## The Matchmaker Dragon

By T.W Francis

There was a time most of us know, with Knights, Princesses, Dragons, and many other wonderful things that roamed the Earth. In that time there was a Dragon who had a particular liking to one Princess. The Dragon was named Haliper and the Princess was Julia. He would take her all the time to her parent's dismay. Then when a knight rescued her he would wait a short while before taking her again.

All the other Dragons whispered behind his back because it was odd behavior to always take one princess. Dragons usually took a different one each time. They usually attributed it to his age, for Dragons he was young. Haliper didn't care what anyone said he liked Julia and loved the trouble he went to through to take her each time.

When Princess Julia was around 19, Haliper after take her a few times, noticed that the same Knight came each time to rescue her. The Knight was called Sir Brad. Brad rescued the Princess with Passion and Haliper enjoyed the rescue each time. The Princess and the Knight were married soon after.

One time Haliper came to take the Princess after they were married he discovered something he did not like. When Haliper landed in the courtyard he noticed Julia a bit round in the stomach with child. Haliper looked at Julia and said in a singsong voice, "This can't be! This can't happen! What will I do now? I can't take you in this condition. Oh my, what will I do now?" Julia gave Haliper that don't be so silly look all women have, "You will find another princess. You will help her find the love of her life like you did for me. There is another one kingdom over. She just turned 17 and needs to start finding a husband. She also needs to learn a little humility. Haliper sighed, "Your right. It's just that I don't know how to take another Princess. I only know how to take you. But I will do it because you said I should." Julia shook her head in disagreement, "Haliper after all the things you went through to take me I think you shall be fine. My father has no hair left after trying everything he could think of to keep you out." Haliper nodded and flew off.

After a long night of hearing all the other Dragon's congratulations on choosing to go after another Princess he flew to the next kingdom. For several weeks he terrorized all the outlying villages to put everyone off guard. He landed several miles away and changed into his human form. There were no guards at the door since they were all sent out trying to find the dragon. He walked for a while looking for the Princess's room. He walked right inside after knocking and was greeted with a scream. She had been taking a bath and was just getting out answering the door. She was standing half in the bath and half out trying to find a way to hide her baked body. Haliper to the princess's dismay walked over and handed her the robe. She ripped it out of his hands and threw it on quickly. Didn't your mother ever teach you any manners? You should never walk in on a princess.

Haliper shrugged, "Let me introduce myself. My name is Haliper and I am a Dragon from the Magyar Mountains." She looked at Haliper and waited for some sign he was joking. When she got non she put her hands on her hips and gave that look all women know well; Behave or else, "Now listen

here, I want you out of my room while I dress. When I am done we will discuss this nonsense while I call for the guards." Haliper sighed and began pulling out clothes. Then Princess was speechless the whole time. She could only watch as he wrote a note saying where she would be and set it on the bed. He picked up the Princess and carried her over the window. He stepped up into the open window holding the Princess tight. He just and while she screamed he changed to a dragon just before they hit the ground. The princess feinted leaving Haliper to fly home in silence. Halfway through the flight she woke and after seeing where she was screamed again then fainted. Haliper was glad for the wind blowing the sound away, the Princess could scream well.

When he arrived at his cave he set the Princess down on a bed of goose feathers and laid around her as she slept. She woke a few hours later saw where she was and who was next to her and fainted again. For two days she would wake up and promptly faint once more. When she was able to wake up and not faint Haliper sighed in relief and changed back into a human, "Finally, I have never seen anyone faint like you do. I won't hurt you I am not that type of dragon. Are you hungry? I can make you a salad?" With wide eyes the Princess nodded. Counting on the Princess being too scared to move he got up and went to the Kitchen. As he walked in he remembered when Julia ordered him to build it.

When he brought the Salad back she was still sitting on the bed but seemed calmer. Even though she was ravishingly hungry the Princess still ate with dignity. While she was eating he started a conversation, "I already told you my name was Haliper but I never got your name." The Princess finished chewing and said, "My name is Cindy. I never expected a dragon to be so nice." Haliper smiled, "Well we are all nice just don't tell anyone. We have a ferocious reputation to keep. "The Princess daintily laughed, "Can I ask why you have kidnapped me?" Haliper laughed, "Most Dragons will take a princess to keep their caves clean. But I like the company of a Princess. I usually only took the same one but recently she found a knight who married her."

The Princess smiled, "You're that Haliper? Julia told me about you. She is married to my brother. She said you took away the guess work on finding a worthy husband." Haliper smiled. "IS that why you took me?" Haliper nodded, "Julia said you needed to find a husband. It was never my intention but here we are."

Knight began coming to the cave every few days to rescue the princess but Haliper always chased them away when the princess shook her head. One day she smiled when the knight arrived but Haliper chased him away. The knight came back several times and Haliper let the knight take her.

Cindy married and had children of her own. Haliper started to feel wonderful when he was able to find a good match. He lived for many generations taking princesses until the right night came by. The kingdom began to call him the Matchmaker Dragon. He was never soft on unworthy knights and was always nice to the princess.