

Characteristics of Romance

1. **PACING** – Although Romances usually can be read fairly quickly and are called fast-paced by their fans, they can also be stopped and started easily, without losing the story line.
2. **STORY LINE** – The story features either a misunderstanding between the protagonists or outside circumstances that force them apart, followed by the satisfactory resolution of their romantic relationship. Social and moral issues may play a role in the story lines of Romances, although they are always secondary and do not interfere with the happy ending.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Characters are easily identifiable types. Men are rugged, strong, distant, and dangerous; women are strong, bright, independent, and often beautiful.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Engaging details of time and place attract readers, and these historical, cultural, and social particulars often frame the stories.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – The evocative, emotional tone draws readers in, and they participate in this love story and read toward the emotionally satisfying, happy ending.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – Language plays an important role in setting the stage. The language of a Romance is instantly recognizable, with extensive use of descriptive adjectives to delineate characters, setting, and romantic or sexual interludes.



Emotion Genres

Romance Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Joanna Bourne Loretta Chase (<i>The Lion's Daughter</i>)	
FANTASY:	Susan Carroll Christine Feehan Virginia Kantra Sherilynn Kenyon	Lynn Kurland
GAY/LESBIAN:	Eric Jerome Dickey E. Lynn Harris Michelle Sawyer	Emma Donoghue (<i>Landing</i>) Steve Kluger (<i>Almost like Being in Love</i>) Bob Smith (<i>Selfish and Perverse</i>)
GENTLE READS:	Katie Fforde	
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Katy Medillio Cooper Barbara Woods	Georgette Heyer
HORROR:	Susan Krinard	Stephanie Meyer
HUMOR:	Jennifer Crusie Susan Elizabeth Phillips	Julia Quinn
INSPIRATIONAL:	Karen Kingsbury Lori Wick	Francine Rivers
MULTICULTURAL:	Maria Castillo Beverly Jenkins	Kathleen Eagle Francis Ray
MYSTERIES:	Stephanie Laurens	
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Christine Feehan	
SAGA:	Francis Ray (Graysons of New Mexico series)	
SCIENCE FICTION:	Jayne Castle Robin D. Owens	Susan Grant Linnea Sinclair
WESTERNS:	Kathleen Eagle Linda Lael Miller	Leigh Greenwood
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Katie Fforde Susan Wiggs	Kristin Hannah





Authors BEYOND the Romance Genre

ADRENALINE:	Lisa Gardner Gayle Lynds Karen Robards	
FANTASY:	Anne Bishop Melanie Rawn Jennifer Roberson	
GENTLE:	Rosamunde Pitcher Nicholas Sparks	
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Jennifer Donnelly Brenda Rickman Vantrease	Elizabeth Chadwick
HORROR:	Laurell K. Hamilton	Chelsea Quinn Yarbro
LITERARY:	Jane Austen	
MYSTERY:	Carrie Bebris Gillian Roberts	Elizabeth Peters
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Kay Hooper Iris Johansen Jayne Anne Krentz/Amanda Quick Nora Roberts/J. D. Robb	Linda Howard Elizabeth Lowell Karen Robards
SAGA:	Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (<i>Kirov Saga</i>)	
SCIENCE FICTION:	Catherine Asaro Sharon Shinn	Lois McMaster Bujold Judith Tarr
WESTERN:	Jo-Ann Mapson	
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Sarah Addison Allen Barbara Delinsky	Meg Cabot Kathleen Gilles Seidel