



What's Love Got to Do With It?

A Romance Primer (updated 7/26/02)

Developed by Cathy Congelosi, Sarah Palmer, Karen Klopfer, & Jan Resnick

CONTEMPORARY –

The story is set in the present day or within the last 50-odd years. These stories have little danger or suspense.

- **Cherry Adair** – writes both category romances & hero-as-spy romances – sensuality level 4
- **Faith Baldwin** – 60+ novels written between 1920-1977, light romances set among the wealthy - sensuality level 0
- **Elizabeth Bevarly** – her contemporaries are (also writes categories) very funny - sensuality level 3
- **Jennifer Blake** – lush Southern settings, a range of original stories, prolific early winner of romance writer awards - sensuality level 3-4
- **Georgia Bockoven** – heroines overcome difficult personal issues to find true love - sensuality level 2
- **Elizabeth Cadell** – on most 'Gentle Romances' or 'Gentle Mysteries' lists, older books - sensuality level 1-2
- **Robyn Carr** – strong heroines stuck-in-a-rut find love & a new life - sensuality level 1-2
- **Catherine Coulter** – most of Coulter's work is historical, she's expanding into contemporary romantic thrillers with titles like *The Cove*, *The Edge*, *Target*, *The Maze* and *Hemlock Bay* - sensuality level 4
- **Millie Crisswell** – related characters and humorous situations - sensuality level ?
- **Jennifer Crusie** – often laugh-out-loud funny & occasionally quite steamy, great heroines - sensuality level 4
- **Barbara Delinsky** – prolific author, now writing romantic mainstream fiction - sensuality level 4
- **Jude Deveraux** – writes in just about every category from time travel & romantic suspense to contemporary - sensuality level 3
- **Kathleen Eagle** – married to a Sioux, Eagle writes romances with Indian heroes, & occasionally, heroines - sensuality level 3
- **Katie Fforde** – set in England, down-on-her-luck heroines triumph despite the odds - sensuality level 3
- **Patricia Gaffney** – now writing 'women's fiction' (which doesn't always guarantee a HEA [happily every after]), also has historicals - sensuality level 3
- **Julie Garwood** – also does historicals and suspense - sensuality level 3
- **Rachel Gibson** – very light romances, humorous verging on silly - sensuality level 3
- **Kristin Hannah** – romances that tug at the heartstrings, heroines must overcome tremendous odds to prevail - sensuality level 3
- **Emma Holly** – early novels are contemporary erotica, now writing mainstream historicals (still very steamy) - sensuality level 5
- **Linda Howard** - early books are contemporaries but more recent are suspense - sensuality level 3-4
- **Marian Keyes** – Irish, feisty heroines, often funny books about families, romantic mainstream fiction - sensuality level 3
- **Eva Ibbotson** - books are like fairy tales set in the 20th century, European setting, some historicals, too - sensuality level 1-2
- **Jayne Ann Krentz** – her Northwest coast contemporary romances usually feature strong female entrepreneurs and a lot of humor; Krentz also writes as Jayne Castle and Amanda Quick - sensuality level 3-4
- **Johanna Lindsey** - also writes historical and suspense. - sensuality level 3
- **Merline Lovelace** - military background, in most of her books the man/woman/both are in the military. One of her women was actually a general - sensuality level 3

- **Elizabeth Lowell** – many series, some more romantic suspense than straight romance, also writes historicals - sensuality level 4
- **Curtiss Ann Matlock** – warm, quiet stories about ordinary people in small towns - sensuality level 1
- **Judith McNaught** – glitz and glamour in with the romance, for the fans of Danielle Steele - sensuality level 3-4
- **Fern Michaels** - started out writing historicals, gained in popularity in recent years with contemporary and suspense book - sensuality level 3
- **Carla Neggers** – Vermont author, books often set in New England, also writes romantic suspense
- **Diane Palmer** - many of her books are set in the West (think Texas and cowboys), some historicals - sensuality level 3
- **Susan Elizabeth Phillips** - Great repartee between the man/woman, humorous -sensuality level 3-4
- **Mary Jo Putney** – best known for her historicals, now also writing contemporaries - sensuality level 3-4
- **Alexandra Raife** - more mainstream fiction but she writes a good love story w/ interesting secondary characters sensuality level 2-3
- **Nora Roberts** – prolific, early books not suspenseful, but later books are almost always suspenseful, humorous sensuality level 3
- **Deborah Smith** – mostly set in the mountains of Georgia with lots of tangled family history sensuality level 2-3
- **LaVyrle Spencer** - good old mid-western values, "feel good" romance, some early books were historicals, now retired sensuality level 2-3
- **Danielle Steel** – the rich and famous, resorts and trauma, all part of the “platinum-frosted” soap opera that fans adore; unlike the more traditional romances, not all endings are happy - sensuality level 4
- **Mariah Stewart** – newest books are romantic suspense, older ones are gentle romances in which characters find love as well as themselves sensuality level 2-3
- **Elswyth Thane** - best known for her family saga running from the American Revolution to World War II - sensuality level 1
- **Catherine Todd** – similar to, but less brittle than, **First Wives Club** (Olivia Goldsmith), with a mystery tossed in - sensuality level 2-3
- **Helen Van Slyke** - our mothers and grandmothers read these books - sensuality level 0-2
- **Ruth Wind** – writes both contemporary & category romances, also writes historicals as Barbara Samuels - sensuality level 2-4

INSPIRATIONAL –

Christian overtones, most books have little to no sex or violence

- **Robin Lee Hatcher** - (newer books ONLY), older ones are historical & often a bit steamy - sensuality level 0-1
- **Grace Livingston Hill** – older books from the 1920's to 1940's often seem more like historicals! - sensuality level 0-1
- **Emilie Loring** - wrote much of her work before World War II - sensuality level 0-1
- **Janette Oke** - probably the best known of the new Christian fiction writers, usually set in the 1800s in the mid-West or the West with frontier women as heroines - sensuality level 0- 1
- **Jane Peart** – another new Christian fiction author, writes in more than one time period - sensuality level 0-1
- **Francine Rivers** - many of her books are based on people from the Bible - sensuality level 0-1
- **Bodie & Brock Thoene** - very popular Christian fiction authors, many of their stories are historical and/or set in the old west - sensuality level 0-1

ROMANTIC SUSPENSE – *usually contemporary novels, mysteries with an emphasis on romance*

- **Evelyn Anthony** – *Almost more suspense than romance - sensuality level 0-1*
- **Madeleine Brent** – *Historical suspense, often with exotic locales, unfortunately not much in print - sensuality level 0-1*
- **Suzanne Brockmann** – *specializes in romances with SEALS as heroes, both category (Tall, Dark, & Dangerous series) & single titles (Troubleshooter series) - sensuality level 3-4*
- **Sandra Brown** – *very popular, most recent books almost always suspense - sensuality level 3*
- **Philippa Carr** – *romantic suspense and family sagas - sensuality level ?*
- **Barbara Delinsky** – *most recent books are mostly suspense - sensuality level 3*
- **Catherine Gaskin** – *romantic suspense and family sagas - sensuality level ?*
- **Kay Hooper** – *her books prior to the Shadows series were romantic suspense, all her books have a paranormal aspect to them - sensuality level 3*
- **Iris Johansen** – *not classified as a romance writer, her suspense tales have strong men and women, and occasionally elements of the paranormal; if there are crimes, they are not for the squeamish, her books will appeal to many romantic suspense readers - sensuality level 3*
- **MM Kaye** – *exotic locales, bright young things – what more could anyone want?! - sensuality level 1-2*
- **Rachel Lee** – *Romance with a twist of mystery; not as light as some other Romantic Suspense books sensuality level 3*
- **Helen McInnes** – *older books, international espionage plots with romantic elements - sensuality level 1*
- **Meagan McKinney** – *fairly standard plots with a hero in danger who needs help but doesn't tell heroine what is going on - sensuality level 3*
- **Carla Neggers** – *Vermont author; books often set in New England - sensuality level 3*
- **Karen Robards** – *started out writing mostly historicals, now writes mostly suspense - sensuality level 3*
- **Mary Stewart** – *among the best romantic suspense writers, her descriptions are poetry - sensuality level 1-2*
- **Mariah Stewart** – *her older books are light stories with a bit of mystery to be solved; her new books are Suspense with perhaps a smidgen of romance (they, & the new Kay Hooper's, seem to fit into a new sub-genre, that of 'Romantic Suspense Involving Serial Killers') - sensuality level 3*
- **Katherine Sutcliff** – *her stories cross many romance genre including British historical, the emerging west, and romantic thriller - sensuality level 4*

GOTHIC –

Set in any time period in history, their heyday was from the late 50s through the early 70s. Plots are very similar – a naïve young woman gets caught in the middle of something sinister & is rescued by the character who turns out to be the hero (as opposed to the character she thinks is the hero). Gothics & romantic suspense are quite similar though the main difference between them is that the gothics rely more on setting while romantic suspense stress an exciting plot.

- **Joan Aiken** – wonderful *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* series epitomize gothic type, series is also appropriate for YAs
- **Alice Brennan** – numerous paperback gothics
- **Madeleine Brent** - aka Peter O'Donnell, style said to be rather similar to Mary Stewart's
- **Nancy Buckingham** – 13 gothics written between 1971-1985
- **Gwendoline Butler** – yes, the same Gwendoline Butler who writes the *Coffin* mystery novels also wrote gothic romances
- **Virginia Coffman** – numerous books written between 1971-2001 including the *Moura* vampyre series
- **Dorothy Eden** - forte was her power to evoke an atmosphere of fear and suspense
- **Catherine Darby** - pseudonym of Maureen Peters aka Veronica Black author of the *Sister Joan* mysteries
- **Daphne DuMaurier** – *Rebecca* is a classic & many of her others should be read as well
- **Elissa Grandower** - aka Hillary Waugh
- **Jeanne Hines** - aka Valerie Sherwood, she wrote gothics under this, her real name
- **Jane Aiken Hodge** - used historical and present day settings, one site says her best books are set in the late 1700s to early 1800s
- **Isabelle Holland** – writes in many genres, including mystery, *Romantic Times* recommends *Darcourt*-a gothic with a contemporary setting
- **Victoria Holt** - aka Philippa Carr, and Jean Plaidy, though her gothics were written under the Holt pseudonym
- **Susan Howatch** - yes, the one who writes those long books now got her start in gothics
- **Norah Lofts** – found on many libraries lists of ‘gentle romances’
- **Alexandra Manners** – books are full of atmosphere, aka Anne Rundle
- **Edwina Marlowe** – aka Tom E. Huff (real name) also wrote under T.E. Huff, Beatrice Parker, Katherine St. Clair, Jennifer Wilde; all pseudonyms but Wilde were suspense or gothics
- **Anne Maybury** – often set in exotic locales
- **Dorothy Macardle** – *The Uninvited*-absolutely wonderful gothic suspense with ghosts
- **Barbara Michaels** – got her start in the early ‘60s by writing gothics
- **Beatrice Parker** - aka Tom E. Huff (real name) also wrote under T.E. Huff, Edwina Marlowe, Katherine St. Clair, Jennifer Wilde; all pseudonyms but Wilde were suspense or gothics
- **Rona Randall** – has written at least 59 books, some of which are non-fiction ‘how to write’ titles
- **Janet Louise Roberts** – wrote more than 100 paperback novels under this, her own name and three pseudonyms: *Louisa Bronte*, *Rebecca Danton*, and *Janette Radcliffe*. (Roberts once said that each name represented a specific genre with her own name representing Gothic.)
- **Willo Davis Roberts** – many of her titles are on YA recommended reading lists
- **Mary Linn Roby** – is still writing & so has the most recent gothic/suspense title on this list
- **Dan Ross** - (aka Clarissa Ross, Marilyn Ross [author of the *Dark Shadows* books], Dana Ross, W.E.D Ross) author of 323 books!
- **Anya Seton** -author of wonderful classics like *Dragonwyck* and *Green Darkness*
- **Marcella Thum** – wrote 17 books in different genres: non-fiction, Gothic and historical romance and mystery novels for young people *Mystery at Crane's Landing* received an Edgar award from the *Mystery Writers of America* for best juvenile mystery
- **Phyllis Whitney** - MANY books, mostly present day settings though a few are set in the 1800s, also written romantic suspense for young adults

PARANORMAL –

Angels, ghosts, witches, vampires, werewolves, as well as ESP, telepathy, & other topics abound in this sub-genre. This type of topic is often referred to on message boards & in reviews as having a ‘woo’ (as in what ghosts say) factor.

- **Amanda Ashley** – romances with vampires as heroes - sensuality level 2-3
- **Laurell K. Hamilton** – creator of the Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter series, which is a favorite of romance websites, one word of warning-these are graphically violent & are not for the squeamish - sensuality level 4-5
- **Kay Hooper** – Shadow series in particular deals with many ‘paranormal’ topics (& fall into what seems to be a new romance sub-genre about serial killers) though all of Hooper’s recent books have a fairly high ‘woo’ factor, Shadow series also has fairly graphic depictions of violent death - sensuality level 3
- **Kathleen Kane** – all her books are fantasy involving ghosts, witches, or time travel - sensuality level ?
- **Susan Krinard** – books about ghosts & time-travel as well as a series about werewolves - sensuality level 3-4
- **Debbie Macomber** - most of her books are straightforward contemporaries but she’s also written several books about angels - sensuality level 2-3
- **Barbara Michaels** – most of her titles involve the supernatural in some way - sensuality level 1-2
- **Linda Lael Miller** – has a vampire series mixed in with her Western historicals - sensuality level 3-4
- **Susan Sizemore** – vampire series Laws of the Blood - sensuality level 3
- **Christina Skye** – Draycott Abbey series has 3 ghosts (including a cat) who watch over the Abbey & all who visit, plots always involve a threat or a mystery to be diffused/solved - sensuality level 3
- **Antoninette Stockenberg** – wrote many books involving ghosts, witches, or both but recently began writing mainstream women’s fiction with a touch of suspense, most books are set on Cape Cod. sensuality level 3
- **Ciji Ware** – heroines who are a crisis points in their lives begin to flashback to a historic time during which an ancestress also dealt with a crisis, wonderful settings (Cornwall, New Orleans, Natchez) set the mood - sensuality level 3

TIME-TRAVEL | FANTASY –

Heroes or heroines are somehow moved from their own time into another & must adapt to the new time period - most often this occurs accidentally though occasionally it is an ability the characters have which enables them to move through time. Fantasy romances are science fiction-like romances set in the future or on a distant world.

NOTE: *not every book by these authors are Time-travel or Fantasy romances*

- **Jayne Castle** – *space colony romances, note that Castle also works as Jayne Ann Krentz & Amanda Quick - sensuality level 3-4*
- **Jude Deveraux** – *among her many, many books are a few time-travel romances - sensuality level 3*
- **Suzanne Frank** - *3 time travel books about the same couple, the first set in ancient Egypt, the second in ancient Greece (on Atlantis), and the third in the Israel of Moses, more historical fiction than romance - sensuality level 3-4*
- **Diana Gabaldon** – *Gabaldon is the standard against which all time travel romance is judged though it is more historical fiction than pure romance, there are 5 books in the series-the first is set in Scotland during the Jacobite Rebellion & the most recent in North Carolina on the eve of the American Revolution - sensuality level 3-4*
- **Sandra Hill** – *romance websites list her as one of the best time-travel authors-& very funny, has two series: the Jordan series (Vikings come forward in time) & the Baptiste series (New Orleans late 1800s, all books based on romance classics) - sensuality level 3*
- **Dara Joy** – *most of her books are referred to as ‘futuristic’ & are very steamy- sensuality level 4-5*
- **Kathleen Kane** – *some of her books are time-travel, others are paranormal, usually set in America’s ‘wild’ west - sensuality level 2*
- **Lynn Kurland** - *inter-related love stories about the same friends and families, the time travel is always between the present day and medieval England - sensuality level 3*
- **Jenny Lykins** – *time-travel romances in which the heroine goes back in time to find her true love - sensuality level 3*
- **Kay Marie Moning** – *Scottish settings, time-travel romances between 21st century heroines & 16th century Highland heroes usually in the 16th century but occasionally occurring in modern times - sensuality level 4-5*
- **Judith O'Brien** – *O'Brien’s books feature both time-travel & ghosts - sensuality level 1-2*
- **Constance O’Day-Flannery** – *pretty much invented the time-travel sub-genre - sensuality level 2-3*
- **J.D. Robb** - *aka Nora Roberts, romantic detective stories set in 2050’s New York - sensuality level 3-4*
- **Deb Stover** – *time-travel books with quite funny characters- sensuality level 3-4*

CATEGORY ROMANCES –

*Paperback, about 100 pages, several are published each month in categories with **VERY** specific plot guidelines*

NOTE: descriptions of different series in quotations are from the publisher's website
<http://store.eharlequin.com/>)

Harlequin Series Titles

- ◆ Harlequin American Romance – (*Upbeat, lively romances about the pursuit of love in the backyards, big cities, and wide-open spaces of America.* - sensuality level 1-2)
- ◆ Harlequin Bianca (*contemporary romances in Spanish* - sensuality level 1-2)
- ◆ Harlequin Blaze (*described as “Harlequin’s sexiest series yet!”* – sensuality level 4-5)
- ◆ Harlequin Deseo (*romances in Spanish* - sensuality level 3)
- ◆ Harlequin Duets (*romances with a high comedy quotient* - sensuality level ?)
- ◆ Harlequin Historical (*usually Regencies* - sensuality level 1-2)
- ◆ Harlequin Intrigue (*romantic suspense* - sensuality level ?)
- ◆ Harlequin Medical Romances (*medical romances* - sensuality level ?)
- ◆ Harlequin Presents (*“Meet sophisticated men of the world and captivating women in glamorous, international settings.”* - sensuality level 2-3)
- ◆ Harlequin Romance (*Love stories that capture the essential dream of pure romance.* - sensuality level 1-2)
- ◆ Harlequin Superromance (*longer than other category romances, “emotionally involving stories”* - sensuality level ?)
- ◆ Harlequin Temptation (*“Sexy, fast-paced stories that reflect the attitudes, desires, lives, and language of women today”* - sensuality level 3)

Silhouette Series Titles

- ◆ Silhouette Desire (*“A highly passionate, emotionally powerful and always provocative read.”* - sensuality level 3)
- ◆ Silhouette Intimate Moments (*romantic suspense* - sensuality level 2-3)
- ◆ Silhouette Romance (*“From courtship to commitment, these love stories are for today's woman with traditional values.”* - sensuality level 1)
- ◆ Silhouette Special Edition (*“Emotional, compelling love stories that capture the intensity of living, loving, and creating a family in today's world.* - sensuality level 1-2)
- ◆ Silhouette Trueblood, Texas

Steeple Hill (*part of Harlequin/Silhouette – “Steeple Hill books feature rich and entertaining stories about Christian characters who face the challenges of faith, life, and love.”*)

- ◆ Love Inspired (*“These heartwarming novels feature inspirational stories with a commitment to strong family values and high moral standards.”* - sensuality level 1)

Arabesque Romances (*African-American category romances published by BET*)

HISTORICAL – BRITAIN - *These are often set in the Regency period but are longer than the traditional Regency which is hemmed in by length & topic restrictions*

- **Mary Balogh** – Regency period; began writing *Signet Regencies* - sensuality level 4
- **Jo Beverley** – Regency period; many of her books have the same friends and family cropping up from book to book - sensuality level 3
- **Liz Carlyle** - Regency period; her historicals are downright hot - sensuality level 5
- **Robyn Carr** – early books are set in the 1600s in the British Isles, now writing contemporaries - sensuality level 2
- **Catherine Coulter** - she has written in just about every category - sensuality level 3
- **Christina Dodd** – mostly Victorian & Regency periods; occasionally have foreign locales, fairly steamy - sensuality level 3-4
- **Jane Feather** – Tudor, Medieval, or Regency settings, known for her well researched settings & well-drawn characters - sensuality level 4-5
- **Catherine Gaskin** – recent history (WWI) and exotic locations (in addition to Britain) for many of her stories - sensuality level 0-1
- **Emma Holly** – Victorian period; former writer of *Romantic Erotica* now writing very steamy historicals - sensuality level 5
- **Susan Johnson** - Victorian period, very erotic and steamy romances involve some kinky sex, very thoroughly researched, uses footnotes - sensuality level 4-5
- **Joan Johnston** – writes books set in the American West as well as England, also writes contemporaries - sensuality level 3-4
- **Nicole Jordan** – Regency period; novels are downright steamy! - sensuality level 5
- **Lisa Kleypas** – Regency period; many of her characters are not aristocrats; vivid descriptions of life during this time period, especially among the lower classes - sensuality level 4
- **Betina Krahn** – mostly Victorian settings (some English, some American)- sensuality level 3
- **Arnette Lamb** – 1600s Scotland; not all her books are set in this period - sensuality level 3
- **Stephanie Laurens** – most recent books (the *Bar Cynster* series) set in the Regency period - sensuality level ?
- **Johanna Lindsey** – a prolific, sensual romance writer with several series, “What makes Lindsey special is that all her characters, major and minor, seem thrilled to be in the story; they manage even to have fun while pining or punching.” *Publishers Weekly* - sensuality level 3-4
- **Meagan McKinney** – set in the mid to late 1800’s, also American settings - sensuality level 2-3
- **Theresa Medeiros** – Scottish settings, as well as numerous medieval romances - sensuality level 3
- **Cathy Maxwell** - Regency period, strong characters - sensuality level 3
- **Patricia Potter** – *The Black Knave* & *The Heart Queen* are set in Scotland during the Jacobite Rebellion - sensuality level 3
- **Jo-Ann Power** – entertaining and sensual historicals - sensuality level 4
- **Mary Jo Putney** - Regency period; *Fallen Angels* series [see Bookbrowser.com for order] is on many *Best Romances* list - sensuality level 4
- **Amanda Quick** – independent, outspoken women (for the Regency), humor and a fair amount of steam; Quick also writes as Jayne Ann Krentz and Jayne Castle - sensuality level 3-4
- **Julia Quinn** – Regency period; humorous, quirky characters; *Bridgerton* series begins with *The Duke & I* - sensuality level 3-4
- **Bertrice Small** – romance, intrigue with and against the Royals, fairly steamy scenes with Skye O’Malley continue with her descendants - sensuality level 4
- **Sherri Cobb South** – Regency period; unusual in that the characters aren’t all aristocracy - sensuality level ?

- **Katherine Sutcliff** –her stories cross many romance genre including British historical, the emerging west, and romantic thriller - sensuality level 4
- **Elizabeth Thornton** - Regency period, usually a mystery involved - sensuality level 3-4
- **Patricia Veryan** - several series, some set in 1700s, some in the 1800s, each series has a mystery or suspense aspect that puts some or all of the characters in danger - sensuality level 1-2
- **Joan Wolf** –Regency period, usually written in the first person; has also written mysteries set in Medieval times - sensuality level 3
- **Kathleen E. Woodiwiss** - one of the pioneers of the "sweet savage" historical (graphically described sex in a romance didn't exist until she and others began writing in the early 70s) - sensuality level 3

REGENCY – these follow quite strict guidelines as to length (short) & steaminess (little to none*) though there is often sexual tension

MOST RELIABLE PUBLISHERS:

(Some people like to read anything published as a Regency & don't care as much about particular authors)

Signet Regencies

Zebra Regencies

Harlequin Historicals (sometimes also labeled as Harlequin Regencies)

AUTHORS

- **Marion Chesney** - lots of titles, writes funny, frothy, light-hearted Regencies - sensuality level 2
- **Wilma Counts** – recently began writing historicals - sensuality level 1-2
- **Barbara Cartland** - plots are all over the 1800s though many are Regency, the writing is simplistic, the heroine young and virginal, the hero older and experienced - sensuality level 0-1
- **Clare Darcy** – similar to Heyer, she wrote about 10 books - sensuality level 0-1
- **Annie Grace** – highly recommended by many of the romance websites - sensuality level 1-2
- **Mary Balogh*** – now writing historicals but wrote many, many Regencies, a number of which were steamy - quite unusual for traditional Regencies - sensuality level 3
- **Nancy Butler** – loosely connected series with the minor characters often getting his own book, often quite funny/witty - sensuality level 1-2
- **Carola Dunn** – now writing mysteries, began as a romance author - sensuality level 1-2
- **Diane Farr** – strong, often independent heroines - sensuality level 1-2
- **Barbara Hazard** – often told in the first person - sensuality level 1
- **Candace Hern** – recently began writing historicals, her Regencies featured interesting heroines - sensuality level 2-3
- **Georgette Heyer** – while her books are not what we have come to think of as Regency romances, they did help create the sub-genre, funny & intelligent - sensuality level 0-1
- **Emma Jensen** – characters are often not aristocrats - unusual in Regencies, recently quit writing - sensuality level 1
- **Martha Kirkland** – character driven stories, occasionally light on plot but characters usually make up for this lack - sensuality level 1
- **Carla Kelly** – Romance sites often cite her as the best Regency author currently writing, witty - sensuality level 1-2
- **April Khilstrom** – interrelated books about Miss Tibbles (a governess) & the family she works for
- **Allison Lane** – well-drawn characters, many of the books are connected - sensuality level 0-1
- **Dorothy Mack** – gives the usual Regency plots a bit more oomph than many authors - sensuality level 1
- **Barbara Metzger** - likeable characters in humorous situations - sensuality level 1
- **Donna Simpson** – character-driven stories with characters a cut above the usual ones found in Regencies - sensuality level 1
- **Joan Smith** – stories are a blend of romance, intrigue, & humor - sensuality level 1

HISTORICAL – NORTH AMERICA

- **Catherine Anderson** – started out writing about women and men of the old West, some of her books are set at military forts and feature politically correct Indian fighters - sensuality level 3
- **Geralyn Dawson** – Westerns, several different series - sensuality level 2-3
- **Celeste de Blasis** – her “Swan” series combines romance and family saga - sensuality level 3
- **Sara Donati** - style is very similar to Diana Gabaldon's, her books follow the same characters, set in New York State around the time of the French & Indian War - sensuality level 3
- **Dorothy Garlock** – has books set in the Jazz Age & during the Depression era both of which are unusual settings for historicals - sensuality level 2-3
- **Elizabeth Grayson** - most of her books are about pioneers - sensuality level 2-3
- **Kristin Hannah** – early books are historicals recent are all contemporaries - sensuality level 2-3
- **Beverly Jenkins** – usually Westerns, African-American characters, lots of history of “the race” (Jenkin’s term) woven throughout - sensuality level 4-5
- **Joan Johnston** – writes books set in the American West as well as England, also writes contemporaries - sensuality level 3-4
- **Betina Krahn** – mostly Victorian settings (some English, some American) - sensuality level 3
- **Jill Marie Landis** – 19th century Mid-western & Western settings, also has one set in 19th century Hawaii - sensuality level 2-3
- **Elizabeth Lowell** – many series in many different romantic categories, including series set in the American West - sensuality level 4
- **Meagan McKinney** – set in the mid to late 1800’s, also European settings - sensuality level 2-3
- **Linda Lael Miller** – her Springwater series are short, romantic novels set in the western US - sensuality level 1-2
- **Stephanie Mittman** - gentle, homespun romances, a few contemporary settings but most are set in the Midwest at the end of the 19th century - sensuality level 3
- **Pamela Morsi** – witty & charming books set in small towns in the late 19th & early 20th centuries, now writing contemporaries - sensuality level 2-3
- **Maggie Osborne** – Westerns, very strong women characters - sensuality level 3-4
- **Patricia Potter** – Westerns, most loosely connected with characters appearing from one book to another - sensuality level 3
- **Rosemary Rogers** – Genreflecting credits her with launching the “sweet-and-savage subgenre” of romance with her Sweet Savage Love (1974) - sensuality level 4+
- **Katherine Sutcliff** – in addition to her romances of the emerging west, her stories cross many romance genre including British historical and romantic thriller - sensuality level 4
- **Susan Wiggs** – scarred, remote heroes; women with humor and common sense; settings like the Chicago fire and the Alamo...and romance-what more could you ask for? - sensuality level 4
- **Penelope Williamson** – Westerns, has also written some contemporary books, superb storyteller - sensuality level 2-3
- **Kathleen E. Woodiwiss** - one of the pioneers of the "sweet savage" historical (graphically described sex in a romance didn't exist until she and others began writing in the early 70s) - sensuality level 3

MEDIEVAL -

Technically from around the collapse of Roman civilization to the Renaissance, not every thing was dull just waiting around for the Plague or Leonardo (da Vinci not DiCaprio)

- **Jill Barnett** – gentle warmth combined with humor, plots often invoke the continuing battle of old (Druidic) and new religions - sensuality level 3-4
- **Alice Borchardt** - Anne Rice's sister, more historical fiction with a good romance than straight romance, also writes a series about werewolves - sensuality level 2-3
- **Robyn Carr** – good history as well as romance, most of her medieval stories are only available through libraries, now writes contemporaries - sensuality level ?
- **Elizabeth Chadwick** - British and an authority on the Medieval period, historical fiction with a good romance - sensuality level 2
- **Catherine Coulter** – Medieval Song Quartet: Warrior's Song, Earth Song, Fire Song, and Secret Song - sensuality level 3-4
- **Christina Dodd** – her early books have medieval settings though she is now writing books with Victorian or Regency settings, often humorous - sensuality level 3
- **Roberta Gellis** – The Roselynde Chronicles are original paperbacks set in Medieval England, Gellis uses unusual characters (Ropedancer) and exotic locales as well - sensuality level 3-4
- **Sandra Hill** – among other things, Viking heroes and heroines, humor and romance - sensuality level ?
- **Madeline Hunter** – books are inter-related with the same family and friends cropping up in each one - sensuality level 3
- **Lynn Kurland** – quite charming stories, also writes time-travel & paranormal books - sensuality level 2-3
- **Theresa Medeiros** – numerous medieval romances - sensuality level 3
- **Judith Merkle Riley** – A Vision of Light & In Pursuit of the Green Dragon
- **Tina St. John** – most of her books involve rollicking good adventures with interesting characters - sensuality level 3

HISTORICAL – OTHER LOCALES

- **Judith Ivory** – often set at turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century with heroes & heroines of various nationalities - sensuality level 3-4
- **Michele Jaffe** - writes about the same friends and family, her first book was set in Renaissance Italy. sensuality level ?
- **Mary Jo Putney** – while characters are British, Putney's Silk Series [Silk and Shadows, Silk and Secrets, & Veils of Silk] and Bride series [The Wild Child, The China Bride, & The Bartered Bride] have exotic locales (except for The Wild Child) - sensuality level 4
- **Bertrice Small** – some of her heroines spend time in the company of Sultans (e.g. The Kadin); many of the heroines in the Skye O'Malley series are pretty well traveled, too - sensuality level 4