



Imperfect Match

Jordan Castillo Price

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A man whose future is assigned - A heart that yearns to be free.

Lee Kennedy's destiny is controlled by the Algorithm. It's the reason he's still in college, regardless of his good academic performance. He's switched his major repeatedly and stalled on his Master's thesis, but there's only so much longer he can hold out. Because once he graduates, the Algorithm must be triggered.

Everyone in Lee's family has allowed the Algorithm to match them with a spouse. As has everyone on his block. His neighborhood. In fact, everyone he's ever known. Pairing with his own chosen match seems inevitable...until, at his sister's wedding, he meets Roman.

The waiter lives in the Taxable District, a run-down neighborhood that's only a brief train ride away, but feels like another world. The seedy District is governed by different standards—different expectations—so it's not exactly a surprise that Roman isn't married. But it's definitely a shock to taste his lips.

One forbidden encounter has Lee reeling. He questions everything. His past. His future. And especially the Algorithm. He longs for the freedom to choose not only his own partner, but his own destiny.

When defying the Algorithm will cost everything—family, home, and even livelihood—is Lee strong enough to take another path?

If you enjoy journeys of self-discovery with a futuristic bent, you'll love this standalone character-driven adventure.

Imperfect Match Details

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Download and Read Free Online Imperfect Match Jordan Castillo Price

From Reader Review Imperfect Match for online ebook

Alisa says

Every time an arc review of this comes across my feed I feel jealous & bitter. 0_o

Leanne says

A thought-provoking little gem of a dystopian story by one of my favourite authors. Wonderful worldbuilding!

Alison says

Fantastic. I absolutely loved this. It's so engaging and I had a hard time putting it down. JCP is a master of creating vivid, nuanced, relatable characters that are completely captivating. I clicked with Lee straightaway and enjoyed reading his journey so much. JCP has often written about outsiders finding their place in the world and this story is basically about that. It's more of a coming-of-age-type story, though the romance is central and lovely. Roman is a wonderful character. Another winner from one of my favourite authors.

Liz (Bugetta) says

Well this was a nice little surprise from JCP -- a journey of self discovery, a burgeoning romance and a new world of hers to explore. This one is very divided, there are the Boomers who live in the Benefit District where everything is decided for you, right down to the person you'll marry. The other side is run down Taxation District where you have more choices but life is much more difficult.

Lee has grown up in the Benefit district and he's put off letting the algorithm make his perfect match for as long as he can; he knows it not the right thing for him but what other choice does he have? And then he meets Roman. Roman is from the taxation district and he fascinates Lee in a way no one has before and they share a kiss and then Lee knows he needs to find an alternative to the algorithm, because no matter what woman is chosen for him, she won't be the right person because she's a woman.

The story is really about Lee's journey of self-discovery more so than the romance between Lee and Roman, though Roman was definitely the catalyst to set Lee on his journey. I loved getting to see how Lee was able to find his way to being happy with himself and with Roman. I'd love more stories set in this world because I still have so many questions about how the world came to be like this.

DF says

I'm super fond of JCP.

It's short, right, but I didn't feel it was incomplete.

She managed to build intriguing characters and world in less than 200 pages. Despite what JCP's writing about, she somehow always makes the stories so psychological...

Roman stole my heart, of course, I wish I could see more of him, but I am not sure there'll be a sequel.

P.S- kind of off topic, maybe, but the world kind of reminded me of one of black Mirror's episodes, where people found their "perfect" mates, thanks to an APP.

Eugenia says

What a great, sci-fi novella from the always fabulous JCP! This was so much fun to read and slowly pick up on the interesting world-building she created for us in this futuristic, dystopianesque romance!

It's a classic divide of the haves and the have-nots. Yet it's the have-nots who have freedom; the haves live a life dictated by the almighty Algorithm. Although JCP doesn't truly flesh world out, she relies on reader's pre-conceived ideas of what living in a completely predetermined society would look like. I'll give her a pass on this one....but I would have liked more detail in this and of both our MC's families, since they came from the opposite sides of the tracks, so to speak.

Still, JCP showed us the two worlds rather than telling us about them—something which kept the pacing of the story clipping along.

Not her best work, but fun and light despite the dystopian type setting. We got some heat between our MCs and got to see our Boomer (the haves) lose his V-card quite happily.....although it felt somewhat rushed.

Still, JCP is one of my favorite authors in MM romance and I'll happily read anything she writes!

Enjoy....I sure did!

Ami says

2.5 stars

Had a falling out with JCP after her *PsyCop* series no longer satisfy me and I stopped reading it. Gave this one a try because it was a novella, and I wanted to check whether I gave up on her so soon. Turns out that, yes, I think JCP and I are no longer compatible. This one was a meh/blah read for me.

I didn't find this story to be interesting enough to warm up to the relationship. Plus as a lazy reader, I struggled to figure out the world building and spent all those pages wondering what a Boomer was. Had vague idea, but I disliked reading dystopia/futuristic setting with only fuzzy understanding *shrugs*.

Fenriz Angelo says

In the wake of edgy dystopian sci-fi that wants to make a point, futile bc it's seen that as a collective said messages go over our heads and never learn anything from history neither fiction (sorry for the rambling)... i wasn't so sure about reading this one although it's from one of my favorite authors.

But i couldn't sleep and needed something short to calm myself, this one was accesible so i said why not?. Ended up at ungodly hours finishing this in one sitting.

Despite an overused concept I found this story full on the ever present nuance JCP's always puts on her storytelling and world building. She managed to, in under 200 pages, make yourself drawn to Lee's journey and be as eager as he was to discover a new reality behind the sterile perfect world he grew up in. There's also the constant portrayal of the punk subculture i got fond of in her work.

Great characters, and as she said, this is a story about someone being content with his true self and finding a fitting future. No big revolutions, not fixing problematic stuff going on in this world. Just a personal journey that if you collect many stories like Lee's could actually lead to a social change.

Bibliophile says

The only thing that prevents this story from being five stars is simply the length. This story was great--but the selfish reader in me feels it would be *even better* if it was a longer!

I'm a huge fan of JCP. Her Psycop series, in particular, is fantastic. But I honestly can't recall a book of hers that I didn't like. This one is no different. It will likely take you 10-15 pages to get a handle on the world built for this story, but once you do, I have a feeling you'll get sucked in. Lee is a charming, if somewhat naive character. Roman, on the other hand, is sexy and sees far more than most. Together, the two characters work.

In some ways, this story is more about Lee's journey of self discovery about himself and his path, but the romance between him and Roman is still ever present. All in all, it was a memorable and fun story to read. I enjoyed the "opposite side of the tracks" story line, Lee and Roman--both individually and as a couple, learning about the world they inhabit, and the underlining tone of hope (and happiness!) that JCP weaved throughout. It's a fun read and well worth checking out.

5.26.18 Update: I guess this story stuck with me more than I realized because I decided to re-read it the very next day. The second time was even better than the 1st. I'm up-ing my rating to 4.5. :)

Mónica BQ says

I enjoyed this book way more than I thought I would. And that's because it suffers from almost every single pet peeve of mine: underdeveloped world building, scarce romance, limited on page interaction between the MCs... and yet this book was sweet, funny, the main character lovable, and it features real and flawed family relationships.

This was a very much welcomed new JCP book for me after not having loved the last of the Psy Cop volumes. I read it during a tedious flight and it was the perfect entertainment for me. Five stars isn't a rating that I would normally give a book like this one, but it caught me in a good mood.

Shin Mon Thway says

So ... I'm a proud and out geek. ? And it's no wonder that I have always found the future equally fascinating and terrifying. With the rate we are advancing in 21st century, I can't imagine how advanced we will be in 50 years. And I'm so grateful that Jordan Castillo Price has helped me along with this fascinating and entrancing sci-fi tale. A future when people will be matched with each other by an Algorithm? ? Sign me up for this baby! ?

Lee is a rebel for the lack of a better word. ? He's almost 30 and still in school and unmarried. And that is, well, simply unheard of for a Boomer. Lee can't come to terms with an idea that the person Algorithm chooses for is his perfect match. And then he met Roman. Roman from taxable district who is wild, free and tempting as F. Roman is everything that Lee isn't and he longs to taste those lips for just once. But escaping the Algorithm is easier said than done. And it's even more difficult to follow your heart rather than listening to your brain. Lee has to be braver than ever if he wants a happily ever after with his perfectly imperfect match, Roman. ?

I truly think Jordan Castillo Price writes one of the best sci-fi books out there mainstream or gay. The ideas are just refreshing and enthralling. I love Lee simply because he's the blacksheep of the Boomer society. He doesn't blindly follow rules just because he was told to since he was born. He questions, he finds out the truth for him and he doesn't let anyone and anything dictates his life. I believe he and the Algorithm truly reflects our current society. It's always good to have people who rebel just a bit. ? This is a slow burn, soul-searching romance that is a bit heavier on self-discovery and sci-fi aspect. And I loved how Lee evolved from a shy little caterpillar to a full-grown out and proud college professor who's in love with Roman. ♥? As always, Joel Leslie did an excellent job narrating this story and I was entranced from the very beginning. I recommend this audio to all the nerds and geeks out there who's still looking for their perfect or imperfect matches. ? Loved it! ?

**4.5 my life, my choice, my match stars
?????????**

Audio rating

**Story - 4.5 stars ????????
Narration - 4 stars ????????
Performance- 4.25 stars ????????
Overall- 4.5 stars ????????**

Dumbledore11214 says

SPOILERS LOTS OF SPOILERS.

So this was a painful review to write because literally ALL books by JCP that I have read so far worked for me - not just Psycop series but several of her stand alone. I love her writing, the complex plots she does in her books and romantic stories too. This one though? I want to assume that the writer should have made it a longer story, although really I am not sure if the issues were only due to the page space (and considering that JCP self publishes, I am not sure why she would feel constrained not to write longer book so maybe this was all intentional).

We meet Lee at his sister's wedding or actually days before the wedding when he is trying to compose a wedding speech and hot waiter interrupts him and I guess they have a meet cute moment. Apparently Lee is struggling so much with the speech and his overall unhappiness because in his world algorithm matches two compatible people together right after college and you have to get married to this person or so Lee thinks. If you won't get married you will definitely lose some tax privileges (or all of them I am not sure) and people will look down at you or something.

There is a reason why I wrote "or something" because this is how I felt when I was reading . I usually love when the writer drops me in her world and lets me get acquainted with the world without dropping massive info dump on me first, but you know what? When I finished the story I would like to if not know all the details of how the world works then at least understand major rules and powers and whats going on and how the supposition that drives the story's conflict came to be.

I still have no clue how such major loss of human freedom, freedom to choose their own partner (or so Lee thinks) came to be. We know that there is no algorithm where Roman lives in the Taxable district where poor (poorer?) people live, and economical situation is much worse there, but why did this happen? War? Epidemic of deadly virus? In the beginning the word "plague carrier" is used, but it is used in the completely different context (the guys shortly after they meet discuss how when they were kids it was okay to say how are you and now it is not. "Lately people act like you're calling them a plague-carrier if you imply they're anything less than fantastic".

So was this is the hint as to what took place? if so that's a vague one for me I have to say.

After meeting with Roman who invites him to come to the District Lee decides to start making some changes in his life - first by coming to the District and hooking up with Roman and then further figuring out what he wants to do with his life.

I know that from this writer we often get the story where love story is sharing the spot line with mystery or science fiction or in this one it is journey of self discovery for Lee. But Jesus, to me the development of the relationship was non existent and the middle part of it was simply missing. They meet, soon they meet again, hook up, go their own ways and for the most of the story they are apart and at the end boom we belong together.

And the weirdest thing to me is that the urgency of algorithm all this ingesting Lee goes through was if not for nothing (he certainly changes his life to be true to himself and hoping to be with Roman), it kind of fizzled out for me, kind of lost emotional urgency with some revelations Lee learns.

Grade D. Of course I acknowledge good writing, but the story was a massive disappointment overall for me.

WhatAStrangeDuck says

JCP is absolutely one of my favourite writers but she dropped the ball on the world-building with this one. I think it's just too short, or maybe, maybe the main premise is just not strong enough.

Anyhow, a mediocre book by JCP is still a class above about a lot of other books, hence three stars.

Allison says

ARC provided with the understanding a review would be written.

There is so much that I could say about this book, and, given that it isn't terribly long, I still feel like I could write a pages long review. I'll try not to do that.

I have to say that although this is a romance in some sense, it is not the main purpose of this book, and while there is a definite HEA, in some ways Lee finding himself is much more important than his relationship with Roman. The story is about so much that I find it hard to put it all into words. There is the obvious, but not heavy handed, commentary on today's society. There is the importance placed on being able to be one's self, without hurting others, but also not hurting yourself. There is a focus on the need to look beyond the obvious, to see the subtext and nuances in life. There is also the importance of communication and how difficult that can be for so many reasons, from the limitations of language to the limitations we put on ourselves and others.

I love that all of these things are handled so delicately and with equality, there isn't any, "This way is the right way." or the sense that either the Boomer or the Tax Rat way is clearly better, each has their problems and positives, and each person is allowed to make the decisions that are best for them. Emma, Lee's sister chooses the Boomer way for her reasons, and is shown to be happy with that decision. Lee chooses the Tax Rat way, and is obviously, finally, who he was meant to be. But they are still family, and they still care for each other, and they still have a relationship, nothing is ever as simple as it seems, and that is wonderful because that is life. Of course, the Tax Rat life is more free and open and presented as more positive, and that makes sense too because living life to fit in rather than living your authentic life is so limiting, and really isn't any easier, it's just a different set of challenges. The importance of communication, the importance of paying attention to more than what is obvious, the need to allow people to be themselves, are all things that run through this book in a beautiful rhythm that left me feeling slightly unsettled, but happy all the same. Plus there is just some beautiful language in this book. I love JCP's books, but this is the first one by her that I found myself paying close attention to the words and the way they are strung together.

I read this twice because I was facing some personal things the first time I read it and I didn't feel like I could competently review it, but I will be reading this again and again. It's the kind of story that I will always find

new layers and ideas to explore. I will say the first read I was confused, I felt very much like there were things I was missing, but I believe that is because we are experiencing all of this with Lee, and he was very confused. The second read made me realize just how well that worked.

Read this book, you will be glad you did. I think it might not work as a romance for some people, but if you want to read about a person finding out they aren't who they expected, and being happier being the person they've found, you will love this book.

I'd love more books in this World. I'm fascinated by the society JCP created here, and I would love to see her explore it in future books.

Audio: Wonderful and I caught things I hadn't even though I'd read the book twice. I really enjoyed the voices that Lesley created for the main characters.

Wendy says

I was blown away by *Imperfect Match*, partially because I resonated so much with the character of Lee. It would be nice to say that I identified more with Roman, since he's the one with most everything all figured out, but the parallels between my life and Lee's (except that career-wise I still have never figured anything out)—my family joked that I was a career student, and unfortunately I didn't need an algorithm to do what I thought was expected of me by "society." (That didn't last). Lee at least has it figured out there. It completely drew me in, and I read it in one sitting.

But then again, it's the 23rd Century, and the Boomers remind me of the 1950s American Dream (nightmare) whereas the Tax District struck me as being bright and vibrant like the original Bohemians. Well, the colors and the baubles—rhinestones instead of diamonds and it not mattering because they sparkle and they're beautiful. (Bohemia is somewhat associated with pressed glass beads, but many of the glass making families in the old Czech Republic were relocated during World War II). Relocation of undesirables is an ancient practice, unfortunately.

What on earth does this any of this have to do with *Imperfect Match*? Beauty is relative. What determines wealth is relative. Is wealth worth it if you don't have true freedom?

Stark, sanitary, similarities indicate wealth. Riotous colors and stickers rule the Tax District. All of the weddings are the same in Lee's world. The rehearsal dinner for his sister's dinner is hilarious and simultaneously obscene, but it seems Lee, with his suddenly new confusion and questioning of his world, is the only one who questions anything other than proper use of the cutlery.

Roman's character isn't as deep to me as Lee's—I think it's because Roman, while still unsure of some things, has a better sense of himself, though not still not necessarily about relationships. He is the base upon which Lee begins to question his entire reality. All Lee has really thought about is that he wants to stay in school and doesn't want to trigger the algorithm. Meeting Roman blows up all of Lee's hidden thoughts about _why_ he's doing what he's doing, and forces him to face what he really wants out of life.

Real and stark differences emerge between the Districts, as Lee learns the stickers all over businesses in the Tax District aren't meaningless, and when he interviews for a job at his university in the Benefit Sector when he is at first practically guaranteed a job until it's discovered he's not married and isn't planning on it, doors

slam shut in his face. Go against the grain and you'll be punished.

It may be the Boomers who are germaphobes, but the people living in the Tax District have bonfires, and what is more purifying than fire? (Just don't tell that to the ghost of someone burned as a witch).

If I had to choose, I'd do what Lee does as well, and I love that his mom teaches him embroidery stitches. I really liked his family. I loved Emma and Howard's visit to him at the end, and that they seemed content.

Imperfect Match presents different ways to live your life, and how, even in a future different from our own, human nature perseveres. Some are willing to go along with the status quo with their blinders on, especially when they have nothing to lose. Other people, like Lee, have the blinders prised off, and can't put them on again, because what they've seen is too beguiling to return to the flat ordinariness of life as they have known it. Roman took the little crack already started by Lee and Emma's visits to the Cat and Canary and broke it wide open. I would so eat pancakes and eggs at the Sugar Bowl. I think I'd want to live there. I've been wanting pancakes ever since.

The two different worlds are so richly drawn—the description of Lee's room at the school in the Tax District is wonderful. How he gets his ceiling fixed is both hysterical and touching.

As this is a stand-alone novel, I would very highly recommend it, especially if you're interested in checking out Jordan Castillo Price's writing. She has a very distinctive voice and style, and a wonderful sense of humor.

Ironically, I just read an article (before reading the novel) in The Guardian about how algorithms and a program in which they are being used in China for "social credit." It's a little frightening, and it's happening now. It makes the world of the novel seem not so far fetched.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentis...>

ARC provided by author. Opinions are entirely my own.
