**ROMANCE**

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| **DEFINITION:** Romances appeal to the emotions of their readers who are drawn into the love story with its inevitable happy ending. Storylines feature misunderstandings between hero and heroine or outside circumstances that force them apart. In the end, all difficulties are overcome and the lovers are united. Both male and female characters are portrayed as strong and independent, and the ultimate fulfillment of their relationships is the focus. Settings may be historical, contemporary, or futuristic. Relationships may be portrayed gently, sensually, or even erotically. Romance series published by Silhouette and Harlequin are still important to the genre and popular with readers. Many series authors also write for other publishers, as well. |

**CHARACTERISTICS:**Resolution of story includes declaration of love, marriage, or decision to marry. Main characters are strong and independent or through the course of the book learn to be so. Even the anti-heroes in romances have some redeeming feature—usually their love for the heroine. Plots are fairly simple and easy to follow.

**APPEAL:** The emotional force of the story. The reader follows the hero/heroine’s ups and downs, then has catharsis with their eventual declarations of love. Certain happy endings—this can be a comfort read for readers looking for an upbeat book.

**READERS:** Mainly women, wide age range.

**TRENDS:** As in a great many other genres, genre-blending is very popular with readers. The paranormal romance has seen a huge boom in the last few years with vampires, demons, and telepathic heroes coming out of the woodwork. There has also been some genre blending for science fiction. Contemporary romances remain extremely popular, with some of the top selling writers in this subgenre as well as in Romantic Suspense. The traditional Regency seems to have faded somewhat in popularity, although Cerridwen Pess, an imprint of Ellora’s Cave is starting to print new titles and a few reprints of Regencies. As a trade-off, many historicals have been set in the Regency period.

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| Classic | Jane Austen, Faith Baldwin, Marion Chesney, Georgette Heyer, Grace Livingston Hill, Johanna Lindsey, Kathleen Woodiwiss |
| Contemporary | Susan Anderson, Jennifer Crusie, Rachel Gibson, Susan Elizabeth Phillips, Nora Roberts |
| Erotic | Thea Devine, Virginia Henley, Emma Holly, E.L. James, Susan Johnson, Robin Schone, Beatrice Small |
| Historical & Regency | Mary Balogh, Jo Beverley, Christina Dodd, Jane Feather, Eloisa James, Sabrina Jeffries, Stephanie Laurens, Mary Jo Putney, Amanda Quick, Julia Quinn |
| Paranormal | Christine Feehan, Susan Grant (futuristic), Sherrilyn Kenyon Susan Krinard, Lynn Kurland (time travel), Constance O’Day-Flannery (time travel), Linna Sinclair (futuristic) |
| Romantic Suspense | Suzanne Brockman, Sandra Brown, Catherine Coulter, Linda Howard, Iris Johansen, Jayne Ann Krentz, Eliabeth Lowell, Nora Roberts |