

## Romance and Erotic Sub-Genres

*Action/Adventure*: more akin to action-adventure films than to traditional romantic suspense, strong heroines and strong heroes, fast-moving plots

*BDSM*: bondage, discipline, sadism, masochism; characters give and experience pain and power to create sexual tension, pleasure and release

*Chick-Lit*: often humorous romantic adventures that focus on young women entering the adult, professional world; geared toward single working women in their twenties and thirties

*Contemporary*: modern characters and current day settings, usually set after 1945

*D/s*: dominance and submission; one or more characters are controlling and the other is submissive

*Erotic*: about the development of a romantic relationship through sexual interaction, sex is a big part of the story, the character growth, and relationship development

*Erotica*: focuses heavily on the sexual relationships between the characters, pushes the boundaries including multiple partners and sometimes kinky situations, graphic language, sometimes sexual fantasies

*Fantasy*: the setting may be our own Earth or some imaginary real, characters can do magical things

*Ghosts*: possession by ghosts, demons or poltergeists, or a ghost plays a character in the storyline

*GLBT*: involve gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgendered characters

*Gothic/Horror*: combines elements of both horror and romance, emotional extremes, dark themes

*Historical*: takes place in a recognizable historical period not set in contemporary times; Medieval (938-1485 AD), Georgian (1714-1811), Regency (1811-1820, usually covers the period of 1795-1837), Victorian (1837-1901)

*Inspirational*: involves characters having Christian values that play a major part of the romantic relationship

*Interracial/Multicultural*: characters of different races or different cultures, often focus on African-American experience but can also include other countries and ethnic groups

*Ménage a trios*: a relationship in which three people have sexual relations

*Older Heroine*: heroine age 40+

*Paranormal*: involves some sort of supernatural element, ranging from science fiction/fantasy to time travel, monsters or psychic abilities

*Pirate*: usually swash-buckling pirate captains and feisty heroines interested in the bad-boy of the sea

*Romantic Comedy*: focused on humor, from screwball antics to witty interplay

*Rubenesque/BBW*: heroine is plump, voluptuous; big, beautiful women

*Sci-Fi/Futuristic*: the science is potentially real, believability is a key factor; futuristic is set in the future

*Shapeshifter*: transform from man to any beast

*Steampunk*: a specific type of alternate history in which characters in Victorian England have access to 20<sup>th</sup> century technology

*Suspense/Mystery/Thriller*: storyline contains romance and elements of danger to the hero or heroine, often have graphic sexual situations

*Time Travel*: characters travel from one time period to another

*Urban Fantasy*: magical powers and characters appear in an otherwise normal modern context, often in a fantasy world with elements of magic, werewolves, fairies, vampires or witches

*Vampire*: usually involves the current trend of linking sexuality and vampires

*Werewolves*: characters shapeshift into werewolves

*Western*: usually take place between 1800 and 1890

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