

## Romance Fiction Genre Study

### Erotic Romance and Erotica

Lisle District Library

February 7, 2019

#### Assignment:

Read two erotic romances or erotica stories or one of each, as long as they are written by two different authors.

**Authors to consider:** Emma Chase, Tiffany Reisz, Shayla Black, E. L. James, Sylvia Day, Maya Banks, Meghan March, Kresley Cole, LaQuette, Lorelei James, Zane, Sylvain Reynard, Kylie Scott, Anne Rice, Jay Crownover, Meredith Wild, Lora Leigh, Jess Michaels (local), Jaci Burton, J. Kenner, Alexa Riley, Gavin ML Fletcher.

#### Additional lists and resources:

<https://bookriot.com/2018/08/16/best-erotic-fiction/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/erotic-romance>

<https://www.amazon.com/author-rank/Erotica/digital-text/15705701>

#### While reading, consider the following:

- How did you search for and find your titles? What was your experience?
- Note if your titles fell under the category of an erotic romance or erotica, and why.
- Note the appeal factors, sensuality levels, kinks, tropes, themes and settings.

#### Definitions (per ARRT Popular Fiction List):

**Erotic romance** combines traditional romance novel tropes with explicit erotic encounters. The focus is on the development of a romantic relationship through sexual attraction and activity. The sex is front and center of the plot but the happily ever after (HEA) or happily for now (HFN) endings are expected.

In contrast, **Erotica** stories are about the sexual journey of the characters and not necessarily about their romantic and emotional relationship. HEA are not a required part of erotica, although they can be included.

#### Statistics for Erotic Romance/Erotica:

-89% of erotic romance sales are digital

- 50% of erotic romances are indie/self published
- 75% of erotic romances are sold as ebooks through Amazon
- 67% of erotic romance sales are untracked

Do definitions matter to readers/patron?

-Patrons don't usually use the term "erotic." They are more likely to ask for authors similar to...

-What is erotic is often in the eye of the beholder. What is erotic to one reader, may not be to another.

Are definitions/perceptions changing? Why?

-50 Shades of Grey changed the stigma of erotica. Readers have become more comfortable talking about/asking for it.

-Many new erotic titles have more subtle covers, making it less "embarrassing" to be seen with one.

What is the state of erotica at your library? (Format, circulation, location, trends, barriers, etc.)

-Erotica and erotic romance seems to be shelved all over and differs widely between libraries. Some shelve erotic romance in romance and erotica with fiction. Some sticker within fiction.

-In many libraries, ebook format of erotic circulates better than the print book.

-Many romance audiobook titles are going straight to Audible with no CD available. How do we give our patrons access when titles are only available through Audible? Indian Prairie library has an Audible subscription, and they purchase Audible only titles and put them on an iPod Touch for patrons to check out.

Check out the podcast from [Smart Bitches, Trashy Books](#) on Lorelei King's interview on narrating romance audio.

**What we read:**

\*Some of us read our titles in print or via audiobook, however the majority of us read our titles in ebook format, either through Hoopla or Libby.

Banks, Maya

*Letting Go*: dom/sub, very steamy

*Best Women's Erotica* vol 3 (2017) and vol 4 (2018)

-short stories/vignettes, no character development, not very satisfying as a reader

-found by searching catalog, ran spectrum of erotica and erotic romance, short stories were enjoyable.

Black, Shayla

*Misadventures of a Backup Bride*: contemporary romance, ebook, faux relationship turns into real relationship, some repetitions and cliches, steamy, series with each book written by a different writer

*Delicious*: erotic romance, 3rd in series, stripper/strip club owner + chef romance, male savior, some BDSM, sexual assault is offputting, HEA

*Devoted to Pleasure*: bodyguard, suspense, misunderstanding, spicy, HEA

Burton, Jaci

*The Perfect Play*: erotic romance, football theme, secrets from the past, good character development, well written, explicit

Carew, Opal

*Heat*: found from erotic fiction subject heading in catalog, m/m/f, firefighters, poor writing, cliched, unbelievable story line, very explicit

Carlan, Audrey

*Calendar Girl*: 1st in series, recommended by a patron, erotica but not literary, entertaining and fun

Charles, K. J.

*A Seditious Affair*: Overdrive ebook, Book Riot recommendation, erotic romance, m/m, BDSM, historical, class differences, graphic

Chase, Emma

*Tangled*: Overdrive audio and print, erotic romance, alpha male, funny, good writing, similar to Christina Lauren, not very erotic; written from male's perspective, male behavior feels stalkerish, felt dated

*Overruled*: 1st in series, erotic romance, good dialogue, HEA

Day, Sylvia

*Bared to You*: similar to Fifty Shades of Grey but better written

Hayley, Elizabeth

*Misadventures with My Roommate*: sweet romance, not very steamy

Heikkila, Otava

*Letters for Lucardo*: graphic novel, m/m, paranormal, vampire, not a happy ending but there is a sequel

James, E. L.

*Fifty Shades of Grey*

Locascio, Lisa

*Open Me*: erotica, high school grad abroad meets European grad student, sexual awakening, trauma, gritty detail of women's bodies

Loren, Roni

*Off the Clock*: erotica, sex therapists, some character development

March, Meghan

*Real Dirty*: country music, abusive parents, death, crime element, overcoming trust issues, ambiguous ending

Mulry, Megan

*Bound to Be a Groom*

Nedjma

*The Almond*: Erotica, Muslim woman leaves abusive marriage, comes into her sexuality, lyrical, well written, may appeal to fans of literary fiction.

O'Keefe, M.

*Everything I Left Unsaid*: print, Book Riot recommendation, open-ending, must read second book

Paige, Laurelin

*Dirty, Filthy, Rich Men*: erotic romance, male dominant, male savior, rape fantasies, happy for now/cliffhanger ending, erotica should have trigger warnings

Rai, Alisha

*Glutton for Pleasure*: erotica, Indian-American chef in threesome w/brothers, not much character development, read for the sex

Reisz, Tiffany

*The Siren*: erotic romance, series, BDSM, complicated characters, compelling story, good writing, bittersweet, happy for now ending, author provides a lot of education on BDSM; felt abusive, readers should know that this is heavy BDSM (not like 50 Shades)

Reynard, Sylvain

*Gabrielle's Inferno*: erotica, 1st in series, literary, Dante story, professor

Roquelaire, A. M. (Anne Rice)

*The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty*: erotica, very graphic, BDSM

Rowe, Lauren

*Misadventures on the Rebound*: instant chemistry, too much backstory

Scott, Kylie

*Lick*: erotic romance, rock star bad boy, music

*Sexy Librarian's Big Book of Erotica*: short stories, erotica and erotic romance

Stark, Simone

*Written on His Skin*: Book Riot recommendation, novella, soldier, pen pals turns to love

Tan, Cecilia

*Taking the Lead*: recommended from Book Riot list, ebook, erotic romance, BDSM, rockstar, opposites attract, sexual awakening, explicit

Thomas, Wendy Lee

*Camp Jameson*: sex camp, sexual assault survivor falls in love with male savior, too long, terrible

Wild, Meredith

*Hardwired*: erotic romance, 1st in series, dom/sub, male savior helps woman overcome past trauma, graphic, cliffhanger ending

*Misadventures of a City Girl*

Zane

*Addicted*: chose because she is a well known author in this genre and a diverse author, ebook, erotica, sex addiction, domestic abuse, trauma, juicy, over the top drama, enemies to lovers, redemption, somewhat happy ending, not very explicit

*Headbangers*: sexcapades, twins

Next Assignment:

### **Gentle Romance**

**April 4, 2019, 2-4 PM**

### **Glenview Public Library**

**Assignment:** Gentle Romance can mean different things to different readers. Often described as clean, chaste, and heartwarming, these novels contain no explicit sex or violence. Read two romances, including one identified as inspirational or Amish.

Suggested authors include Rochelle Alers, Tamera Alexander, Jane Austen, Angela Benson, Therese Beharrie, Colleen Coble, Shelley Shepard Gray, Georgette Heyer, Josi Kilpack, Karen Kingsbury, Julie Klassen, Beverly Lewis, Debbie Macomber, Janette Oke, Priscilla Oliveras, Tracie Peterson, Sarah Sundin, Kim Cash Tate, and Susan May Warren. You can also try a title from "A Proper Romance" series:

<https://shadowmountain.com/book-category/proper-romance/>.