

The H[elp] Files

Revisiting Romance Sub-genres...

Romance is something that never goes out of style. Styles may change but thankfully we will always welcome romance with open arms, which is possibly the easiest way to hold a book.

This current update of romance sub-genres combines the valuable insights offered by the Romance Writers' of America at www.rwa.org, Lee Masterson on *Fiction Factor – Online Magazine for Fiction Writers* (www.fictionfactor.com) and Wikipedia.

Firstly, they state all romances should 'have a central love story and an emotionally satisfying ending'. Within this context, consider the following sub-genres:

- **Novels with strong romantic elements.**
- **Contemporary Series** – set after 1945, with some consistent link between different stories.
- **Contemporary Single Title** – set after 1945 but not part of a series.
- **Historical** – set before 1945.
- **Regency Period** – set in early 1800s England.
- **Western** – usually set in American 'Old West'.
- **Inspirational** – religious or spiritual beliefs central to story.
- **Suspense** – suspense, mystery or thriller elements are integral to the plot.
- **Young Adult.**
- **Multicultural** – typically with African-American characters, or explores interracial relations.
- **Erotic** – contains strong sexual content.
- **Paranormal** – includes futuristic happenings (set in far-future and containing some science-fiction or fantasy elements), fantasy (other worlds and/or elements of magic), and paranormal elements such as vampires and werewolves.
- **Time-travel** – set across two different time periods or with time-travelling characters.
- And last but not least, my personal addition **Humorous** – which can be its own sub-genre or a sub-genre of all of the above sub-genres.

Happy romance hunting!

Next in The H[elp] Files *New Year's Resolutions...*

prepared by Jane Schell Waite