

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Romance Fiction

Fiction that primarily depicts romantic love.

A broad genre in which stories focus on the relationship and romantic love between two main characters, although love triangles are sometimes present. These plots typically depict lovers overcoming adversity to find one another, and end in a satisfying “happily ever after” conclusion. Samuel Richardson’s *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* (1740), Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility* (1811) and *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette* (1853), Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina* (1878), Catherine Cookson’s *Kate Hannigan* (1950), and Lawrence Durrell’s *Justine* (1957) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Dating
Courtship
Being swept away by a kiss
Marriage

Domestic bliss
Jealousy
Betrayal
Heartbreak
Divorce

Amusing banter
Emotional moments
Tears of joy
Bad boys
Celebrities

Benefits of Reading

Permits readers to momentarily escape the pressures of the real world
Allows readers to vicariously experience grand settings, engaging characters, and romantic love and passion
Provides readers with illustrations of commitment, trust, communication, and romantic love

Enables readers to see instances of female empowerment
Encourages readers to see themselves in characters
Offers to readers examples of unhealthy relationships
Teaches readers to make good decisions and avoid mistakes in relationships

Modern Literary Examples

<i>The Antelope Wife</i> (1998) by Louise Erdrich
<i>Bared to You</i> (2012) by Sylvia Day
<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> (1992) by Robert James Walker
<i>Dark Fires</i> (1975) by Rosemary Rogers

<i>Eleanor and Park</i> (2012) by Rainbow Rowell
<i>The Flame and the Flower</i> (1972) by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss
<i>The Flatshare</i> (2019) by Beth O’Leary
<i>Judgment Road</i> (2018) by Christine Feehan

<i>Last Night</i> (2021) by Mhairi McFarlane	<i>One Day</i> (2009) by David Nicholls
<i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> (1992) by Laura Esquivel	<i>The Rosie Project</i> (2013) by Graeme Simison
<i>A Man to Die For</i> (1991) by Eileen Dreyer	<i>The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</i> (2017) by Taylor Jenkins Reid
<i>The Marriage Bargain</i> (2015) by Jennifer Probst	<i>Truths and Roses</i> (2019) by Inglath Cooper
<i>Now and Forever</i> (1978) by Danielle Steel	<i>Touch the Wind</i> (1979) by Janet Dailey
