat wave and defect air-conditioning, and tempers are running high.

Preston Bailey, the reporter and Lucy's new friend, is also there to report on their progress. Her career is coming along nicely thanks to the human interest articles she is writing on Lucy's Lost Love cases. But these psychics, or as she calls them, the Diviner Whiners, are getting on her nerves. She is also supposed to follow them all at work one day, and today is dr. Paul's day.

While Orlinda is leaving Lucy's office, she runs into Lucy's new client, and they do know each other. Jeremy Cross is a total bad boy from the looks of him, and Lucy's receptionist, Suz, is totally under his spell. Jeremy is a former student of Orlinda as well.

Apparently, Jeremy is an animal communicator, and his cat Ebbie has told him to go to Lucy and have her find his soul mate. While Sean is distracting Lucy, Jeremy leaves the offices, but he leaves Lucy with Ebbie... and without a way to contact Jeremy.

There is an arsonist in Boston, and so far, all his targets have been familiar to Sean, and his adopted brother Sean Donahue. Why is someone after Sam? Who is hating him so much? And will Sean be the next target? The moment Lucy's father hears about this, he kicks Sean out of his million dollar apartment, as he does not want it to be the arsonist' next target. Leaving Sean only one place to go: Lucy's tiny cottage. This makes Lucy's grandmother Dottie very happy, as she wants to have great grand children tomorrow if possible, and she has been haunting Lucy and Sean about it for weeks now. Giving them stuff, dropping totally unsubtle hints, and doing everything she can, short of locking them naked in a bedroom together.

So now Lucy has to find an arsonist to keep her boyfriend safe, a missing girl named Bethany, and a soulmate for a dangerous man who does not want to answer her questions of help in any way.

To top it all, a mugger snatches Lucy's bag, she has visions or nightmares about the arsonist, and Preston claims Dr. Paul is a killer. And something is very wrong with Preston, but she does not want to acknowledge it. Nor does she want to alert her boyfriend, who happens to be Lucy's halfbrother.

The mystery part took me completely by surprise as I was focuses on another guilty looking party. I was so glad when the mystery around Bethany was solved, and I really do wonder what would happen in real life to someone who did that. The personal life part of Lucy and Sean and all her friends was sweet and good and fun to find out. I really like all the characters, main and secondary, in this series. And I enjoy witnessing them finding happiness.

Lucy is a bit weirded out by her parents new relationship though, and Dottie sure is a grandmother to reckon with. She is spunky and fashionable and meddling and totally loveable.

Lucy is a good person, and she does her best to solve the cases she is working on for the police, even though they sometimes break her heart. It feels good to be able to give closure to a grieving family. Still, she is

human and I enjoyed the little revenge she took on Annie Hendrix. I love how she takes in injured animals because her best friend, and vet, asks her. Like Grendel, her three legged cat who has abandonment issues, and the one eyed hamster. And now she just takes in Ebbie.

I do hope Heather Webber will write many more books in this series. The mystery parts are just so very well written, they keep me glued to the pages, but it are the characters who make me love the books.

10 stars.

© 2013 Reviews by Aurian

Jeanette Dummer says

Dang you Ms Webber for leaving me hanging like that! I hope this means there is another Lucy Valentine in the works!

As always, Lucy is one of my favorites! The stories suck me in from the very start and I just can't put them down! Great mystery, LOVE the characters!

Claudia (CJ) says

So happy there is another Lucy Valentine book to read! I always love to find out what new thing is going on with Lucy and her family and of course her love life, especially with the family curse and all. I think a person who never read one of these books about Lucy V, could easily just pick this one up and know lots. (it could be a stand alone) I hope to read more of these books in the future!!! Thanks Heather!

Rubal says

3.5 stars

I love this series. The books are light and fun with very likable characters and some cute scenes. My favourite part about the books is the animals. I love how much everyone loves them. Lucy and Sean's relationship is adorable. Sean is the perfect mix of mysterious, sexy and an overall great guy. The supporting characters are very interesting and organic to the stories.

I deducted half a star for this book because I was disappointed with the conclusion of the mystery. It felt forced like the author had no clue who should be the villain and picked someone randomly. And the supposed reason for that character going batshit crazy was blah.

I am really glad that the author decided to continue this series after the previous book. I had a lot of fun while reading it.

Samantha says

review to come

Amy says

Heather has done it again!!! Another great book and I just adore Lucy. Her tight knit family and relationships with Sean, Preston and all others. Great fun!!

Jennifer says

The Good: Things have never been so dangerous for Lucy and her loved ones. This was a super quick, totally engaging read. I couldn't put it down. My favorite in the series. Every detail was important and the plot was very fast paced. I felt Lucy's fear throughout the book. The book wrapped the entire series up so nicely that I believed it to be the last in the series, until that final chapter threw me through a loop. Looks like we'll be getting more Lucy Valentine in the future, with a much better handle on her powers. I couldn't ask for better news.

The Bad: Not a thing.

Anita says

Actual Rating: 3.5 Stars

This is probably my least favorite of the *Lucy Valentine* series, but not for reasons of the story itself. The mystery parts were pretty decent, and again, we have at least three different ones going on at the same time. They were predictable, although I felt like the identity of the arsonist was a little left-field. Some of the mystery were pleasantly twisty, but the ending of this book indeed felt a bit rushed and awkward. I can't say I was really surprised by the reveal of the culprit even though I felt a bit iffy about the motive.

The book itself was entertaining and easy to read.

What irked me about this book were the way all the characters were acting. Or rather, I was irked by the way that a select few of the characters were acting. It was like, on Lucy's worst week ever, everyone was conspiring against her to either be extremely annoying, unnecessarily frustrating, strangely secretive, or inconsiderately hurtful. I still loved Marisol, Em, and Dovie, because they were their usual, steadfast support pillars in Lucy's life. As was Raphael for the brief scene he appeared in.

And then there are the animals. They DO make everything so much more likable, really. Grendel is characteristically grumpy and loving at the same time. Thoreau is just a bundle of cute. And then there's the addition of Ebbie, who just seems like an adorable fur ball with psychic energy. The one-eyed hamster,

Odysseus doesn't make much of an appearance.

And with the exception of Marisol, neither do a lot of our usual characters. I found Dovie's passive aggressive hinting at how Lucy and Sean need to have a great grandchild for her kind of cute, even if unnecessarily intrusive--but since she's a grandmotherly age, I forgive her, because that's something you expect of someone like Dovie anyway.

But everyone else from Lucy's father, to her Diviner Whiner group, to Preston Bailey, and even Sean were getting on my nerves. I never saw enough of Sam Donahue, Sean's brother, to know his personality, but his evasiveness wasn't as annoying, for some reason.

Even though Lucy's father only appears for a brief moment at the beginning of the book, I felt like he was being unnecessarily mean. While there was some logic behind his reasoning for evicting Sean, I just never remembered him to be a man who was childishly spiteful, just because Lucy wouldn't let him have his way. And even after Lucy makes him see logic in why they needed to shut down their building for a while. Then again, maybe I never got enough insight into his personality in previous books.

The Diviner Whiner group--dubbed as such by Preston because they are a bunch of psychics who keep complaining about everything during their sessions--were just frustrating. They are purposefully mean-spirited to Lucy because they deem her unworthy of being a part of their little psychic class, no matter that Lucy is definitely psychic, even if in her own way. I appreciated that Orlinda stood up for Lucy by telling them to back off; I wished Lucy had stood up for herself, as well, though. Lucy seemed to have shrunken in her personality in this book, somehow, and I kept expecting her to snap back at the other three whenever they made personally insulting jibes at her.

But she didn't, and that bugged me.

Sean had been secretive about his past and what's been on his mind since the previous book. It rolls on over into this fourth book, and while it wasn't a big deal because the two of them overcome that little obstacle eventually, it was still kind of frustrating. And took up more book space than I thought necessary.

But the most frustrating person of all was Preston. I had always found her presence annoying throughout the series, yet still tolerable. She was that irritating younger sibling you had no choice but to endure. And while I understood how Lucy could have started developing affection for the girl, I couldn't get myself to really like the nosy, busy-body reporter myself.

And in this particular book, she was just extremely, stubbornly, childish for so many reasons that I just wanted to jump into the book myself, slap some sense into her, and then drag her off to the hospital myself, or shove food down her throat. I couldn't fathom why she was letting herself waste away like that even though so many people were worried about her. And I also couldn't figure out why everyone was tip-toeing around her when it came to her physical health.

The secret reveal about why Preston was looking so sickly though... I didn't feel like it explained very well why she was also being stubborn and childish about her health. She also continues to refuse telling anyone why she's acting the way she is, and keeps insisting that she's just fine. It was like watching a teenager pull dramatic stunts using her own health as leverage just to gain attention.

I thought that, surely, there was something going on between her and Cutter; it was hinted at so many times. Or I thought that there was some big, twisty reason why she was acting so stubborn. But then the ending

came around and I was honestly sorely disappointed that she had no other reasons for being childishly stubborn and almost killing herself of starvation, than that she was simply being childishly stubborn. There was no real reason or explanation as to why she was acting the way she was.

Anyway...

Despite all the ranting above, I have to include a disclaimer here that I actually DID enjoy this book. I mean, I rolled right through it. The mysteries were serviceable. The story itself is easy to get into. The book could use a bit of editing as I found a lot of either typos or grammatical errors that couldn't be ignored. (I noted that there's a mention that this book was self-published by Webber at a later date.)

But for the most part, *Perfectly Matched* was an entertaining, easy, and short novel to read.

Tanya says

These books are a lot of fun but I was a little frustrated with this one. The motive for the mystery was pretty lame and I realize this is a book about a matchmaking family but I have to admit that I was getting a little annoyed that every single side character in this book had to be matched up. I guess the Title should have been a tip off, duh. I love the cast of side characters but ALL of them finding their HEA is kind of ridiculous and felt it was taking away from the magic of the main couple which is the only HEA I care about. It probably wouldn't be quite so irritating if all the other couples weren't moving at warp speed (idiots) while the only couple I care about are moving at snails pace (frustratingly smart). I fully expect Marisol to be married and with child by the next book. Who needs to date first when you have an aura match?

Cheryl says

This book would be much more enjoyable if you had read the first 3 in the series. It was confusing and hard to get into. Lucy is a psychic who can find things for people and she is trying with a group of mediums to get more psychic abilities. There is a serial arsonist who is targeting PI Sam the brother of her boyfriend. As the town has more and more fires, Lucy has to figure out what is going on.

Keri says

This was another fun, zany installment to Lucy Valentine's life. She has decided to join a paranormal group to try and beef up her "talent" as it were. So far she has had no luck, until one day she touches and item and think she sees something....a murder. Also with a firebug currently on the loose in Boston, things are about the heat up for Sean and Sam. Can Lucy use her new talent to save the man that she loves? Lucy has all her friends and relatives present in the book. If you haven't read the series, then I would suggest starting the first one so you will have Lucy's crazy background. I am happy to say that HW left it wide open for another book, because I really enjoy Lucy's antics and her grand-mother is a hoot.

Jan says

4 1/2 stars. Yay, Lucy Valentine is back. In the best entry in the series so far (and that is saying a lot!) Lucy is trying to develop her psychic abilities by working with a group of fellow psychics. They are working to solve an old missing person's case and Lucy really wants to find the child alive and well. At the same time there is a serial arsonist in Boston who seems to be targeting Lucy's boyfriend, Sean, brother Sam. Confusing much. Well it gets better. Lucy has been hired to find the soul mate of a mysterious man who has come to her because his cat told him to. All this is happening during one of the hottest summers that Boston has ever seen. Much fun ensues.

I love this series. Lucy and her crazy friends and family are always getting into some sort of mess. The romances in the story are sweet. The mystery in this one is very good though I did have a bit of trouble with motive on this one. The book is so much fun, I was able to roll with it. Run, do not walk, to get your copy.

Mycoton32 says

<http://www.leslecturesdemylene.com/20...>

17/20 - En bref, j'ai adoré retrouver tout ce beau monde et la façon dont l'auteur nous fait tourner en bourrique. Je croyais avoir deviné qui était le pyromane, je me suis faite mener en bateau et quand on découvre la vérité, on en reste sur les fesses. Les personnages sont toujours aussi géniaux et nous font vivre leur histoire d'une manière très intense. Une série que j'aime d'amour !!

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

I chose to take this book with me on our 37th wedding anniversary night at the Clearlake Bed & Breakfast Inn. We were given the 'George Washington' room and I feel he and Martha would have approved of my reading material. So while my husband read about the life and battles of George, I settled in watching the sunset on the lake and sharing the lives of Lucy Valentine and her beloved, Sean Donohue.

Lucy and Sean were also seeing skies of reds and orange. Only their view was of arson set fires not giant blue herons. Someone was targeting Sam (Sean's adopted brother,) by burning down the foster homes and buildings of his past. Later on we learn that the target was Sean, himself. In order to try and keep Lucy etc. safe, the entire office building of Valentine's Matchmaking, and the restaurant, The Porcupine and the Private Investigation firm of Sean's and Sam's was closed for a week.

Everyone was scattered in hopes to confuse the villian. Being a novel by the wonderful author, Heather Webber, means this wasn't the only scenario going on. No, there even was a missing child case, and a missing love for Lucy to solve.

The three cases are cleverly explored, investigated, and come to satisfying conclusions under Lucy's management, psychic powers (which are expanding,) and with the help of her family, friends, and good police/firefighting.

To me this book is a Romantic Suspense novel. And, I love it. I understand the appeal of the ebooks, but, I love having a print copy that I can donate to the library, where some person, unaware of Ms. Webber's talents can come across it and find a jewel. I look forward to more adventures and love tales in this series.

Marzana Islam says

I absolutely adored these series. Big fan of Nina Quinn series too! This was a book I couldn't put down. So thumbs up to that, I read all the books in one day because they were so awesome.

I really adored that everyone seemed to manage to find whom they were looking for, I also loved that each of the characters owned or loved dogs or cats. Which is very cute in my opinion. :D

I'm also a big fan of Ebbie, she sounds like my kind of cat ;)

If you havent read it, its worth the read it was well put out. I understood what was going on of course. It was easy to point out the murderers with careful thinking, but some bits gave it away, it wasn't that gripping mystery sense. But it was totally worth delving into.

So check it out when you have the chance, I'm a huge cozy mystery fan and this is one of my faves next to the Nina Quinn mysteries :)
