



**May 2012**

## **Online book promotion**

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## **Ten tips for writing a romance novel**

1. Like any other piece of fiction, a romance novel is a story first. It needs to have a plot, featuring a beginning or introduction to the characters and their lives and situation; a middle, or events and tensions and conflicts for the characters to survive (or not); a climax; and an ending or resolution that ties up plot lines, gives the characters some peace, and, in this case, a “happily ever after.”
2. Unlike other pieces of fiction, the emotions of the characters in a romance novel take precedence over elements like action, setting, and dialogue, although all of these need to be in keeping with the basic storyline. So make sure that your characters feelings and reactions “fit” with the lives you’ve given them. If they act in a way that is out of character, be sure to acknowledge this: it could be the way a love interest affects them; it could be fear of accepting their true feelings...
3. Readers of romance novels enjoy them because the books allow them to escape their ordinary lives and travel to beautiful places and exciting events. Do your research and

let your imagination go wild: superlatives are best avoided in most fiction, but in romance novels, real life doesn't need to intrude.

4. Most romance fiction is read by women, and most is told from the female point of view, with the obvious exception of gay men's stories. If you're a female author, writing your male characters may be challenging, but you can base them on composites of guys you know, or wish you knew...
5. To get started, it always helps to have a plot outline. Some writers use a notebook, others use cards stuck on a wall that can be added to and moved around as sub-plots develop. Your outline will change as the characters take on lives of their own, but writing a book is less daunting if you have some idea where you're going.
6. When you're developing your characters, don't focus solely on the story at hand. Know each one's life story and what truly motivates them. You don't have to include everything about everyone, but really knowing these people will help you determine how they will react to circumstances and each other.
7. Dialogue can be the most difficult thing to write: each character must have his or her own "voice," and it must be authentic to who they are and where and when they live. But readers must also be able to understand and identify with at least some of them. Try reading your dialogue out loud...if you groan, and roll your eyes, so will your audience!
8. And now a word about sex... People in romance novels are there to fall in love. People in love generally get naked together at some point in the story. You don't have to write hot porn; you do have to write scenes that will hold your reader's interest and advance the plot. Think about emotions, senses, and feelings more than the athletic details and you will write a more successful sex scene.
9. On the other hand, if there's something you've always wanted to try, "I'm researching a novel!" is as good an excuse as any!
10. Finally, if you want to write a romance novel, start by reading a lot of them. As with any genre, there are conventions that you can follow or break, but it helps to know what they are. Begin with the works of the Brontë sisters, some of the best romance fiction ever written!



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