

Matchmaker One-Shot

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Genres: Romance, Heartwarming.

Page Count: 33

Synopsis:

A scheming girl used to using her cunning to effortlessly manipulate everything to her advantage, tries to play matchmaker for her step sister. The problem is the boy in question doesn't seem to as easily fall lock step into her games as she is used to. This peaks her interest, to have an actual challenge to rise to this time. However, along the way she discovers that more is developing than just a rivalry.

Characters:

Mary – Matchmaker [MM]: A petite sixteen-year-old Highschool girl. She has white hair done into a wavy shoulder-length bob-cut. An ever present sly expression, emphasized by her calculating blue eyes.

Marcello – Male Lead [ML]: A high-school senior. He has a tall lean muscle build with short well-kept dark hair. His resting expression is a frown and a sharp look. His dark eyes easily pierce through whatever he is focused on. He doesn't show much emotion.

Stacy – Sister [SS]: An older sister, who loves her little sister and wants to help her however she can. Although, she's never able to — and usually is the one being helped. Taller with a plump build. Voluptuous brown hair done up into a long ponytail. She has a bright cheery expression, with wide dark brown eyes.

Page 1:	
P1:	Mary reclining across a couch on her stomach, snacks to her side. Book blocking her face. A voice complaining from off screen.
SS:	And that's what the girls are planning. There's just no way I can miss out on going to the concert with them, but I have no idea how to get mom to say yes.
P2:	An anxious Stacy bouncing forward.
SS:	Are you even listening, Mary?
P3:	The book slams shut, Mary letting out an exhausted sigh while rolling her head away in annoyance.
P4:	Behind back shot: Mary walking out of the room with Stacy giving a simplistic questioning look.
P5:	Identical shot: Mary walking back in, Stacy surprised.
MM:	Done.
SS:	Already?!

Page 2:	
P1:	Mary plopping back down on the couch, already having begun to read again.
MM:	Yeah, I just said I wanted to go to the concert. Which got an immediate no. Then out of desperation on the spot <i>came up with</i> the idea of you chaperoning. Then added on to that it would be even safer if your friends came along. Blah-blah-blah, you're welcome.
SS:	It was that easy?!
MM:	You should really learn to start extreme – and work them down to where you actually want them. Oh, also I'm broke so you'll have to pay for my ticket. Have to keep up appearances and all.
SS:	Geh?! b-But my savings!
P2:	Stacy lunging forward and tightly hugging Mary. Who is clearly not into it, but is putting up with the hug without a word.
SS:	Honestly that's even better! We get to go have fun together! You're the best sister in the world.
MM:	Yeah, I know.
P3:	Exterior of house Shot.
MM:	You can let go now.
SS:	Hehe, okay, okay.
	Mary thereafter had plenty of money to spend on things while at the concert.

Page 3:	
P1:	Mary walking while listening to music, focused on her phone.
 :	Later at school.
P2:	A slightly off put Mary being yanked by her arm, her sister dragging her off with a smile while waving at her unseen friends.
SS:	Good timing! We were just talking about how fun the concert was! Come on and join us.
MM:	Do I have to?
SS:	Of course! I keep trying to get you to spend some more time with my friends as is and this is the perfect reason!
MM:	Yippee...
P3:	Mary is scrolling through her phone, clearly not paying attention.
Group:	Blah, blah, blah, blah. Blah? Blah! Blah...
P4:	Mary's ears psychically perking up, as her eyes light up in recognition.
[F] 1:	Hey, there goes Marcello. Maybe you can tell him all about the fun we had.
[F] 2:	Yeah, Stacy. And maybe you could invite him to come next time? Hm? Hmm?
SS:	Guys stop. You're making me anxious.
P5:	Mary's head twisting and robotically locking onto a nervous Stacy, giving a burning gaze.
MM:	She's got such a crush on them, right?
[F] 1:	Right? It's so cute.
MM:	Does she talk your ears off about them as well?
[F] 2:	All the time.
SS:	That's not true! I only talk about it a little...
MM:	Oh is that so...?

Page 4:	
P1:	Mary having dragged away and isolated Stacy. Standing tall over the demoralized elder sister.
MM:	So, keeping secrets are we?
SS:	No! Nothing like that. It just never came up...
MM:	Never came up you say? You expect me to believe that?
SS:	For realzies!
P2:	Mary giving an icy glare down.
SS:	Okay, maybe I might not have mentioned it on purpose.
SS:	But it's embarrassing to tell you all about how bad I am at talking to boys. Besides, if I did mention you might have done- Well I'm not sure but it probably would have been something.
P3:	Mary giving a reassuring smile to her sister, while using her hand to gently lift the enraptured girl's chin up.
MM:	Please? What could I possibly even do that would get you worried?
SS:	Well... I guess, maybe it was a silly idea.
MM:	See? I just want to know about what's going on in my precious sister's life. Is that so wrong?
SS:	Really? Well, alright then.
P4:	Stacy is off in her own little world, hands pressed up against her own cheeks, happily daydreaming.
SS:	You see we had Home-Ec together. I had seen them around before that, but it was then that I realized how cool they were. You see they would take the food made and-
P5:	Mary flatly staring forward, her aura cold and chilling against the warm light emanating off screen.
SS:	Blah, blah, blah, blah. Nice. Blah, blah, blah. Cool. Blah, blah, blah. Smart. Blah, blah, blah.
MM:	...

Page 5:	
P1:	Low detail shot: Mary tilting head with flat eyes, staring at her looking away sister.
MM:	Have you actually had a meaningful conversation with this dude?
SS:	w-Well... Not in so many words...
P2:	Mary's eyes widening, an intensity sparking behind them.
SS:	When it comes down to it though, he's just out of my league.
P3:	Stacy is taken off-guard, but still deeply touched by Mary's words.
MM:	Don't say that. You're the best person I know! If anything this guy isn't good enough for you.
SS:	Sis.
P4:	Mary flips her hair out, while giving a "It can't be helped." Expression.
MM:	If that's how it is, you leave me no choice in the matter.
SS:	Huh? What do you mean?
P5:	Dynamic Shot: Mary giving a totally confident expression while striking an overly dramatic pose. Like an ancient general who has already won a war before it has started.
MM:	I'll just have to play Matchmaker!
SS:	This is the kind of thing I was worried about!

Page 6:	
P1:	Mary on her own, sitting in some stands. Chin resting on her knuckles.
MM: 	That sister of mine sure is funny about some things. What would she do without me?
MM: 	Good thing she has me to take care of simple things like this.
P2:	Foreground: Mary staring out at track and field club activities.
MM: 	Though she could have given me something to work with. Oh, well it wasn't that hard to track you down, Mr. Love interest.
P3:	Marcello Establishing shot: Him wiping off sweat after a run.
MM: 	Or rather, Marcello. It would have been easier if you had more of a social media presence, but a little digging never hurt anyone.
MM: 	A semi-handsome track star. How expectingly standard taste for my sister to have.
MM:	Hi there. Could I have a moment of your time.
P4:	Side Shot: Mary stepping forward, the two locking eyes.
MM:	I'm a new member of the school news program. And I would like to interview you for a piece. If you have time, that is? It would really help me out if you could answer just a couple questions.
P5:	Mary internally smirking to herself.
MM: 	What a completely simple trap. Feeding both into their ego and need to help a hapless damsel. This is almost too easy.

Page 7:	
P1:	FG: Mary raising an irritated brow. BG: Marcello walking off without a word and asking someone something.
P2:	Identical Shot: Mary all smiley again. Marcello walking back.
P3:	Headshot: VFX: A crack shooting through Mary's smiling expression.
ML:	No.
MM:	n-No?
ML:	No.
P4:	FG: Mary laughing it off. MG: Imaginary Mary shooting out a death glare. BG: Black.
MM:	I see... Can I ask why?
MM: 	Who the hell do you think you are? Too much of a hotshot for an interview? The ego on this one!
P5:	Marcello staring down with a flat expression, at Mary letting out a slight amount of genuine surprise.
ML:	Because I just asked an actual member of the school news and they have no idea who you are.
MM:	Oh... That's a decent enough reason, I suppose.

Page 8:	
P1:	Marcello begins turning away, while giving a very plain expression.
ML:	I don't much care for games. And at that – I'm busy. So if that's all – I'll be going.
P2:	Detailed Close-Up Shot: Mary giving a sly smile. Instantly pivoting.
MM:	What's your type?
P3:	Marcello turning back with a questioning look. Mary staring forward, with a slight head tilt, maintaining unwavering eye contact.
ML:	Huh?
MM:	You know? The type of girl you like? You aren't currently seeing anyone, right? Any particular reason? I would really like to know.
ML:	Why?
P4:	Mary glancing away, fidgeting in place with a bright blush.
MM:	Isn't it obvious? Isn't it normal for a junior to have a crush on a cool and capable senior? I was just too embarrassed to say it out right earlier. So, I came up with that silly lie. I'm sorry about that.
P5:	Marcello staring on completely stone faced.
ML:	Huh...

Page 9:	
P1:	Mary is still acting all bashful.
ML:	And I am supposed to believe you now.
MM:	Again, I'm sorry about earlier, but what reason would I have to be lying about this?
ML:	What do you like about me then?
MM:	...You're cool and popular.
P2:	Identical Shot: Mary wincing.
ML:	Wrong answer.
MM:	Krh-!
P3:	Mary slightly snaps back, before recomposing herself.
MM:	What do you mean wrong answer?! I mean- who are you to judge why someone else feels the way they do?
ML:	The fact I'm not popular could be a start.
P4:	Mary remembering back to the fact they have no social media presence and she had to work to get info on him.
MM:	Grh.
MM: 	I was too hasty. I need to turn this back around — and do it now.
P5:	Mary takes on a much more casual tone and posture, and tries to play everything off. Literally waving off the interaction.
MM:	I'm sorry, I'm real sorry. I was just kidding about all that. I just wanted to break the ice by teasing my senior a little bit. I really hope I didn't hurt your feelings or anything? If I did I can try and make it up to you?

Page 10:	
P1:	Marcello walks off from an off-balance Mary.
ML:	You didn't hurt my feelings. But if you want to do something, go ahead and leave me alone.
P2:	Mary somewhat desperately trying to claw her way back in.
MM:	Really? Just like that? Aren't you at all curious as to why I am actually here?
P3:	Marcello stops and firmly turns back at the caught off guard Mary.
ML:	You just lied twice in a row, why should I believe you this time?
MM:	That's fair and all, but do you actually think I'm still being deceitful?
ML:	I do.
P4:	Mary quickly pivots, with a fake smile.
MM:	You know what, you're right. I need to earn your trust back. So, I'll leave you alone for now. But really, I do have something you'll be really interested in. I promise! Next time we meet, we can just start over and I can tell you all about it.
P5:	Mary gives an anticipatory and somewhat battle hungry expression.
ML:	Are you going to keep playing games next time?
MM:	I guess we'll have to wait and see, won't we?

Page 11:	
P1:	Mary fired up, now that she has an opponent to match wits with.
MM: 	Okay, so things didn't go according to plan. But can you even really blame me? No, I was simply caught off guard. I'm so used to not getting any real fight out of anyone, that of course eventually I would slip up and go easy. It's only natural. However, I won't be taking it easy this time. Instead, let's see how you do when I actually try?
P2:	Mary casually talking to a couple people who she views as data dispensers.
MM: 	I'll gather some data and come up with a dastardly plot.
P3:	Marcello glancing over his shoulder at the observing Mary.
MM: 	Go ahead and think of me as not being a threat. Because that will just make things so much more fun when the actual trap is sprung.
P4:	Mary turning a corner, having lost sight of Marcello.
MM:	Hm?
ML:	Hey.
P5:	FG: Mary is staring up, while leaning her head back to see Marcello behind her. Marcello seems not amused.
ML:	Why are you following me?

Page 12:	
P1:	Mary acting entirely caught off guard. While Imaginary representation gains an evil glint as a smirk widens.
MM:	Oh, no! You caught me!
MM: 	Of course you did, idiot. You've already fallen for my trap. And now you've come to me.
P2:	Mary slyly shrinks back, as Marcello stares intently at her.
MM:	I was looking for a good time to talk to you again. I didn't want to make another bad impression.
ML:	...
P3:	Marcello walks past a surprised Mary.
ML:	Whatever.
MM:	Huh?! Not even a little curious?
ML:	Nope.
P4:	Mary speed walks to catch up to the marching man.
MM:	You could at least humor me?
ML:	Sorry, but I don't find you all that humorous.
MM: 	Is he actually trying to slip out of my grasp, just like that? Like hell I would allow that.
P5:	Mary bounces ahead of the blunt man, who makes her progressively more irritated.
MM:	You can't say you aren't the least bit curious, right?
ML:	You seem easily bothered.
MM:	Not at all, silly!
ML:	Then how about I give you time to say whatever you have to say, until we reach where I am going?
MM:	Really?

Page 13:	
P1:	Marcello turns back while standing in front of his car, leering back at the girl. Who is holding back from grinding her teeth and letting out a growl.
ML:	Oh, looks like we're here. Times up.
MM: 	Why you little-!
P2:	FG: Camera peering through car window, Marcello's body vaguely in frame. BG: Mary hesitant about the question.
ML:	Of course, if it's that important, you could join me on a drive?
MM:	w-Well...
P3:	Marcello giving a pleased smirk, which annoys Mary to no end.
ML:	Good. At least you know not to get into a stranger's car.
P4:	Mary slamming the door shut out of irritation, as she is already inside the passenger seat.
MM:	I'm not a kid and you aren't exactly a stranger. Now take us wherever we are going.
P5:	Marcello stares down with an annoyed expression.
MM:	Chop, chop, we don't have all day.

Page 14:	
P1:	Marcello gets in with a humph. Mary is resting her head on her fist, staring out the window.
ML:	Do as you please.
MM:	I plan to.
P2:	Identical shot: The two now on the road. Marcello focused on driving. Mary is clearly getting progressively more antsy.
MM: 	We stayed on the road for a while. And didn't talk for the entire trip.
P3:	Mary casually has her head leaned against the car, while staring out the window at Marcello carrying a couple large boxes.
MM: 	We did make one stop along the way to grab — something. Soon after that we ended up at a rather unexpected destination.
P4:	Marcello introducing a dumbfounded Mary to their location. BG: Clearly a Soup Kitchen.
ML:	Here we are.
P5:	FG: Mary looking around. While Marcello finishes talking to someone in the BG. Something in his hand.
MM:	Isn't this?
MM: 	Oh, yeah. I think she did mention something about food before.
ML:	Heads up.
P6:	Mary turns around and catches an apron, giving a surprised look.
MM:	Huh?
ML:	Since you're here, you might as well help?
P7:	Identical shot: Mary giving the exact same expression, now in an apron and with a cooking bandana on. Location changed to behind a food counter.
MM:	Huh?

Page 15:	
P1:	Wide shot: Mary just one of many people, both helping serve and getting food. Mary bearing with having to do the unexpected task.
P2:	Some time passes and Mary finally gets to take a break. She is sinking into a chair while taking the bandana off.
P3:	Marcello standing above her, Mary giving an irritated look back up.
ML:	What? Worn out from just that?
MM:	I'm used to being waited on, not doing things the other way around.
ML:	I can tell.
MM:	Mrh...
P4:	Mary sits up intently.
ML:	Well, I'm just glad you didn't try to back out. I mean, I figured after coming all this way you wouldn't.
MM:	Wait... It kind of sounds like — I played into your own plot?
MM: 	It couldn't be- That I was the one being manipulated...?
P5:	Marcello returns a sly smile.
ML:	I guess, we're even now? Although, only my manipulation actually worked, so maybe not so much even?

Page 16:	
P1:	The two are back in the car, an annoyed Mary being driven back.
P2:	Mary chewing over her own thoughts.
MM: 	At least I managed to pick up some useful information. I'm not sure what the next plan of attack will be exactly, but I'm sure something will present itself with time.
P3:	Mary slyly glancing over to the driver.
MM: 	Though, I feel like I got at least one point confirmed. That being if this guy would even be a good match for my sister. He's clever and helps people. I'll give him a passing grade for now.
P4:	The car's wheels come to a stop.
P5:	Mary elegantly gets out of the car.
MM:	Thanks for the ride.
ML:	Not like I could have left you out there.
MM:	Good. I hope you continue being fine with driving me.
ML:	Huh?
P6:	Mary giving a downright diabolical expression.
MM:	Because I feel like as long as you're willing to drive, I'm willing to help out. And that's an offer you couldn't possibly turn down, right?
P7:	Marcello gives a begrudging expression back.
ML:	...Fine...
MM:	Great! I'm sure this is the start of a beautiful friendship.

Page 17:	
P1:	Mary stepping into her house, while contemplating.
MM: 	With that, I believe I've evened the scores back up.
P2:	Mary smiling to herself smugly.
MM: 	But really, it's my win. After all, everything has been set up in my favor. With those drives being the perfect opportunity to steadily gather info and talk up my sister in a totally natural way.
SS:	Did something good happen?
P3:	Mary notices her sister and returns a smile to the woman.
MM:	You could say that. After all, I think I might be a step closer to being the ultimate Matchmaker.
P4:	Stacy excitedly tries to get info out of and praise a reveling Mary.
SS:	Wait, so you talked with Marcello?! Tell me what happened? Don't leave anything out.
MM:	Well, where should I start...?
MM: 	Ah, yes, I almost got caught up in the thrill of the game. I can't lose sight of why I'm really here. And who I am doing this for.

Page 18:	
P1:	Later: Mary having just finished pouring some soup out, turning back to reply in mild surprise.
Chr:	That's the last person, you can go ahead and pack up.
MM:	Already? Okay.
P2:	Mary helping out with the cleaning in the back, when Marcello walks in and gets her attention.
ML:	You've started to get used to this.
MM:	Please. It's nothing a little bit of practice can't accomplish.
ML:	Yeah, a <i>little</i> bit.
MM:	Hold your tongue, I was new to this. Sure it took me — a few tries to catch on, but I still caught on.
P3:	Marcello gives a reassuring nod.
ML:	You're right, you did. You've been a big help around here.
P4:	Mary looks away, with a slight blush.
ML:	Come on, if we get out of here soon we can beat traffic on the way back to your place.
MM:	Sure, whatever.
P5:	The two driving back. Marcello in a visibly good mood. Mary impetuously begins to ask a question.
MM:	Hey. Why is it you help out at the kitchen?

Page 19:	
P1:	FG: Below eyes shot of Marcello driving. BG: Mary prodding away with her theories.
MM:	And don't give me some goody two-shoes bullshit answer. The only real reasons why someone would go out of their way to constantly help others like that is for self-serving reasons. And it can't be because it looks good on a college application. Because from what I hear you already have a whole bunch of good scholarships lined up. So then why?
P2:	Marcello pulls over in front of Mary's house.
ML:	We're here.
P3:	Mary closes the door and watches as the car drives off.
P4:	Mary seems slightly disheartened.
MM: 	Maybe I touched on something they would prefer I hadn't?
P5:	Mary's regular sly expression returns.
MM: 	Which means there is something for me to exploit. And I have just the plan to do so.

Page 20:	
P1:	A few days pass. Marcello calls out to Mary who is sitting on the school steps after school.
ML:	You still planning to come today as usual?
MM:	I haven't missed a session yet. So, you don't have to ask every time.
P2:	Mary cunningly twists her head towards the man.
MM:	But just this one time, it might be good that you did. Since I was thinking about it, and it sure is a lot of work. If only I had some type of extra motivation. You know, like someone else's reasoning for going? That would probably make me super motivated to go. Otherwise, I just don't know if I have it in me.
P3:	Marcello clearly thinks about this for some time, before replying. His face very clear and genuine.
ML:	...I know what it's like to be in need. What it's like to be on either side of that line.
P4:	Mary's eyes widen at the sentiment.
P5:	Mary turns away from the camera and Marcello. Marcello is beginning to get agitated by the girl's words.
MM:	Seems like everything worked out for you fairly quickly. Sounds like you might have some survivor's guilt, at least to me.

Page 21:	
P1:	Mary quickly turns back, meeting Marcello's eyes and catching the man off guard by her sincere display.
MM:	I should know, I have some myself.
P2:	Mary tucks away into herself, as she continues.
MM:	It probably doesn't seem like it, but actually I'm adopted. Though, I was only like three or four at the time. I can hardly remember my biological parents. I was taken in by friends of the family. And I found myself at home pretty much from the start. But sometimes I think about the fact, things could have gone so much worse. That for most people, things do go worse.
P3:	Mary is surprised as a hand is gently placed on her shoulder.
P4:	The two share a look as they have a moment.
ML:	Thank you for sharing that with me. It seems there is more to you than what's obvious on the surface.
MM:	Yeah, well, I could say the same thing here.

Page 22:	
P1:	Mary hesitantly pulls back, as she begins to ramble on.
MM:	Um... As I was saying. I got really lucky and it was mostly because of my sister. She really from day one made me feel like family. I'm sure some people would have struggled being thrust into that type of situation at such a young age, but I truly don't think she even hesitated once.
P2:	Mary has a warm nostalgic smile as she reminisces on the past.
MM:	From the beginning I had a dependable big sister that was always there for me. Always making me feel like I belong.
P3:	Marcello is turned towards and is smiling down at Mary.
ML:	You must really love your sister.
P4:	Mary gives a happy nod.
MM:	I really do.

Page 23:	
P1:	Mary looks up at the man with a twinkle in her eye.
ML:	I like you a lot more when you're like this.
MM:	Huh?
ML:	You know, being more open and direct with how you feel? Especially, when you're talking about your sister. You just light up.
P2:	Mary clearly feels a tinge of emotion swell up inside of herself.
ML:	And I can tell you must be a good sister yourself.
P3:	Mary begins to try to work through this emotion, while trying to articulate something in response, but is cut off.
ML:	Alright. I'll go along with whatever you're scheming. Been long enough, I might as well.
P4:	Mary is caught off guard by the sentiment, almost like she would prefer if it wasn't made. Marcello seems surprised by the unusual reaction.
MM:	Wait, that's-
SS:	Mary?
P5:	Mary turns her head to see Stacy at the top of the stairs, with a questioning look. Mary clearly feels caught between two forces that are about to collide. As an emotion bubbles up inside her.

Page 24:	
P1:	Mary shoots up off the step, to Marcello's surprise.
MM:	Ah, perfect timing!
P2:	Mary claps her hands together and gives an apologetic expression.
MM:	I just remembered I have something to do. After all that, I would feel just terrible if I left you without any help. So, I'm going to send Stacy with you and won't take no for an answer!
P3:	Stacy is caught looking between (Mary) and Marcello.
SS:	Huh? Help out? With what? o-Oh, hello Marcello.
P4:	Marcello is caught between replying to Stacy and trying to look back out towards Mary.
ML:	Hey, you must be the sister I've heard so much about.
SS:	Oh? r-Really? Like what?
ML:	Well...
P5:	Mary turns away from the two, eyes unseen, and begins to take off. Leaving both staring out.
MM:	Great! You two know each other. Good luck!

Page 25:	
P1:	Mary is practically running off, with a pained smile.
MM: 	I've done what I can. I'm sure that Stacy can play the rest of this out herself. They really would make for a good couple, after all.
P2:	Mary begins to slow down to a stop.
MM: 	Maybe they'll even end up together... That wouldn't be so bad. That means Marcello would still be around for me to match wits with. Yep, that would be best for everyone.
P3:	Mary has a truly bittersweet smile, as she understands her feelings and is choosing to ignore them.
ML:	Hey!
P4:	Dynamic Shot: Mary turns back with an awed expression to Marcello who has caught up to her. The man has a determined look.
ML:	Are you okay?
MM:	Why did you come after me?
ML:	Because you were upset.

Page 26:	
P1:	Mary maintains a smile as her face furrows in pain.
MM:	Of course. Of all the people it would be you. No one has ever been able to see through me like that, besides of course my sister. And now you.
P2:	Marcello gives a confused look.
ML:	You're actually admitting it, just like that?
P3:	Mary tries to give a mischievous expression, but is struggling to do so.
MM:	Am I? Or is this another scheme?
P4:	Mary starts to leave again. Marcello left behind before he can reach out to her fully.
MM:	Don't worry about me. I already worked too hard for things to get messed up at this point.
P5:	Marcello has a pensive expression as he thinks on what to do.
SS:	Thank you for trying.

Page 27:	
P1:	Marcello turns back in surprise, seeing Stacy and realizing she's been here the whole time.
P2:	Marcello is about to urge Stacy to do something, but is interrupted by the girl before he can.
SS:	Sorry I can't help you out, but my sister needs me right now. If you will excuse me.
P3:	Stacy runs off.
P4:	Marcello is left on his own.
P5:	Marcello gives a confident nod, believing in the older sister.

Page 28:	
P1:	Mary is solemnly tucked up and sat against a tree, hiding away.
SS:	Found you.
P2:	Stacy sits down next to her sister.
P3:	Mary gently glances in her sister's general direction.
MM:	Aren't you going to say anything?
SS:	If you want to talk I'm here to talk. If you want to just sit, I can just sit with you.
P4:	Mary curls up into a ball.
MM:	Did I ruin your outing with Marcello?
SS:	Of course you didn't ruin anything. I'll always prefer spending time with you over anything else.
MM:	So that would be a yes... I'm sorry.
P5:	Stacy leans in towards Mary as she pulls away.
SS:	You don't have to apologize for anything.
MM:	No, you just don't get it. I'm not just apologizing for that.

Page 29:	
P1:	Lower-to-upper shot: Mary with her head buried in her arms, looking down at the camera.
MM:	I think I got in over my head this time. I thought it would have been easy to play Matchmaker. And maybe it would have been easy, but I made everything so much more complicated than it needed to be. Because I was busy having fun. And I kept having more fun until everything started happening without me even noticing. And when I did notice I really wished I hadn't. And I just- I really wish...
P2:	Mary's face pops up. Her expression pouty and distressed — and on the verge of tears and snot.
MM:	If it's okay. If things don't work out between you two. Would it be okay if I tried to ask them out?
P3:	Stacy lunges forward and embraces the bewildered girl.
P4:	Stacy having already pulled back from the wide-eyed Mary. Wiping a tear from her sister's face.
SS:	Is that really all what this is about?
P5:	Stacy gives a bright and caring smile. Her arm still extended out of frame.
SS:	That's a totally normal thing for sisters to like the same boy. Don't try and take on so much responsibility all the time. You're the younger sister, after all.

Page 30:	
P1:	Mary closes her eyes and embraces the hand caressing her face. Feeling a moment of peace.
MM:	Yeah... Okay.
P2:	Mary opens her eyes, to be completely taken aback by the sheer overjoyed expression Stacy has.
MM:	Woah!
SS:	I can't believe you've actually asked to have something for yourself?!
MM:	w-What? I didn't even really do that?
SS:	You did! Even that much must have been a lot for you! I'm so happy you're putting yourself first!
P3:	The two butt heads on this topic. Neither giving ground.
MM:	I wasn't! I was at most putting myself second!
SS:	Not happening! You've already come this far, I will not allow you to give it anything else but your best!
MM:	Why are you being so frustrating on this point?!
SS:	Because I want you to truly put yourself first for once!
P4:	The two stay with their heads pressed together, both pouting.
P5:	Until suddenly they both start laughing.

Page 31:	
P1:	The two happily cross pinkies and pinky promise one another.
SS:	You know you'll always be the most important person to me.
MM:	Whatever happens, happens, but we will always be there for each other.
P2:	Mary begins to get up while checking the time on her phone. To her sister's confusion.
MM:	Ah. Just enough time.
P3:	Mary turns back (to the camera) with a mostly casual expression.
MM:	If what you really want is for me to go all out then...
P4:	Mary takes off, leaving a hapless Stacy on her knees, reaching out towards her.
MM:	I'll be doing just that!
SS:	Wait! That's not fair! We should at least get a timeout after that touching moment! Hey? Hey-!?
P5:	Close Up Side Shot: Mary smiles to herself as she runs.

Page 32:	
P1:	A faintly out of it Marcello walks into the soup Kitchen with his eyes down.
MM:	About time you showed up!
P2:	Mary stands hoity, having been waiting for him.
MM:	I hope you have a good excuse for being late.
P3:	They stand with normal expressions, maintaining eye-contact.
ML:	Hey.
MM:	...Hey.
ML:	Did you work things out with your sister?
MM:	I did.
P4:	Marcello blinking a couple times to the statement.
MM:	By the way, my sister likes you. Like, like-likes you.
ML:	Okay...?
MM:	You already knew that though.
ML:	Kind of.
MM:	It was still important context to what I have to say next.
ML:	That being?
P5:	Mary prattling on, clearly back to her old ways.
MM:	You see we had, well not a fight, but a little moment.
ML:	Uh-huh?
MM:	And I think it would be simply devilish if we pretended to go out with each other. You know, to tease her?
ML:	...Huh?

Page 33:	
P1:	Marcello just returns a flat expression to the manipulative girl.
ML:	You can't be for real right now?
MM:	What? I think it's a good plan.
ML:	Even assuming you're kidding, I'm not doing anything under those pretenses.
P2:	Marcello letting out an exasperated sigh, as Mary presses further.
MM:	Oh, but you would under other pretenses?
ML:	Aren't you a bit too young to be worried about this type of thing?
MM:	What are you an old-man? We're both in high school and that's what matters. Now stop trying to wiggle out of the subject at hand.
ML:	It feels like a lot more could matter.
P3:	Mary feigns having her feelings hurt.
MM:	My, you wound me. You won't even pretend to go out with me. It seems you leave me with no choice but to change your mind about the whole thing.
ML:	I don't think that's the only choice left.
P4:	Mary dramatically points at Marcello, who returns a questioning look with a slight smirk.
MM:	I'll for sure get you to agree to go out with me. No matter what tricks I might have to use.
ML:	I thought we already covered, that your tricks won't work on me?
P5:	Mary bounds forward, with a wide, toothy, beaming grin.
MM:	We'll just have to see about that. Because I'm sure, I can convince you into thinking we would make a good match.
P6:	Hard cut to the title of the story.
MM:	After all, I'm quite the Matchmaker.