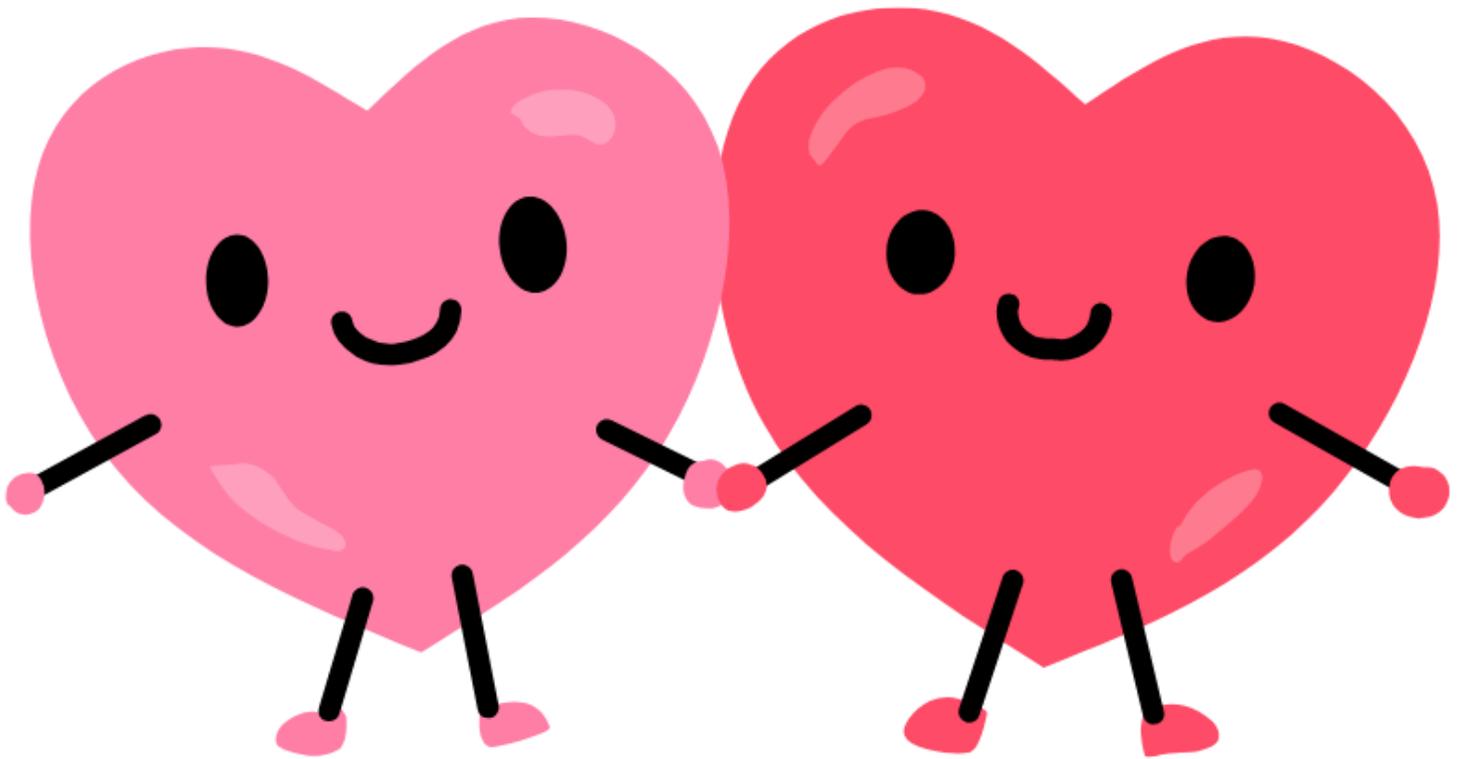


ROMANCE

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LIBRARY



CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

Contemporary romance novels focus on love stories in modern settings. As with all romances, the focus is on a happily-ever-after ending. Tonally, they can range from high drama to lighthearted, though many are comedic. They often but not always feature some steam or spice, meaning they have open door sex scenes that are depicted on the page, though others are closed door, with nothing explicit described. The most explicit are called erotica.

CLOSED-DOOR ROMANCES

Debbie Macomber

Macomber is one of the major exceptions to the expectation for steaminess or spiciness in contemporary romance. Her books largely are closed door, meaning most or all explicit is kept off the page. Her books feature likable everyday heroines who remain positive and optimistic, even during adversity, and have a charming, heartwarming tone.

If you like Debbie Macomber, try:

- Robyn Carr
- Susan Wiggs
- Emilie Richards
- Nicholas Sparks
- Betty Neels
- Cathie Linz
- Jean Melzer

Nancy Naigle:

Naigle also writes closed-door contemporary romance. Her wholesome romances feature small-town settings, often but not always during the holidays, and a Hallmark vibe. In fact, Naigle has also written for Hallmark. She also writes cozy mysteries.

If you like Nancy Naigle, try:

- Debbie Macomber
- Melody Carlson

OPEN-DOOR ROMANCES

Colleen Hoover:

Though Hoover is also known for writing dark psychological suspense fiction, she also writes steamy contemporary romances. In her romance books, complicated characters navigate gut-wrenching difficulties and plenty of drama on the road to their happily ever after.

If you like Colleen Hoover, try:

- Anna Todd
- Ana Huang
- K.A. Tucker
- Raven Kennedy
- Renee Carlino
- Kennedy Ryan
- Lucy Score
- Taylor Jenkins Reid

Emily Henry

Likeable characters in relatable situations and relationships populate Henry's steamy, funny, heartwarming, and emotionally resonant romances. She is also known for including interesting and enjoyable supporting characters to round out the story.

If you like Emily Henry, try:

- Abby Jimenez
- Tessa Bailey
- Jasmine Guillory
- Colleen Hoover
- Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Helen Hoang
- Kate Clayborn
- Sally Thorne
- Julia Whelan
- Mhairi McFarlane

Ana Huang:

Delicious drama and steamy/spicy scenes prevail in Huang's novels. They feature complicated men and women who fall in love in these emotional, angsty romances.

If you like Ana Huang, try:

- Colleen Hoover
- Penelope Douglas
- Navessa Allen

Ali Hazelwood:

Hazelwood's upbeat novels feature intelligent, ambitious heroines falling in love in workplace and/or sports-themed romances. These books are very steamy.

If you like Ali Hazelwood:

- Abby Jiminez
- Jen DeLuca
- Lana Ferguson
- Julie Soto

Laurie Gilmore:

You may or may not recognize Gilmore's name, but her Dream Harbor series has been immensely popular in our system lately. It pairs cozy vibes with very steamy romance, all set in the picturesque small New England town of Dream Harbor.

If you like Laurie Gilmore:

- Tessa Bailey
- Lucy Score

Lucy Score:

Score writes steamy, humorous small-town romances. The main characters are likable and engaging but so are the supporting characters as well.

If you like Lucy Score, try:

- Colleen Hoover
- B. K. Borison
- Laurie Gilmore

Abby Jiminez:

Jiminez writes funny, steamy romances that deftly weave more serious topics thoughtfully into the story but without ever sacrificing the comedic tone or the romance. Her books are character-driven and often feature characters from her other novels, as well as Minnesota settings.

If you like Abby Jiminez, try:

- Emily Henry
- Christina Lauren
- Ali Hazelwood
- Kate Clayborn
- Annabel Monaghan
- Katherine Center
- Mia Sosa
- Sandra Kitt

Christina Lauren

These funny urban-set romances follow independent professional characters as they fall in love. The books feature explicit scenes but are also heartwarming and often have well-developed supporting characters.

If you like Christina Lauren, try:

- Abby Jimenez
- Tessa Bailey
- Sylvia Day
- Sally Thorne
- Samantha Young

EROTICA

Helen Hardt

Hardt writes several different series, all of which are explicit erotica. These page-turners feature complicated characters, often with dark backstories.

If you like Helen Hardt, try:

- Meredith Wild
- Maya Banks
- Julie Kenner

Penelope Sky

Like Hardt, Sky is the author of several dark romance explicit erotica series. Her books usually feature antihero and mob characters.

If you like Penelope Sky, try:

- Helen Hardt
- E.L. James

Blast from the Past

Back in the 1990s and early 2000s, Susan Elizabeth Phillips was one of the most acclaimed romance authors. She is an early writer of sports romances, a hot commodity now. Phillips is still actually writing her steamy contemporary romantic comedy novels that are equal parts heart and humor. She's especially noted for her complex, relatable, likable main characters and her quirky supporting casts.

Already like Phillips's work?

- Rachel Gibson
- Susan Mallery
- Jayne Ann Krentz
- Kristan Higgins
- Deborah Smith
- Katherine Center

Branching Out from Contemporary Romance

Enjoy contemporary romance but looking for another genre to try?

If you like gentler closed-door contemporary romance (Debbie Macomber, Nancy Naigle):

- Closed-door historical romance (Carolyn Fyffe, Marcia Lynn McClure)
- Christian romances (Julie Klassen, Susan Page Davis, Karen Witemeyer)
- Amish romances (Shelley Shephard Gray, Rachel J. Good, Charlotte Hubbard)
- Gentle reads (Rosamunde Pilcher, Nicholas Sparks)
- Cozy mysteries with strong romantic elements (Elizabeth Peters)
- Women's fiction (Danielle Steel, Fern Michaels)

If you like steamier open-door contemporary romances (Colleen Hoover, Emily Henry, etc.):

- Steamy historical fiction (Julia Quinn)
- Alternate reality romance, including paranormal romance (Diana Gabaldon, Sherrilyn Kenyon)
- Women's fiction (Meg Cabot)
- Romantic suspense (Nora Roberts, Sandra Brown)
- Romantasy (Danielle L. Jensen)

If you like erotica (Helen Hardt, Penelope Skye):

- Alternate reality romance, including paranormal romance (Laurell K. Hamilton, Christine Feehan)
- Romantasy (Rebecca Yarros)
- Darker romantic suspense (Lisa Jackson, Iris Johansen, Heather Graham)

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Historical romance has everything readers love about contemporary romance—sympathetic heroines, smoldering heroes, a happily-ever-after ending—but set in the past. Often with a Regency England or American Western setting, these books transport the reader to another place, and like their more modern-set contemporaries, they can have varying degrees of steam and spice.

Linda Lael Miller:

Miller is the top-circulating historical romance writer in our system. Though she does write in other romance genres, she is best known for her romances set in the 19th century American West. Her characters are rugged, determined, and honorable, and they find love in the midst of dangerous situations on the frontier. Her stories are fast-paced and steamy and often feature family sagas.

If you like Linda Lael Miller:

- Joan Johnston
- Elizabeth Lowell
- Janet Dailey
- Jodi Thomas

Julia Quinn

Bridgerton has been an immensely popular Netflix show for a few years now, but did you know it's based on a series of books written by Julia Quinn? Regency romances often don't have a lot of steamy scenes, but Quinn's books are full of steam and spice, as well as likable characters and ample humor.

If you like Julia Quinn:

- Eloisa James
- Sarah MacLean
- Stephanie Laurens
- Victoria Alexander
- Amanda Quick
- Lisa Kleypas
- Tessa Dare

Caroline Fyffe

If you like historical romance but prefer them to be much less steamy and spicy, Fyffe is the perfect pick. Her romances are closed-door and feature wholesome romances with settings in the American West.

If you like Caroline Fyffe:

- Debbie Macomber
- LaVyrle Spencer
- Jill Gregory
- Linda Lael Miller

Janet Dailey

Dailey sets her romances in all fifty American states but also has a particular interest in stories set among ranching families. Her books focus on her strong characters and have a leisurely pace; they often also incorporate social issues to heighten the realism. Some of her books are moderately steamy while others are closed door.

If you like Janet Dailey:

- Linda Lael Miller
- Diana Palmer
- Susan Wiggs

Marcia Lynn McClure

McClure draws on her own background growing up on ranches to write Western-centered historical romances. Her books are closed door and depict compelling, sweet romances with likable characters intended to sweep readers off their feet.

If you like Marcia Lynn McClure:

- Tracie Peterson
- Janette Oke
- Deanne Gist

Jude Deveraux

Deveraux writes in a range of romance subgenres but is best known for her historical romances. Unlike other authors who specialize in a specific historical period, Deveraux writes in a range of eras, including the American West and the English Regency. Her books star intelligent heroines, and the books often have a light humorous tone and feature a mystery element that propels the story forward. Her work is also usually steamy.

If you like Jude Deveraux:

- Joanna Lindsay
- Julie Garwood

Blast from the Past

Enjoy this genre but looking for a change of pace with it? Georgette Heyer was one of the pioneers of Regency romances. Her amusing, lighthearted, closed-door novels are well-grounded in the historical period and feature entertaining, witty characters.

Already like Heyer's work?

- Jo Beverley
- Marion Chesney
- Rhys Bowen
- Carolyn Miller
- Jane Austen
- Amanda Quick

Branching out from Historical Romance

Enjoy this genre but looking to try another one with similarities to it?

- Historical women's fiction (Kristin Hannah, Lisa Wingate)
- Alternate reality romances with historical settings (Diana Gabaldon)

CHRISTIAN ROMANCE

As with romances in general, Christian romance can span a range of subgenres. Many of our most popular Christian romance authors write historical romance but some write novels with contemporary settings. The amount of Christian theology present in the books vary, with some authors emphasizing the characters' faith more than others, but they are almost always closed door.

Tracie Peterson

Peterson writes a mix of historical and contemporary romances. Her historical romances usually have a Western setting and often feature famous historical figures who interact with the fictional characters. These books are full of romance and adventure and follow interesting characters. Her contemporary novels are also character-driven. Regardless of setting, her books have a strong emphasis on the characters' faith.

If you like Tracie Peterson:

- Lynn Morris
- Amanda Cabot
- Tamera Alexander
- Carol Cox
- Janette Oke
- Gilbert Morris
- Kim Vogel Sawyer

Mary Connealy

Connealy herself describes her books as rom-coms with cowboys. Her fast-paced books, which are set in a variety of Old West locations, are funny and adventurous and feature romances between feisty heroines and rugged heroes. Her books also integrate the faith of the characters throughout.

If you like Mary Connealy:

- Robin Lee Hatcher
- Maggie Brendan
- Karen Witemeyer
- Tracie Peterson
- Tamera Alexander

Janette Oke

Oke's books, which pioneered the genre of Christian romance, are a slight twist on the American Western settings popular with so many historical romance writers. Her leisurely paced novels take place on the Canadian prairie during the same time period. In these gentle books, characters struggle with hard lives but ultimately emerge triumphant. Faith is also at the center of the romances.

If you like Janette Oke:

- Catherine Palmer
- Michael R. Phillips
- Kim Vogel Sawyer
- Tracie Peterson
- Jan Watson
- Leisha Kelly
- Tamera Alexander
- Stephanie Grace Whitson
- Catherine Marshall

Lori Copeland

Best known for her historical romances, Copeland also writes contemporary mysteries. Her historical romances often are set in the American West or Pacific Northwest. Copeland's books are character-driven and often amusingly funny, and the vibe is warm and wholesome.

If you like Lori Copeland:

- Lori Wick
- Stephaine Grace Whitson
- Janette Oke
- Tamera Alexander

Robin Lee Hatcher

Hatcher writes both historical and contemporary romances, often with Western settings. Her books have a heartwarming tone and strong compelling heroines, and they also incorporate harder-hitting social issues, like alcoholism, to illustrate the impact these problems have on people's lives. Her novels have a strong Christian element incorporated throughout.

If you like Robin Lee Hatcher:

- Mary Connealy
- Lori Wick
- Tamera Alexander

Denise Hunter

Unlike many of the other Christian romance writers featured here, Hunter largely writes books with contemporary settings. Her heartwarming novels are about relatable characters living in small towns.

If you like Denise Hunter:

- Susan May Warren
- Jan Karon

Lauraine Snelling

Snelling writes both historical and contemporary romances, though she's best known for her work about Norwegian immigrants in the 19th century Dakotas. Her character-driven books are often poignant as characters experience relatable heartbreaks and setbacks but ultimately heartwarming.

If you like Lauraine Snelling:

- Carol Cox
- Kim Vogel Sawyer

Julie Klassen

Klassen writes Regency era romances. She is noted for providing detailed period information in her novels and for writing likeable characters who must break free of difficult situations. Her characters have strong faith but that element of the stories is muted relative to other Christian historical romances.

If you like Julie Klassen:

- Carolyn Miller
- Josi S. Kilpack
- Carrie Turansky
- Tracie Peterson
- Tamera Alexander
- Sarah E. Ladd
- Elizabeth Camden

Lori Wick

Though she writes both historical and contemporary romances, Wick is best known for her Old West historical romances. Wick's characters overcome significant obstacles to finally be together, and their faith is central to the story. The novels have a heartwarming tone and well-developed settings, with a special attention to the communities the characters live in.

If you like Lori Wick:

- Amanda Cabot
- Cathy Marie Hake
- Stephanie Grace Whitson
- Lori Copeland
- Robin Lee Hatcher
- Mona Gansberg Hodgson
- Janette Oke
- Francine Rivers

Susan Page Davis

Davis writes light but emotionally resonant historical romances with Old West settings that feature strong heroines. The Christian faith elements of her books are quietly integrated. Davis also writes in other genres as well, including mystery.

If you like Susan Page Davis:

- Maggie Brendan
- Tracie Peterson
- Karen Witemeyer

Karen Witemeyer

Witemeyer's novels are usually set in historic Texas, and she blends a light amusing tone with complex stories, intriguing characters, and interesting dollops of history. Her integration of the Christian elements are more subtle than some of the other authors on the list but are thoughtfully incorporated, with a special focus on how the characters' faith help them overcome difficulties from their pasts.

If you like Karen Witemeyer:

- Deeanne Gist
- Mary Connealy
- Julie Klassen
- Tracie Peterson
- Tamera Alexander

Amanda Cabot

Cabot writes heartwarming historical romances with Western settings, though she also occasionally uses contemporary settings. Her characters' Christian faith is an important aspect of the books, and her stories have a positive, inspirational tone.

If you like Amanda Cabot:

- Lori Wick
- Tracie Peterson
- Sharon Gillenwater
- Mary Connealy
- Karen Witemeyer
- Tamera Alexander
- Elizabeth Camden
- Regina Jennings
- Maggie Brendan

Blast from the Past

Like Christian romance but looking for something different? Judith Pella was an early writer in the genre. Not all her work is romance—she also frequently wrote Christian historical fiction—but many of her books do include a romantic element. Of particular interest are the books she coauthored with Tracie Peterson, who credits Pella as an influence on her own writing. Pella's work features a vivid sense of place, in a variety of settings, as well as principled characters and a strong Christian message.

Already like Pella's work?

- Janette Oke
- Francine Rivers
- Tracie Peterson
- Lori Wick

Branching out from Christian Romance

Like Christian romance but interested in trying other genres?

- Amish romance (Beverly Lewis, Wanda E. Brunstetter)
- Gentle reads (Rosamunde Pilcher, Maeve Binchy)
- Christian women's fiction (Karen Kingsbury, Francine Rivers)
- Christian romantic suspense (Irene Hannon)

AMISH ROMANCE

Amish romance is a popular subgenre of Christian romance. It tends to feature contemporary settings but in Amish communities. Like other Christian romance books, it is almost always closed door and doesn't feature explicit or steamy sexual content.

Beverly Lewis

Lewis sets her heartwarming books among the Amish communities of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Her depiction of Amish life is authentic and immersive, and her novels also often include thoughtful examinations of the characters' beliefs and how they interact with the modern world.

If you like Beverly Lewis:

- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Marta Perry
- Kathleen Fuller
- Cindy Woodsmall
- Beth Wiseman
- Amy Clipston
- Randy C. Alcorn

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Brunstetter's heartfelt, emotional romance novels capture Amish life and have a strong Christian message interwoven into the story. Her work is character-driven and gentle.

If you like Wanda Brunstetter:

- Beverly Lewis
- Cindy Woodsmall
- Kathleen Fuller
- Beth Wiseman
- Shelley Shephard Grey
- Amy Clipston

Shelley Shephard Gray

Gray considers her characters everyday, relatable people in extraordinary situations who also just happen to be Amish. Her novels are heartfelt and emotionally resonant.

If you like Shelley Shephard Gray:

- Beverly Lewis
- Wanda Brunstetter
- Amy Clipston
- Beth Wiseman
- Kathleen Fuller

Beth Wiseman

Wiseman writes both Amish romance and non-Amish contemporary Christian romance, but her Amish work is what she is best known for. Her moving and ultimately hope-filled books include a number of series that can be read together or individually.

If you like Beth Wiseman:

- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Beverly Lewis
- Amy Clipston
- Kathleen Fuller

Suzanne Woods Fisher

Fisher's light, heartwarming character-driven novels are leisurely-paced and follow Amish characters who are trying to balance respecting their traditional beliefs with potential opportunities outside of their community alongside sweet romances.

If you like Suzanne Woods Fisher:

- Marta Perry
- Linda Byler
- Jerry S. Eicher
- Beverly Lewis
- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Amy Clipston
- Beth Wiseman
- Kathleen Fuller

Amy Clipston

Clipston writes contemporary romance as well as Amish romance, but the latter is what she's best known for. Her Amish novels depict well-researched Pennsylvania settings and highlight the close-knit communities where the characters live. Clipston's novels are positive and interweave faith as a solution to the relatable problems characters struggle with, like loneliness and bereavement.

If you like Amy Clipston:

- Wanda Brunstetter
- Cindy Woodsmall
- Beth Wiseman
- Amy Lillard
- Beverly Lewis
- Shelley Shephard Grey
- Kathleen Fuller

Rachel J. Good

Good grew up in Amish country, despite not being Amish herself, and her novels include vivid authentic depictions of Amish life. Her books also feature beloved romance tropes and depict slow-burning sweet romances, often set against the backdrop of traditional family and community get-togethers.

If you like Rachel J. Good:

- Rebecca Kerz
- Cindy Woodsmall

Marta Perry

Like Good, Perry was raised in Pennsylvania and applies her own knowledge of the community to her writing. Her gentle, leisurely paced novels are character-driven and depict wholesome, relaxed romances. Unusually for this genre, her books sometimes contain a mystery element as well.

If you like Marta Perry:

- Beverly Lewis
- Suzanne Fisher Woods
- Jerry S. Eicher
- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Beth Wiseman

Charlotte Hubbard

Hubbard may have less name recognition than other authors in this genre, but she's written in several romance genres before pivoting to Amish romances. Her uplifting series focus on entrepreneurial Amish woman who deal with everyday challenges at their businesses while also finding love. She has a special interest in the rhythms of seasonal life for the Amish communities, as well as the food.

If you like Charlotte Hubbard:

- Amy Clipston
- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Shelley Shephard Grey
- Kathleen Fuller
- Suzanne Woods Fisher
- Beth Wiseman

Blast from the Past

Already read through the big names in Amish romance and looking for more? Try Leslie Gould. She writes several genres, but her Amish work, which includes multiple series, is her most popular. Her series are usually set in Pennsylvania.

Already like Gould's work?

- Amy Clipston
- Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Kathleen Fuller
- Beth Wiseman
- Shelley Shephard Grey

Branching out from Amish romance

Enjoy this genre but looking to try another one with similarities to it?

- Christian historical romance (Janette Oke)
- Christian historical fiction with romantic elements (Francine Rivers, Kim Vogel Sawyer)
- Gentle reads (Rosamunde Pilcher, Maeve Binchy)

ALTERNATE REALITY ROMANCE

Alternate reality romance is a convenient way to categorize all romances that feature paranormal or supernatural elements, though they take place in the real world. They include paranormal romances that depict characters falling in love with vampires or werewolves (and more) and time travel romances that depict love stories that span across the ages. These romances all blend with other genres (including fantasy, horror, science fiction, and historical fiction) but generally appeal most to romance fans. These books also tend to be very steamy/spicy and often can feature explicit sexual content, as well as graphic violence.

Christine Feehan

Feehan's Dark series, set in the Carpathian Mountains, is an immensely popular paranormal romance. In Feehan's books, vampire-like creatures pursue mortal women. She is noted for her detailed and intricate worldbuilding and her compelling characters, which include a wide range of fantastical beings. The books are very steamy and can also be quite violent and action-packed.

If you like Christine Feehan:

- Sherrilyn Kenyon
- J.R. Ward
- Cherry Adair

Kelley Armstrong

Armstrong writes several paranormal romance series, for both adults and teenagers. Her fast-paced books effortlessly blend the supernatural with Pacific Northwest settings and often focus on strong, interesting female main characters. Her novels for older readers are steamy and violent.

If you like Kelley Armstrong:

- Kim Harrison
- Patricia Briggs
- Rachel Caine

Charlaine Harris

Though she also writes jaunty light-hearted mysteries, Harris is best known for her paranormal romances. Her amusing books have a strong sense of place, usually a Southern small town, and quirky, likeable characters. Though her books are not closed door, they are significantly less steamy and explicit than most other examples of this genre.

If you like Charlaine Harris:

- Karen Marie Moning
- P. N. Elrod
- Kim Harrison
- Patricia Briggs
- Kelley Armstrong
- Kevin Hearne
- Christopher Golden

Diana Gabaldon

Gabaldon's Outlander novels have remained popular time travel romances since their initial release in the 1990s. She emphasizes the historical settings her characters find themselves in over the science fiction logistics of time travel, and her novels feature detailed, highly researched settings. She's also noted for the rich characterization of her compelling characters, and her sweeping romances that span time and space and evolve into intricate family sagas. Her books are steamy and can also feature graphic and disturbing violence.

If you like Diana Gabaldon:

- Susanna Kearsley
- Deborah Harkness
- Karen Marie Moning

J.R. Ward

Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood books are a popular vampire paranormal romance series. Her dark, fast-paced, action-packed books can be quite violent and steamy. She's noted for her vivid worldbuilding and her dangerous but devoted heroes.

If you like J.R. Ward:

- Sherrilyn Kenyon
- Christine Feehan
- Laurell K. Hamilton
- Kresley Cole
- Karen Marie Moning
- Lynsay Sands
- Jacquelyn Frank
- Lara Adrian

Sherrilyn Kenyon

Kenyon's steamy, action-packed Dark-Hunter paranormal romance series focuses on vampires, but her overlapping related books include other creatures, including werewolves. Kenyon is best known for her compelling, complex characters, who sometimes pivot from villain to hero between books, as well as her detailed and intricate settings and worldbuilding that incorporates mythology and legend.

If you like Sherrilyn Kenyon:

- Christine Feehan
- J.R. Ward
- Maggie Shayne
- Karen Marie Moning
- Laurell K. Hamilton
- Jacquelyn Frank

Laurell K. Hamilton

Hamilton's earlier books tend more toward urban fantasy with romance versus strictly paranormal romance, but she eventually began heavily focusing on dark romance in her later books. Her multiple series incorporate a range of fantastical creatures, as well as gritty settings, very steamy/erotic sexual content, and graphic violence. Her Anita Blank Vampire Hunter series is set in St. Louis and has hardboiled noir vibes, while her Merry Gentry series follows a fairy private investigator in Los Angeles.

If you like Laurell K. Hamilton:

- Patricia Briggs
- Charlaine Harris
- J.R. Ward
- Anne Bishop
- J.D. Robb
- Sherrilyn Kenyon
- Kim Harrison
- Kelley Armstrong

Rachel Smythe

If you want a twist on contemporary romance, try this author's Lore Olympus series. They're steamy graphic novel romances that retell Greek mythology in contemporary settings.

If you like Rachel Smythe, try:

- Scarlett St. Clair

Blast from the Past

Jeaniene Frost is still writing, but her Night Huntress series from the early 2010s is the perfect blend of urban fantasy and paranormal romance for fans of the genre. Her fast-paced, steamy work is noted for featuring complex plots and characters. She is particularly adept at fleshing out the complicated political machinations that exist between rival supernatural creatures.

Already like Frost's work?

- Nalini Singh
- Patricia Briggs
- J.R. Ward
- Laurell K. Hamilton
- Karen Marie Moning

Branching out from Alternative Reality Romances

Enjoy this genre but looking to try another one with similarities to it?

If you like paranormal romances (Christine Feehan):

- Futuristic romance (J.D. Robb)
- Erotica (Helen Hardt)
- Romantasy (Danielle L. Jensen)
- Romantic suspense (Lisa Jackson, Iris Johansen, Tami Hoag, Heather Graham)
- Science fiction/fantasy with romance elements (Lois McMaster Bujold)

If you like time travel romances (Diana Gabaldon):

- Historical romance (Jude Deveraux)
- Historical women's fiction (Kristin Hannah, Lisa Wingate)
- Futuristic romance (J.D. Robb)
- Science fiction/fantasy with romance elements (Lois McMaster Bujold)

ROMANTASY

While paranormal romance and time travel romance books feature fantastical elements in real-world settings, romantasy offers romance in a fictional world. These books can offer vivid worldbuilding and also tend to be steamy. This is a fast-growing genre that is often fueled by popular BookTok figures.

Rebecca Yarros

Though she also writes contemporary romance, Yarros is far better known for her dragon rider Emphyrean romantasy series. The books are fast-paced, steamy, and action-packed but also include strong female characters, vivid worldbuilding, and thoughtful explorations about disability and other themes.

If you like Rebecca Yarros:

- Jennifer L. Armentrout
- Danielle L. Jensen
- Carissa Broadbent
- Naomi Novik
- Sarah J. Maas
- Stacey McEwan
- Sarah A. Parker

Danielle L. Jensen

Jensen writes in several genres, but her steamy romantasy novels are what she's best known for. Her books feature intricate worldbuilding, with ample political intrigue, action, and compelling characters. The books are equally rooted in both fantasy and romance and rely on a range of popular romance tropes, including forbidden romances and enemies to lovers.

If you like Danielle L. Jensen:

- Sarah J. Maas
- Rebecca Yarros
- Jennifer L. Armentrout
- Elzbieta Cherezinska

Jennifer L. Armentrout

Armentrout writes several popular romantasy series. Her fast-paced and steamy books feature lots of political intrigue, romantic tension, and strong, likeable characters who find themselves in uneasy alliances with their potential love interests.

If you like Jennifer L. Armentrout:

- Rebecca Yarros
- Danielle L. Jensen
- Carissa Broadbent
- Sarah J. Maas
- Scarlett St. Clair
- Abigail Owen

Blast from the Past

Though in our system's recent circulation totals she has been eclipsed by more recent star authors in this genre, Sarah J. Maas really kicked off the romantasy trend in the 2010s with her *A Court of Thorns and Roses* books. She blends high fantasy settings full of court intrigue with steamy romances in her fast-paced, action-packed stories. Maas writes for both adult and teen audiences, and her books feature strong compelling female leads.

Already like Maas's work?

- Leigh Bardugo
- Elise Kova
- Rebecca Yarros
- Danielle L. Jensen
- Holly Black
- Victoria Aveyard
- Scarlett St. Clair
- Robin LaFevers
- Nalini Singh

Branching out from Romantasy

Enjoy this genre but looking to try another one with similarities to it?

- YA romantasy, which tends to be less steamy (Mary E. Pearson)
- Fantasy with romance elements (Lois McMaster Bujold, Naomi Novik, Katherine Arden)
- Paranormal romance (Christine Feehan, Sherrilyn Kenyon)
- Futuristic romance (J.D. Robb)
- Erotica (Helen Hardt)

Looking for more suggestions on what to read?

- Fill out our online Berryville Library's What Should I Read Next? form.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7VfQV7xaYIoTACTX7kX_TdTPHwQ1i9UnqBwVDS3gGrYcpcg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=116325047873771509704
- Request a reader's advisory consultation at the library. You can call, email, or stop by the library to learn more.



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