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From HK to Singapore to seek Mr. Right

All because fortune-tellers say

YOUR HUBBY WILL BE SINGAPOREAN

This Hong Kong miss earns HK\$1 million (\$198,500) a year, but she's not looking for a husband that is loaded with money.

Just an honest, loving man with a "comfortable" income.

And yes, she believes he will be a Singaporean.

That's why she flew here from Hong Kong to get the help of a matchmaker.

So, why is Miss Cheung Chiu Nuen, 40, so sure that her Mr Right is a Singaporean?

Well, because fortune-tellers have told her so, she said.

She has made many trips to temples to consult soothsayers and decided this is the place to look for her man, she explained.

Miss Cheung, a manager in a multinational bank, told The New Paper that she has no lack of suitors back in Hong Kong.

Speaking in a mixture of Mandarin and Cantonese, she said: "It can't be a coincidence that more than one fortune-teller told me the same thing - there must be some truth to it.

"I had four boyfriends, but never felt I could settle down with any of them. So I decided not to waste any more time and give the fortune-tellers' predictions some thought."

She approached matchmaking agency Mr. Cupid International Matchmakers here, and told them she was looking for a single man in his 40s.

She learnt of the agency from a friend who had read about it in a Hong Kong newspaper.

After doing some research, Miss Cheung also found that Mr. Cupid was the only matchmaking agency here which has attained CaseTrust accreditation.

She was here on 25 and 26 Nov and met Mr. Cupid's managing director, Mr. Martin Wong.

IVY LEE

She has also heard of millionaire property agent Ivy Lee, 42, who made headlines after she was turned away by a dating agency because it did not have any men willing to date women her age.

Scores of men then expressed interests, and The Straits Times reported that Ms Lee eventually started seeing a man she met at work.

Said Miss Cheung, an only child who lives with her elderly mother in Hong Kong: "I don't think I can get so many response like that lady. But I feel encouraged."

Vivacious and chatty in person, Miss Cheung comes across as earnest and straightforward.

In addition to her job, she has assets and property which generates a regular income.

Miss Cheung, who holds a master's in marketing communications, said: "I'm not looking for a man with loads of money. All I want is someone who loves me and who has a comfortable income to support a family."

She did not specify what she meant by a "comfortable income".

While Miss Cheung is quick to say she won't shut her mind to anyone, she does want someone who holds a white-collar job and has a degree.

She admitted to having revised her expectations of Mr Right now that she's hit the big four-O.

Looks, for instance, don't rank that high on her list now.

"Before, I would tell you that I wanted someone rich, capable, tall and good-looking.

"Now, I know there's more to it than looks and money and whether he has been married before or has kids," she said.

Miss Cheung's bid to end her singlehood comes after years of concentrating on her career.

Her mother has been supportive all along and has given her blessings.

"Now that my career is going well, I want to think about marriage," Miss Cheung said.

"I never gave it much thought when I was younger, but I don't want to put it off any further because I want to have kids.

"Fortune-tellers told me that I would have three children - two boys and a girl."

Before she travels on business or pleasure, she usually consults a fortune-teller.

From Taiwan to Macau, she has spent thousands of dollars seeing fortune-tellers.

"I always ask about my career and love life. I was always told that my future husband would be from South-east Asia," She said.

"When I pressed them on the exact country, I was told Singapore. That's when I decided to look outside of Hong Kong."

She is no stranger to Singapore, having travelled here several times on business. She also has relatives living here.

But she has never progressed beyond business with any man she has met here.

Miss Cheung said: "I don't think our different nationalities will be a major problem - we can always work around it by having one person move to be with the other party."

But she's not content with letting nature takes its course.

Miss Cheung said: "I don't think I'm being unfeeling or going about it the wrong way.

"What's most important is that we are on the 'same channel' and can communicate with each other.

"If there's no communication, all the predictions made by fortune-tellers won't matter."

She is definitely a woman who knows what she wants.

Under that confident exterior is a woman who loves all things typically female - shopping, getting pampered at spas and facials, and playing mahjong.

Miss Cheung is also an active volunteer at a welfare association and has been contributing yearly to support a Cambodian child under the Unicef programme for seven years.

BEFORE 45

For now, her goal is to be married before 45.

She said: "The fortune-tellers told me to work harder these two years to find a husband.

This is exactly what I plan to do now.

"Hopefully I will be able to meet my Mr Right when I come down for a holiday around Christmas time."

SHE IS CUPID'S FIRST WOMAN CLIENT

Miss Cheung Chiu Nuen is the first woman to approach him for help to find a spouse, said Mr. Martin Wong of Mr Cupid International Matchmakers.

His clients so far have all been men.

He doesn't foresee any difficulties in finding her a match.

Mr. Wong said: "We have a ready pool of graduates and white-collar workers whom we will be able to tap on to find a good match."

He has about 400 members and about 40 per cent of them are graduates.

He will look for someone who suits her energetic and outsourcing personality.

Mr Wong said he wasn't surprised when Miss Cheung walked in with her cousin to enquire about his matchmaking services.

His core business lies in matching Vietnamese women to Singaporean men, but he has also handled requests for Cambodian women.

And now with the Social Development Unit's role as Cupid coming to an end, he is also looking to help local woman tie the knot.

He said: "We are always looking into new markets to see if we can offer our clients more choices.

"I believe we can find a good match for Miss Cheung, and this will be a very good example to show that there is nothing wrong fro rich singles who are PMEBS (professionals, managers, executives and businessmen) to ask for help in finding their life partner."

As this is the first time he is handling a request from Hong Kong, Mr Wong said he will not be charging any consultation fees for the match.

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