

# MISCELLANEOUS - Similar Non-VN Games:

Questions about other game genres with dating elements where you can play as a female protagonist seem to pop up at a regular interval, so I've listed some of the most common recommendations for those here.

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## Harvest Moon / Story of Seasons franchise

**Genre:** Farming Simulator

**Platform(s):** GameBoy Advance, GameCube, Nintendo DS, Nintendo 3DS, Nintendo Wii, PSP, PSVita, Nintendo Switch, PC

**Additional Notes:** Harvest Moon is a huge franchise spanning more than two decades' worth of games over a bunch of different platforms. Only those released from 2003 onward feature gameplay as a female protagonist, however.

Which one should I start with? It doesn't matter; Harvest Moon isn't chronological and most entries in the franchise are standalone games. (Some have cross-references to each other or character cameos, but none of these are particularly relevant to the game plot.) Just choose whatever platform is most suitable for you and get started :)

**Luxray's notes:** I feel the need to explain the "divide" in the series that led to the Western audience(s) having both "Harvest Moon" and "Story of Seasons". This will be quite long-winded even though it's pretty condensed, so I'm sorry!

The farming series we all know and love, called "Bokujou Monogatari" (lit. "Farm Story") in Japanese, owned by the Japanese company Marvelous, was brought westside by Natsume Inc. ~20 years ago under the name most people know - "Harvest Moon".

However, in recent years (~2015), Marvelous decided to cut ties with Natsume Inc, effectively dropping it as its publisher/localizer in the west. Marvelous instead decided to employ their newly-acquired in-house team XSEED to publish/localize Bokujou Monogatari. Marvelous declined Natsume's offer of the "Harvest Moon" name, and XSEED decided to rename it "Story of Seasons" (frequently written in all caps officially - STORY OF SEASONS).

Natsume Inc's "Harvest Moon" title is now reserved for Natsume Inc's own series of farming sim games, created based on tropes and features that cater to "old time" fans of Harvest Moon. Five games have been released under the Harvest Moon name since the split - Harvest Moon: The Lost Valley, Harvest Moon: Skytree Village, Harvest Moon: Seeds of Memories, Harvest Moon: Light of Hope, and Harvest Moon: One World. The last "Harvest

Moon” under the Marvelous development team was Harvest Moon: A New Beginning for 3DS.

Alongside Natsume Inc, XSEED has released four Story of Seasons games and one spinoff from the original series - Story of Seasons, Story of Seasons: Trio of Towns, Return to Popolocrois: A Story of Seasons Fairytale, Story of Seasons: Friends of Mineral Town (a remake of Harvest Moon: [More] Friends of Mineral Town), and Story of Seasons: Pioneers of Olive Town.

Rune Factory (previously subtitled A Fantasy Harvest Moon) is owned by Marvelous as well, but its localized name was the same as its Japanese name, so there is no name change to be confused by. Rune Factory is/was Rune Factory.

Despite what my words might seem to imply, there is no bad blood between any of the three companies involved in this fiasco. All this means for us fans is we get twice as many farming sims to enjoy now! I personally loved Natsume’s newer games, Light of Hope and One World. It’s up to you to determine which games to play and which to avoid, if any. Happy playing!

**Most commonly recommended games:** Harvest Moon: Animal Parade (Wii), Story of Seasons (3DS), Story of Seasons: Trio of Towns (3DS)

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## [Stardew Valley](#)

**Genre:** Farming Simulator

**Platform(s):** PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch

**Additional Notes:** Stardew Valley is essentially a Western indie revival of retro Harvest Moon with improved gameplay mechanics and new additions, such as same-sex marriage, adoption, support for mods, etc.

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## [Rune Factory 4](#)

**Genre:** Farming Simulator, RPG

**Platform(s):** Nintendo 3DS, Nintendo Switch

**Additional Notes:** Rune Factory is a spinoff from the Harvest Moon/Story of Seasons franchise and is set in a fantasy setting with RPG-like elements such as monster battling alongside the usual farming, fishing, mining, and interacting with local villagers. You can choose to play as a male or female character. There are six characters for either gender to romance. There is no same-sex romance, but once you clear the game you can change your

main character's sprite to the opposite gender's, though characters will still use the first character's pronouns to refer to you.

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## [Rune Factory 5](#)

**Genre:** Farming Simulator, RPG

**Platform(s):** Nintendo Switch

**Additional Notes:** Rune Factory is a spinoff from the Harvest Moon/Story of Seasons franchise and is set in a fantasy setting with RPG-like elements such as monster battling alongside the usual farming, fishing, mining, and interacting with local villagers. You can choose to play as a male or female character. Since there is same sex marriage in this game, there are 12 marriage candidates to choose from regardless of the player's gender.

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## [My Time at Portia](#)

**Genre:** Farming Simulator, RPG

**Platform(s):** PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch

**Additional Notes:** Another Western farming/crafting/building simulator with RPG elements and romanceable characters. The game allows you to choose your gender in the beginning, but the LIs can be pursued regardless of the gender chosen.

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## [Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 3 Portable](#)

**Genre:** JRPG

**Platform(s):** PlayStation Portable (downloadable on PS Vita)

**Additional Notes:** Often called "a cross between The Sims and a JRPG", Persona features both slice-of-life simulation in a high school setting and typical fantasy JRPG gameplay. Out of the games in the franchise, Persona 3 Portable is the only one that features a female protagonist, however.

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## Fire Emblem: [Awakening](#), [Fates](#) & [Three Houses](#)

**Genre:** JRPG, Strategy/Tactical RPG

**Platform(s):** Nintendo 3DS, Nintendo Switch

**Additional Notes:** A series of tactical RPGs similar to Final Fantasy Tactics, but with the possibility of building relationships/romance\* between characters -- including, but not limited to, one's protagonist. (Only Awakening, Fates, and Three Houses have the option of choosing a female MC, however.)

Note that there are three different versions of Fire Emblem: Fates -- Conquest, Birthright, and Revelation, which all feature different casts respectively. Newcomers to the franchise are generally recommended to start with Fire Emblem Fates: Birthright, or Fire Emblem: Awakening (of which there is only one version).

\* = These romances are reportedly less in-depth than those in the other games listed in this category, but the Fire Emblem series still remains a popular recommendation for those looking for RPGs with dating elements.

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## [Dragon Age series](#)

**Genre:** Western RPG

**Platform(s):** PC, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

**Additional Notes:** Although it's recommended to play in a chronological order of release (Dragon Age: Origins > Dragon Age 2 > Dragon Age: Inquisition) to get the most out of the overarching plot, it's not necessary as each game has a standalone protagonist and story. DA:O is recommended for those comfortable with a more retro Western RPG feel; DA2 for those who prefer more of a JRPG feel; and DA:I for those completely new to RPGs or who prefer action RPGs.

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## [Mass Effect series](#)

**Genre:** Western RPG

**Platform(s):** PC, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

**Additional Notes:** Similar to Dragon Age, Mass Effect is another Western RPG trilogy by BioWare, though set in space and with shooter elements in its combat. The games can be played standalone, but it's recommended to start with the first Mass Effect unless you're playing its spinoff series, "Mass Effect: Andromeda".

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## [1931: Scheherazade at the Library of Pergamum](#)

**Genre:** Indie RPG with VN elements

**Platform(s):** PC

**Additional Notes:** The stat-raising part of this game is notoriously difficult, and some reviewers suggest to further read up on the obstacle level system beyond what is explained in-game. Newcomers to stat-raisers are recommended to play on easy. Despite being labeled as an RPG, Scheherazade has no "traditional" RPG gameplay elements, such as battles or world exploration.

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## [Loren: The Amazon Princess](#)

**Genre:** Indie RPG with VN elements

**Platform(s):** PC

**Additional Notes:** Made by the same studio (Winter Wolves) who created C14 Dating. Despite its claim of advanced tactical combat, Loren is known to have a fairly simple combat/skill system. Recommended to those who are looking for an RPG with more visual novel elements rather than your "regular" RPG.

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## [Demonheart](#)

**Genre:** Indie RPG with VN elements

**Platform(s):** PC

**Additional Notes:** A two-part series where the first game is more of a first-person, romantic VN with puzzle elements, while the second (Hunters) is more of a traditional RPG with romantic elements. Has a customizable protagonist with different character alignments.

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## [Wayhaven Chronicles](#)

**Genre:** CYOA (Choose Your Own Adventure) / Interactive Text Novel

**Platform(s):** PC, mobile

**Additional Notes:** A text-only game with a highly customizable protagonist. The LIs' genders also differ depending on the chosen gender and gender preferences. This is the first book in a 7-part series.

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## [Helix Waltz](#)

**Genre:** Dress-Up Game

**Platform(s):** Mobile

**Additional Notes:** A dress-up/stat-raising episodic game with dating-sim elements. Individual romantic routes have yet to be implemented in the English version, but are already underway in the original.

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## [Utano Princesama: Shining Live](#)

**Genre:** Rhythm Game

**Platform(s):** Mobile

**Additional Notes:** This game is a mobile spinoff from the otome franchise UtaPri, but is more of a traditional rhythm game than a VN. Also, while it does retain some otome-like elements in its voiced lines, there is no MC/LI romance.

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## [A3! Actor Training Game](#)

**Genre:** Card Collecting Game

**Platform(s):** Mobile

**Additional Notes:** This game is localized by the otome game company Cybird, but is a [joseimuke](#) game rather than a traditional otome, though it has certain otome elements.