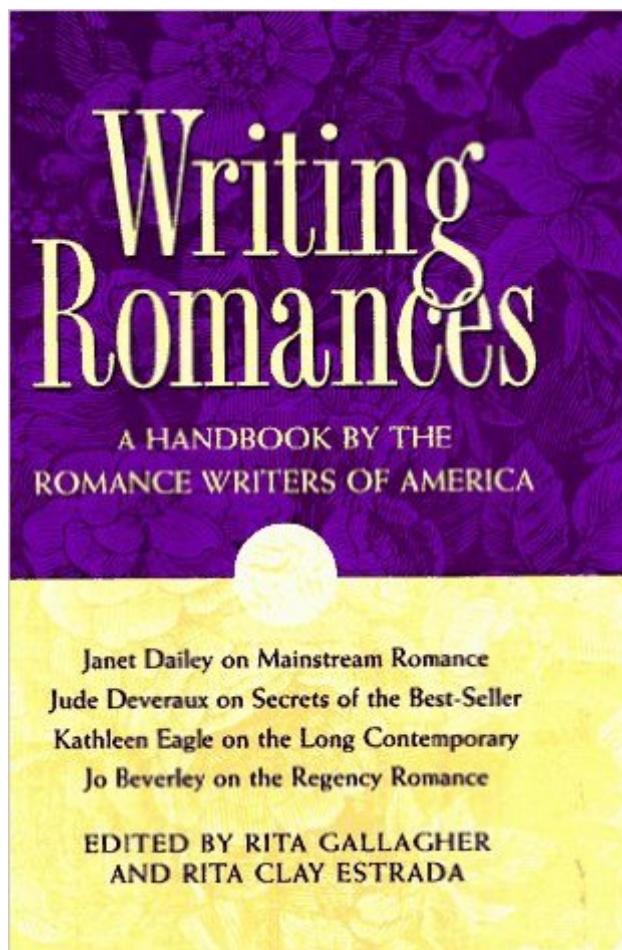


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# Writing Romances: A Handbook By The Romance Writers Of America



## **Synopsis**

As a writer, what discoveries are you seeking? A more thorough understanding of romance and its readers? A peek at the publishing business, and how an agent can be your bridge into it? Specific writing guidance? If so, your search is over. You've found a collection of instructive articles by those who live by affairs of the heart: the Romance Writers of America. The 25 essays in this guide each highlight a specific - and vital - area of writing or publishing your romance fiction.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is a wonderful collection of works by experts in the Romance genre. As a first-time published Romance author, I can hardly claim to be an expert in the field...I have a long way to go before I become proficient. This book is ideal for me. It provides me with support from women who have fought battles long before I dreamed of writing. I am grateful for their wisdom. It also assumes a certain amount of writing ability and knowledge of the genre; again, ideal for me in that it is not so much a beginner's how-to as it is a forum for romance lovers to share their opinions and pointers about the wonderful genre. It's a delight to read. A great source of encouragement!

I was honestly surprised by how much I liked this book. Of all the different "how to" books I've read about writing genre fiction, this one was the most helpful and informative on issues of marketing, publicity, and self presentation as an author. No, this book does not take you by the hand and explain how to plot a story, how to develop a character, or how to format your manuscript. There

are, however, many others that do, as a quick search for "writing reference" will show you. This book credits the reader with a certain amount of experience and know how. You do not need to be a successful writer to enjoy this, simply an observant reader. Not to give anyone the wrong idea, the book also contains a lovely chapter by Jude Deveraux about the common mistakes new writers make - complete with advice on how to avoid them. There are chapters that discuss the structure of a romance, what the audience expects from heroine and hero, how to do (and then incorporate) research for historical romances, writing the regency romance, long vs. short form, including the paranormal (time travel, magic, etc), and the evolution romance writing has gone through over the years. I highly recommend this book, not only to romance writers, but to all aspiring writers. After all, many mysteries, westerns, and science fiction stories do have a touch of romance in them, and vice versa.

Unfortunately, this book deals mainly with the business-end of romance writing. While that's fine, it shouldn't be marketed as a writing book. It does have some tips for a beginner, but mostly you'll find advice for marketing, promotion, and other non-writing topics.

I bought this because I want to be a romance writer, and I was looking for information that would help me in this market as well as give me writing tips. It does a good job on the first count, but it was not very useful for me, a beginner, who did not know anything about writing romances. So the title is misleading.

This book is a good starting point for anyone interested in writing romance, romantica and erotica. It gives good advice and examples on how to create believable characters/relationships and how to incorporate them into an interesting story that someone will want to read to the very end. However, since the book deals strictly with writing romance, this book serves the romantica/erotica author more as a basic outline for the more earthy story they want to tell. It IS worth reading since it can help establish a solid set of writing tools to "build" your stories with.

Although this is an older book (from the late 90s), the chapters basically amount to essays on various subjects of the romance genre -- each written by experts in the field such as Debbie Macomber and Christina Dodd. Especially fun reads were the chapters in part four -- more specifically, "Writing the Historical -- Then and Now," by Jennifer Blake, "Writing the Short Contemporary Romance," by Helen R. Meyers, and "Writing the Young Adult Romance," by Sherry

Garland. (I'd love to see an update by Sherry Garland on this chapter, with the development of recent vampire/werewolf stories!) Besides these great reads, there's some good advice that still holds true today no matter what type of fiction writer you are. If you're serious about writing romances, this is a must-have book and I highly recommend it!

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