

# BARTON

## LIBRARY

### *Dare to know*

#### Romantic Suspense Fiction

*Fiction that depicts romantic love in plots that likewise feature mystery and suspense.*

A sub-genre that incorporates **thriller** (or suspense fiction) and/or **detective and mystery fiction** elements into the **romantic fiction** plot. While the focus of these stories remains on the romance itself, they contain tropes common to mystery or adventure novels such as surviving ordeals, confronting stalkers, conducting espionage, and solving crimes (e.g., kidnapping or murder). Victoria Holt's *Mistress of Mellyn* (1960) is a classic example.

#### Common Elements

High stakes
Exotic locales
Harsh climates

Life and death twists
Protective heroes or heroines
Daring secret agents

#### Benefits of Reading

Permits readers to experience romance through the eyes of a fictional character
Allows readers to consider the qualities they seek in a mate
Demonstrates to readers women's ability to make decisions about love and life
Encourages readers to seek intimacy

Inspires readers to express devotion and love
Boost readers' confidence in matters of the heart
Validates readers' appreciation for the concepts of love and affection
Teaches readers about communication, commitment, loyalty, and problem solving in relationships

#### Modern Literary Examples

<i>Absolute Trust</i> (2016) by Piper J. Drake
<i>After Sundown</i> (2020) by Linda Howard

<i>Be Afraid</i> (2015) by Mary T. Burton
<i>Dark Desires</i> (2005) by Eve Silver

<i>The Darkest Hour</i> (2010) by Maya Banks	<i>Naked in Death</i> (1995) by J. D. Robb
<i>Deception Cove</i> (2013) by Jayne Castle	<i>Over the Edge</i> (2001) by Suzanne Brockman
<i>French Silk</i> (1992) by Sandra Brown	<i>Plain Jane</i> (2001) by Fern Michaels
<i>Gone to Dust</i> (2017) by Liliana Hart	<i>Rescuing Rayne</i> (2016) by Susan Stoker
<i>Holding Fire</i> (2017) by April Hunt	<i>She Can Run</i> (2011) by Melinda Leigh
<i>Left to Die</i> (2008) by Lisa Jackson	<i>Steel Resolve</i> (2019) by B. J. Daniels
<i>A Merciful Silence</i> (2018) by Kendra Elliot	<i>You Will Suffer</i> (2017) by Alexandra Ivy
<i>Moonlight Sins</i> (2018) by Jennifer L. Armentrout	