

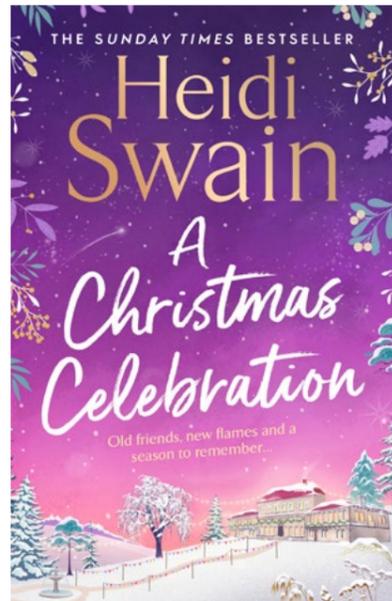


2023

Awards Finalists

Winner of the Popular Romantic Fiction Award
Recipient of the RNA Lifetime Achievement Award

THE WINNER OF THE POPULAR ROMANTIC FICTION AWARD



A Christmas Celebration Heidi Swain

Simon & Schuster UK

When Paige arrives at Wyntonpe Hall just before Christmas, she's quickly pulled into local life and enjoys getting to know Albert and Brodie. However, all three of them have a secret and a desire to hide away from the world, but is that the best way to celebrate the season?

© Laura Aziz, Baby Picture This

THE KATIE FFORDE DEBUT ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD

Katie Fforde



The Love of My Other Life C.J. Connolly

Joffe Books

Single Josie wakes in an alternate version of her New York life, married to a handsome, wealthy, adoring man she's never seen before. But there are some things very wrong with her new reality. Should she embrace this incredible but flawed world – even though it's not really her life?



A Colourful Country Escape Anita Faulkner

Sphere

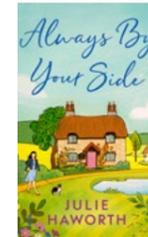
A *Colourful Country Escape* follows vibrant but penniless Lexie Summers as she packs up her orange camper van to escape her messy life. As she clashes with her standoffish new boss Ben in his wealthy world of paint and peacocks, she wonders if love really is so black and white.



Twelve Days in May Niamh Hargan

HarperCollins

Lizzy and Ciaran were best friends twelve years ago, but haven't spoken since. Now, both working at the Cannes Film Festival, director Ciaran's film runs into trouble, and there's only one person he can turn to. Is twelve days enough to save the film, and also rekindle their spark?



Always by Your Side Julie Haworth

Simon & Schuster UK

When schoolteacher Rose loses her dream job, her self-confidence takes a knock. An unexpected phone call, and an elderly aunt hospitalised, means she must drop everything – including her fiancé – and return to Sussex. But when Rose's London life finally comes calling, she is faced with an impossible choice.



From Fake to Forever Laila Rafi

Orion Dash

What happens when a confirmed bachelor and a woman focused on her career have their respective parents bombarding them with prospective spouses? Well, they decide to fake a relationship, giving them both freedom to carry on as they were. But what happens when that fake relationship starts to become not-so-fake?

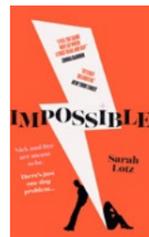
THE FANTASY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



Skip to the End Molly James

Quercus

Amy Daniels has a gift – the first time she kisses a man she gets a clear vision of how their relationship will end. But when wedding champagne blurs encounters with three potential suitors she must play detective to figure out which one is her longed-for happy ending!



Impossible Sarah Lotz

HarperCollins

A speculative romcom with an out-of-this-world twist ... The paths of Nick, a grumpy failed novelist, and Bee, a cheerful workaholic designer, cross over a misdirected email. Their connection is instant, electric, and will end up changing both of their lives – in multiple universes.



Ocean's Echo Everina Maxwell

Orbit UK

A queer chaos/order pairing in a space opera setting. A disaster socialite on a technologically advanced planet can't hide his mind-reading powers and gets conscripted. He's supposed to mind-bond with someone who can control him, but the lieutenant assigned to him is just as unwilling, so they fake it.

THE CHRISTMAS/FESTIVE HOLIDAY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



Christmas with his Ballerina Jessica Gilmore

Mills & Boon True Love

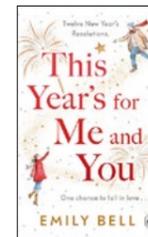
Widower Joshua is excited about his first family Christmas with his grown-up children in years. While readying his Vermont cabin he meets temporary neighbour, ex-ballerina Rebecca. Welcoming any distraction from her high-profile divorce, she offers to help. Although not looking for romance, in each other they find something completely unexpected.



Snowed in for Christmas Sarah Morgan

HQ

Lucy faces Christmas alone and being fired unless she can win a major piece of business from Ross Miller. Arriving at the Miller family's Highland home, she is mistaken for Ross's girlfriend. Before the confusion is cleared up, a storm hits and Lucy is snowed in with a family that isn't hers.



This Year's for Me and You Emily Bell

Penguin Michael Joseph

When Celeste discovers a list of New Year's resolutions left behind by her late best friend, she is determined to complete them. Through Hannah's last wishes Celeste begins to rediscover life – and love.



Merrily Ever After Cathy Bramley

Orion Fiction

As Merry juggles her business and her Christmas wedding, she's stretched to breaking point. Emily's father's dementia is worsening and she struggles to care for him. She discovers a photograph in his belongings that changes everything. As secrets from Ray's past resurface, will Christmas make or break Emily and Merry?



Santa, Please Bring Me a Boyfriend Sophie Ranald

Bookouture

With Christmas approaching, Rowan is starting to think that real love is just wishful thinking. Then her friends arrange an advent calendar to help get her spark back – and Rowan begins to realise that what she really wants in her stocking is handsome Alex, the driver who delivers her daily surprise.

THE SHORTER ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



The Earl's Mysterious Lady Louise Allen Mills & Boon Historical

Young Viola ran away leaving Guy Thurlow, the Earl of Easton, at the altar. Now Cressida Williams, she is shocked when Guy moves back to his family estate. He doesn't recognise her and they begin falling in love, but how can she tell him who she is without losing him?



Summer at Seaspray Cottage Angela Britnell Choc Lit

There's a reason Thea Armitage hasn't set foot in Cornwall in twenty years. But when she inherits her aunt's Cornish seaside cottage, a transatlantic trip from her home in Tennessee could be a necessity. Surely she won't bump into that 'reason' – Harry Venton – after all those years. Will she?



The Shopgirl's Forbidden Love Jenni Fletcher Mills & Boon Historical

Belles biscuit shop is more like home than work for Nancy MacQueen. The attraction between her and James Redbourne, the owner of another store, has been simmering for years, but she mistrusts his feelings. Until, one day, Nancy can't deny her love – only to find he's engaged to someone else!



Their Surprise Safari Reunion Ella Hayes Mills & Boon True Love

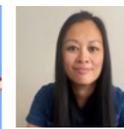
When travel blogger Maddie is invited to Masoka Game Reserve, she jumps at the chance to distance herself from London and the imminent media storm surrounding her corrupt father's release from jail. But when Maddie meets Masoka's mystery owner, she discovers the lover she never got to say goodbye to.



Stranded with My Forbidden Billionaire Lucy King Mills & Boon Modern

In paradise ... with my brother's best friend! When I won millions in the lottery, I knew financier Nick was the only person I could rely on to help me. But when a tropical storm has us stuck together on his island – indefinitely – how long can we control our dangerously growing attraction?

THE JANE WENHAM-JONES AWARD FOR ROMANTIC COMEDY



Great Sexpectations Kristen Bailey Bookouture

When Josie meets the very perfect Cameron, she holds back from telling him what she does for a living. She works for a sex toy empire. And her parents? They used to be porn stars. As secrets unfold and lies unravel, what lessons will Josie learn about love, life and herself?



Playing for Love Jeevani Charika HQ Digital

Sam is thrilled when she's teamed with famous video gamer Blaze in a virtual tournament. But Sam doesn't know that Blaze is the secret alter ego of Luke, her shy colleague. Luke has a crush on Sam. Sam has a crush on Blaze. How will this game of love play out?



The Woman Who Took a Chance Fiona Gibson Avon

When flight attendant Jen's airline goes bust, she is devastated. At 51, redundant and grounded, she's urged by friends to sign up to a dating site – as she finally has time to meet a man. But the turbulent world of midlife dating turns out to be her bumpiest ride yet.



Take a Chance on Greece Emily Kerr One More Chapter

When Lydia wakes after a night out in Kefalonia with a tattoo saying 'Awesome Andreas' she sets out to find the man who inspired her inking. But perhaps she's looking in the wrong places, and Mr Right is closer than she realises, if only she'd take a chance on him.



A Wedding at Sandy Cove Bella Osborne Avon

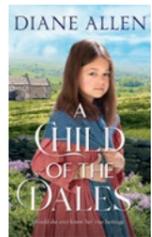
Ella is a seamstress who makes brides' dreams come true but Ella's own love life couldn't be further from a fairy tale. Recently dumped and with her best friend's wedding imminent, Ella finally accepts her friends' offers to set her up on a blind date.

THE ROMANTIC SAGA AWARD



The London Girls Soraya M. Lane Lake Union Publishing

From the bestselling author of *The Last Correspondent* comes a remarkable story of three young women who defy the bombs to do their bit for Britain. Will they survive the dark streets of London to see the Allies win the war?



A Child of the Dales Diane Allen Pan Macmillan

Abandoned by her mother on the steps of a remote inn, Ruby Blake is raised by Martha Metcalfe. However one stormy night, Ruby is reunited with her father and discovers her heritage is not what she thought it was. Neither father nor daughter feel quite whole until they find their true roots.



Courage for the Cornish Girls Betty Walker Avon

1942. Enemy gunfire on Penzance beach brings Demelza, Lily and Violet rushing to the rescue. As the war rages around them, the biggest challenge facing each woman turns out to be one of the heart. Can the Cornish Girls help one another to open themselves up to love?



A New Start for the Wrens Vicki Beeby Canelo

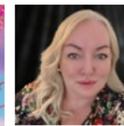
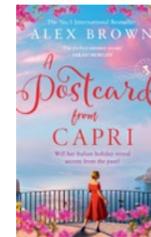
Spoiled, wealthy Iris Tredwick joins the WRNS and is sent to a remote posting in Orkney. Soon she meets mechanic Rob, but her domineering mother does not approve. Then tragedy strikes, and Iris fears the enemy is at work on the island. Can she and her friends prevent another disaster?



A Mother's War Mollie Walton Welbeck Publishing Group

North Yorkshire, September 1939. Rosina Calvert-Lazenby is the widowed matriarch of Raven Hall. When the RAF come to stay, Rosina is intrigued by their young, charismatic sergeant Harry. Grace is 21, the eldest of Rosina's five daughters. Joining the Wrens, she trades the safety of home for acts of secrecy.

THE HISTORICAL ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



A Postcard from Capri Alex Brown HarperCollins

On a visit to her grandmother's cottage, photographer Maddie Williams unearths a box of old film memorabilia and a postcard from the island of Capri in 1953. Drawn into a 70-year old secret, Maddy must travel to Capri to uncover the truth. Will her magical island escape hold some surprises for Maddie, too?



The Legacy of Halesham Hall Jenni Keer Headline Accent

1920. Phoebe Bellingham arrives at Halesham Hall to uncover the truth of the estrangement between her father and her uncle. But the Hall hides dark secrets and, when her uncle sets her a series of puzzles, she finds her heart on the line, even though all she wanted was revenge.



The Three Lives of Alix St Pierre Natasha Lester Sphere

Determined to escape her dangerous past, Alix moves to Paris to work as a publicist for the yet-to-be-launched House of Christian Dior. But when a figure from her old life reappears and threatens her future, Alix realizes that she'll need to do something drastic to right the wrongs of the past.



The Dressmaker's Secret Lorna Cook Avon

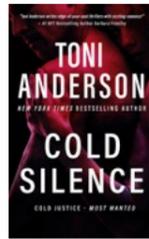
1941, Nazi-occupied Paris: As Coco Chanel's assistant, Adèle lives alongside German officers in the splendour of The Ritz hotel. But Adèle is working for the resistance, right under the Germans' noses. Adèle must decide if she should risk everything to save innocent lives and protect the man she loves.



Before the Dawn Emma Pass Aria (Head of Zeus)

1943. In Devon, Ruby Mottram dreams of a more exciting life. In America, Sam Archer enlists so he can earn enough money to help his mother and sister escape his abusive stepfather. Meeting brings them the chance of love, but fate, in the shape of D-Day, has other ideas.

THE JACKIE COLLINS AWARD FOR ROMANTIC THRILLERS



Cold Silence
Toni Anderson
Independent

A white-hat hacker and a member of the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team race against time to stop a serial killer who is auctioning his dark deeds in cyberspace.



Six Days
Dani Atkins
Aria (Head of Zeus)

When Finn is a no-show at his wedding everyone thinks Gemma has been jilted ... except her. The police won't help, so Gemma spends the next six days looking for Finn, uncovering some shocking revelations. How long can she keep her faith when everyone is telling her to let Finn go?



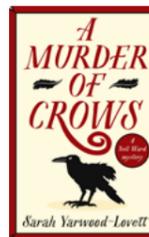
My Other Husband
Dorothy Koomson
Headline Review

Cleo Forsum's TV series is hugely successful. But now she's leaving and getting divorced before her past catches up with her. As she drafts the final episodes, someone tries to frame her for murder. Cleo can't prove her innocence, because then she'd have to confess about her other husband.



The Serial Killer's Girl
L.H. Stacey
Boldwood Books

Lexi Jakes thought she could run from her past ... she was wrong. Because when her biological mother is found dead, with all the same hallmarks of her own serial killer father, Lexi knows someone is out for revenge, and that she and her small daughter, Isla, could be next.



A Murder of Crows
Sarah Yarwood-Lovett
Embla Books (Bonnie Books UK)

Nell Ward is an ecologist, not a detective. So, while inspecting an old tunnel near a manor house, in Cookingdean village, she doesn't expect to overhear a murder, become a prime suspect, or, with her colleague Adam, rely on ecological skills to solve the crime and clear her name.

THE CONTEMPORARY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



The Little Shop of Hidden Treasures
Holly Hepburn
Simon & Schuster UK

When Hope loses her husband, she moves home to York to be near her family and rebuild her life. Taking a job at the antique shop, she discovers an enigmatic ring that leads her to two very different men. Can the ring's secrets help Hope to trust her heart again?



A Cottage Full of Secrets
Jane Lovering
Boldwood Books

In 1973, Stella made a home in a little cottage in Yorkshire. In 2022, Tamzin moves into the cottage and begins to investigate Stella's past, little suspecting that they share a background of abuse. With help from new friends, Tamzin frees herself from her past and makes a new future.



Cornish Clouds and Silver Lining Skies
Ali McNamara
Sphere

Meteorologist Sky Matthews is forced to take a new job on a Cornish island working alongside TV weatherman Sonny, who barely knows his storms from his tsunamis. Strange weather patterns over the island encourage Sky to question everything she thought she knew about the weather, herself ... and Sonny.



Elodie's Library of Second Chances
Rebecca Raisin
HQ Digital

Determined to leave her famous family's media empire behind, Elodie takes a quiet library job in quaint Willow Grove. Soon, she discovers she isn't the only one in town who hopes for a new beginning – and sets out to share the life stories of overlooked locals.



Finding Happiness at Heritage View
Helen Rolfe
Boldwood Books

Hazel loves working with horses and managing Heritage View stables but she's not been the same since a terrible incident. Gus is starting over in Heritage Cove with his daughter and his vet practice. Neither of them are looking for love but could they each be what the other needs?

RECIPIENT OF THE RNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Bestselling author Katie Fforde has been honoured with the RNA Lifetime Achievement Award for her almost-30 year career as an author and for her dedication and service to the RNA. Katie is a #1 bestselling author and has sold over 4.5 million books in the UK alone. She lives in the beautiful Cotswold countryside with her family and is a true country girl at heart. Katie has been President of the Romantic Novelists' Association since 2011 and founded the Katie Fforde Bursary to support aspiring authors. To many, she is the 'Godmother of Romantic Fiction'.

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