

Browse

[Colleges, Schools, Centers](#)
[Disciplines](#)
[Authors](#)

Search

Enter search terms:

[Advanced Search](#)

[Notify me via email](#) or [RSS](#)

Author Corner

[Author FAQ](#)
[Submit Work](#)

Links

[Hunter College](#)
[CUNY](#)

[Home](#) > [Hunter College](#) > [School of Arts & Sciences Theses](#) > [350](#)

[< Previous](#) [Next >](#)

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES THESES

HUNTER

The Romance Novel Cover

[Jessica D. Spears, CUNY Hunter College](#)

Date of Award

Spring 5-5-2018

Document Type

Thesis

Degree Name

Master of Arts (MA)

Departments/Programs

Art

First Advisor

Maria Pelizzari

Second Advisor

Thomas LaPadula

Academic Program Adviser

Maria Pelizzari

Abstract

Romance novel covers dating from the 1980s and 1990s reflect complex and contradictory ideas about gender, power, and sexuality. The covers overflow with stereotypes of what women are attracted to such as enormous pink roses, lush folds of silk, and hair long enough for Rapunzel. To this socially acceptable women's imagery, the covers add two less reputable aspects: sexual imagery and, occasionally, suggestions of female submission. Since the association of romance and conventional femininity is so strong, the covers make a visual argument that submission and sexuality are things that a conventional woman wants. Readers have to deal with what it means to be seen reading a book with such a cover. This thesis aims to tackle how these covers have been regarded by both the consumer and producers of the works, and what political, social and visual trends in American culture of the 1980s and 1990s account for these genre conventions.

Recommended Citation

Spears, Jessica D., "The Romance Novel Cover" (2018). *CUNY Academic Works*.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/hc_sas_etds/350

 [Download](#)

INCLUDED IN

[American Art and Architecture Commons](#), [History of Gender Commons](#), [Women's History Commons](#)

SHARE



To view the content in your browser, please [download Adobe Reader](#) or, alternately, you may [Download](#) the file to your hard drive.

NOTE: The latest versions of Adobe Reader do not support viewing PDF files within Firefox on Mac OS and if you are using a modern (Intel) Mac, there is no official plugin for viewing PDF files within the browser window.

Romance book cover art, Historical romance novel cover art, romantic painting; paintings; couples; lovers; romance; art; artist; man; woman; beautiful; beauty; romance novel inspired; sexy; seductive; erotic. Longmire does Romance Novels - Your Submissions. A Heart So Wild (Straton Family, book 1) by Johanna Lindsey. Romance Novel Covers. Toggle navigation. Samples. The best romance novel industry stock images online. View Photos. Non-Exclusive & Exclusive Stock Images & Pre-Made Covers. View Photos. Custom Ordered Photo Shoots. Describe what you want your images to be. signup. The most romantic and passionate images on the web. brought to you by the pioneer of romance stock websites. View Photos. With new images uploaded every week. Let RNC images sell your novels. View Photos. 1. The Steamy, Throbbing History of Romance Novel Covers. Graphic: Elena Scotti/GMG. Kelly Faircloth. The cover featured a bare-chested young model named Fabio, hair blowing in the breeze, a redhead en borderline déshabillé at his feet and clinging, beseeching, to his open leather vest. Carson didn't read any of the back-cover copy, or flip through to any of the quotes—the covers said it all. Advertisement. In a way, Carson and McMahon were right: The covers did quite deliberately indicate that there was steamy stuff inside. No popular genre is as firmly associated with its packaging as romance novels; even Playboy is given constant credit for its best journalistic years. A good romance novel cover must show the reader what kind of escapism is in store, and give the readers enough detail to spark their imagination. Sometimes this means Romance covers give a lot—open shirts, bare skin or, passionate embraces. But other times it's more subtly sensual—a couple holding hands, a delicate flower or gorgeous beach. Why is a good cover so important in romance? With over 60% of romance novel sales taking place on eBook, a cover that stops the reader scrolling is paramount. Large text and bold, clear imagery are musts because they communicate to the reader which of the m #romance novels #brothers grimm #fairytales #romance novel covers #romance community #romancelandia. 50 notes. mindspill. That shot was totally in the romance novel cover genre! (Sorry, not sorry.) I honestly have no idea how Sam and Cait kept straight faces throughout most of these shoots. I guess that's why they call them actors. #outlander #sam heughan #caitrona balfe #ew season 3 #romance novel covers. 49 notes. morganali-art.