

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>Deception Cove</i> (2013) by Jayne Castle
<i>French Silk</i> (1992) by Sandra Brown
<i>Gone to Dust</i> (2017) by Liliana Hart
<i>Holding Fire</i> (2017) by April Hunt

<i>Left to Die</i> (2008) by Lisa Jackson
<i>A Merciful Silence</i> (2018) by Kendra Elliot
<i>Moonlight Sins</i> (2018) by Jennifer L. Armentrout
<i>Naked in Death</i> (1995) by J. D. Robb
<i>Over the Edge</i> (2001) by Suzanne Brockman
<i>Plain Jane</i> (2001) by Fern Michaels
<i>Rescuing Rayne</i> (2016) by Susan Stoker
<i>She Can Run</i> (2011) by Melinda Leigh

Steel Resolve (2019) by B. J. Daniels

You Will Suffer (2017) by Alexandra Ivy
