



QWC RESOURCE SHEET # 16

Writing Romance

What is Romance Fiction?

The Romance Writers of Australia Inc. offers this loose explanation of a "romance" novel:

1. "A romantic fantasy between a man and a woman with a happy ending" (Senior Editor, M & B).
2. A process novel, like whodunits - the ending is fairly certain, how one gets there provides the interest.
3. An emotional coming-of-age story.
4. A genre where women do things and succeed and play the heroic role.
5. A type of book no different to any other genre - in that there are excellent, good and bad novels produced.
(<http://www.romanceaustralia.com/romgenres.html>)

A romance novel can combine any of the following sub-genres:

- ❖ Chick-lit
- ❖ Erotica
- ❖ Fantasy and futuristic (SF/F)
- ❖ Historical
- ❖ Inspirational/Christian
- ❖ Intrigue (danger, heroines in jeopardy)
- ❖ Medical
- ❖ Modern
- ❖ Paranormal (vampires, shapeshifters and werewolves)
- ❖ Romantic comedy
- ❖ Romantic suspense
- ❖ Sexy
- ❖ Sweet
- ❖ Time travel (known as time slips in the UK)
- ❖ Young adult

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Felicity McLean of Allen & Unwin offers these statistics about the romance genre:

- ❖ Over 9000 romance titles are released each year in the USA alone.
- ❖ One in five polled book readers (2007) cite romance novels as their genre of choice.
- ❖ In that same year, Harlequin sold more than 130 million books worldwide and published titles in twenty-nine languages in 107 international markets.

Where can I find information about writing Romance Fiction?

- ❖ Romance Writers of Australia <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/> has a comprehensive site listing competitions, events, author highlights, conferences and general information about the genre.
- ❖ Valerie Parv, one of Australia's leading romance writers, has edited a book called *Heart and Craft, Bestselling romance writers share their secrets with you*. The book was released by Allen & Unwin in July 2009.
- ❖ For short fiction markets you could try Fiction Factor's Romance section <http://romance.fictionfactor.com/>.

Publishers

These sites are excellent as they set out very clearly what each publisher is looking for in each imprint they publish:

- ❖ eHarlequin
<http://www.eharlequin.com/articlepage.html?articleId=538&chapter=0>.
- ❖ Mills and Boon
<http://www.millsandboon.co.uk/aspiringauthors.asp>.