



2024

Awards Finalists

THE POPULAR ROMANTIC FICTION AWARD



Fly Me to Paris
Helga Jensen
Hera Books

Wanting a new start, 50-year-old Penny applies for a job as cabin crew. Whilst her new job brings her adventure, it also means flying with the impossibly handsome but annoying pilot, Matt Garcia. When they're stuck in Paris together the chemistry between them grows. But will Matt's past come between them?



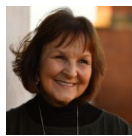
The Wedding Dress Repair Shop
Trisha Ashley
Transworld

When Historical Costumier Garland Fairford loses her fiancé Marco and her job she is thrilled to accept long-lost relative Honey's offer of work setting up a Museum of Bridal Misfortune. Leaving London she's shocked to find a ghost from her past – Thom. Can she repair both the wedding dresses and her relationship with Thom?



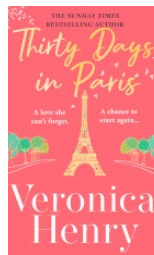
One Night in Hartswood
Emma Denny
Mills & Boon

After Penn de Foucart flees his own wedding, he must rely on tracker Raff Barden for his escape. Unbeknownst to them both, Raff is the brother of Penn's abandoned bride. As they travel, their deepening bond is threatened by the secrets they both keep.



Bridget's War
Shirley Mann
Zaffre (Bonnier Books)

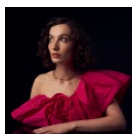
Manx policewoman Bridget Harrison is furious to be sent home to a WWII internment camp on the Isle of Man that includes both Nazis and Jews. She expects to be bored but instead uncovers a dangerous plot. It's fortunate she has her two childhood friends, Fynn and Kieran to help – or is it?



Thirty Days in Paris
Veronica Henry
Orion

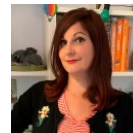
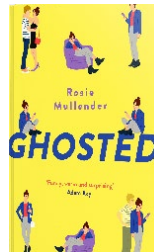
Years ago, Juliet left a piece of her heart in Paris – and now, newly separated, it's time to get it back! At the Gare du Nord, the memories return: bustling streets, candlelit bars and a handsome boy with glittering eyes. Whatever happens, Juliet knows Paris is always a good idea...

THE FANTASY ROMANTIC NOVEL



Girl, Goddess, Queen
Bea Fitzgerald
Penguin

Persephone wasn't taken to hell: she jumped. Now all she has to do is convince the Underworld's annoyingly sexy, arrogant and frankly rude ruler, Hades, to fall in line with her plan. A plan that will shake Mount Olympus to its very core.



Ghosed
Rosie Mullender
Sphere

When Emily's boyfriend disappeared from her life, she pretended she didn't care. But when he suddenly appears in her flat, she realises she wasn't ghosted after all. Andy, now a spirit, died in mysterious circumstances – and to get him to the other side, Emily needs to find out how...



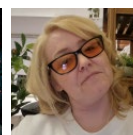
One Christmas Morning
Rachel Greenlaw
HQ (HarperCollins)

Eva attends a party at a manor house in Cornwall and wakes up on Christmas morning in the body of another guest. As Eva relives Christmas Day from the perspectives of those closest to her, she realises she needs to change, before she loses those she loves.



Maybe Next Time
Cesca Major
Harper Fiction

It's Monday and busy literary agent Emma's 'dateversary' – only Emma has forgotten. Again. And by the end of the day everything has changed. When she wakes the next morning it's Monday again. She realises she has the chance to change everything, and potentially save her husband from his fate.



The Wicked in Me
Suzanne Wright
Piatkus

When witches come back from the afterlife, they don't always come back the same. And they don't always come back alone.

THE DEBUT ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



One Moment Becky Hunter Corvus (Atlantic)

One Moment is the story of Scarlett and Evie, who have been best friends since they were little. So when Scarlett dies because she stops to help Nate, Evie falls apart. But Nate keeps popping up, determined to make things right. And little do they know that Scarlett's story is far from over...



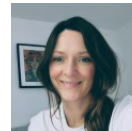
The Little Board Game Café Jennifer Page Aria (Head of Zeus)

Emily is pursuing her dream of running a café in the Yorkshire village of Essendale, but customers are few and far between. A chance meeting with board games enthusiast Ludek gives her an idea. Can a playful twist, a homely welcome, and a sprinkle of love transform the café's fortunes?



Be More Octopus Suzanne Lissaman Octosulis Publishing

Is accidentally hitting a handsome professor with a vacuum cleaner a good way to start a new relationship? Em doesn't think so, and she's happy being single. But there was definitely a spark, and it didn't come from the Hoover.



The Accidental Housemate Sal Thomas One More Chapter

Cath, single mum of three, has her 40th in sight, a precarious hold on employment, and the ashes of her late husband Gaz on the kitchen table. To make ends meet a student lodger seems like the perfect solution – after all, what's one more teenager in the house? But when a decidedly more mature Dan arrives from the US, it's clear there's been a major misunderstanding...



A Mother's War Helen Parusel Boldwood Books

In 1940s Narvik, Laila resists the Nazis, shocked by locals' affairs with enemy soldiers. Against her principles, she falls for German soldier Josef, who joins the resistance. Learning she's pregnant, and with Josef at the Russian front, Laila seeks refuge in a women's home, only to confront an unimaginable system of evil beyond her expectations.

THE CHRISTMAS/FESTIVE HOLIDAY ROMANCE NOVEL AWARD



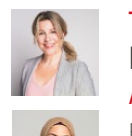
One Winter's Night Kate Frost Boldwood Books

After a heart-breaking loss Molly escapes to Iceland to focus on her neglected relationship. But when her boyfriend 'misses' his flight, she's forced to rethink everything. Will sorrow destroy her chance at happiness, or can new love sparkle as the land of fire and ice begins to work its magic?



The Christmas Season Ally Sinclair Hera Books

Emma Love is a matchmaker who believes in old-fashioned courtship over swiping left or right. This Christmas, she's inviting you to a very special social season, where a hopeful singleton might find their own Mr Darcy waiting under the mistletoe. At a series of glamorous, festive, events, Emma is on a mission to find love for everybody...



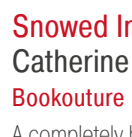
Three Holidays and a Wedding Marissa Stapley & Uzma Jalaluddin Atlantic Books

From two bestselling authors comes a multi-faith holiday rom-com about the delightful havoc that occurs when Christmas, Ramadan, and Hanukkah all fall at the same time, and two strangers-turned-friends are snowbound in the small, charming town of Snow Falls along with the cast and crew of a holiday romance movie, nosy family members, and their lifelong crushes.



Only For Christmas Tracy Corbett Canelo

To avoid the attentions of an overzealous work colleague, Sarah enters into a fake relationship with hot new doctor, Lucas, who is visiting from Minnesota until the New Year. As Lucas' time to leave draws closer, Sarah realises she's not ready to say goodbye, but Lucas' life is back in America...



Snowed In Catherine Walsh Bookouture

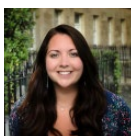
A completely hilarious fake dating, forced proximity romantic comedy

THE SHORTER ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



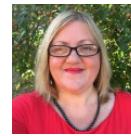
Becoming the Earl's Convenient Wife
Louise Allen
Harlequin Mills & Boon

Isobel, the daughter of a lord, is deeply unhappy at home. When her childhood friend Leo discovers he will only inherit his fortune if he marries, she becomes his convenient countess, escaping her home. But she can't escape the feelings she has for her husband – who loves another woman.



The Housekeeper's Forbidden Earl
Laura Martin
Harlequin Mills & Boon

After being abandoned at the altar, housekeeper Kate Winters has finally found peace working at the country house of long absent Lord Henderson. When the earl unexpectedly returns, determined to sell his estate, Kate resolves to change his mind but instead starts to fall for the man behind the title.



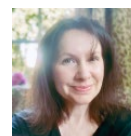
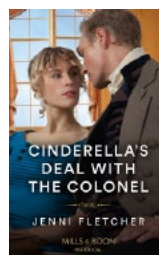
Tempted by her Fake Fiancé
Kate Hardy
Harlequin Mills & Boon

A fiancé for the cameras...or forever? When Elle helps Charlie promote her childhood home, Bluebell Farm, as a wedding venue, ignoring their chemistry isn't easy – especially when they become the focus of the campaign and everyone is convinced their posed engagement is real!



Lonely in Paris
Lisa Stanbridge
Crystal Book Publishing

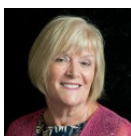
After a bad relationship, Jane swears off men while she's in Paris. Then she meets Jacques, a wealthy man on his own journey. They couldn't be more different, but their chemistry soon fuels a passionate romance. As challenges emerge, they must decide what they'll sacrifice for love.



Cinderella's Deal with the Colonel
Jenni Fletcher
Harlequin Mills & Boon

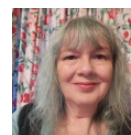
When a marquess's scheme ruins Abigail's father, she wants retribution, but her plans of confronting the scoundrel go awry when his younger brother Colonel Theodore Marshall offers her a job as his secretary. Only working so closely isn't as easy as she expected, especially when each encounter sparks with tension!

THE ROMANTIC SAGA AWARD



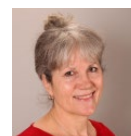
The Secret Sister
Jan Baynham
Choc Lit/Joffe

Travel from wartime Wales and a forbidden love affair between an Italian Prisoner of War and a young local woman to sixties Sicily in this breathtaking cross-generational saga. Their daughter is rocked by her family's secret past when she visits the island to discover why her father could never return.



A New Start at the Beach Hotel
Francesca Capaldi
Hera Books

June 1914. Edie Moore seeks work at the prestigious Beach Hotel. She soon makes friends and grows close to charming porter, Charlie, finding the happiness she's been seeking. However, Edie is hiding a secret from her past. If it's revealed, will Edie keep the new life she loves so much?



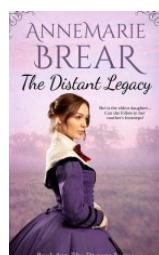
A Woman of Courage
Rita Bradshaw
Pan Macmillan

In 1891 Josie Gray marries Adam McGuigan on her sixteenth birthday - the son of a dangerous crime family. Trapped in a living nightmare, her life is in danger. She escapes to America with her baby, and fights to make a new life. Love beckons but the past is far reaching.



A Wedding for the Cornish Girls
Betty Walker
Avon (HarperCollins)

Alice receives a mysterious summons to a special war unit in Bude, and her best friend Penny, a Land Girl, agrees to accompany her. When American troops are billeted on their boarding house, run by young widow Florence, can love triumph for these Cornish Girls amidst the uncertainty of war?



The Distant Legacy
AnneMarie Brear
Independently Published

Book 3 in the Distant Series. When Bridget Kittrick is kidnapped by bushrangers, she fears she'll never see her family again. Can her brothers, and the intriguing Lincoln Huntley, find her in time before she is ruined or dead, or will she now live forever with an educated convict hiding from the world? One woman. Two men with hidden pasts. What is her fate?

THE ROMANTIC COMEDY AWARD



You've Got This
Maxine Morrey
Boldwood Books

Fleur, homeless after the end of a stifling relationship, finds herself at a beautiful Welsh hotel. Matt, a military veteran struggling to cope with his experiences, finds in her a kindred spirit. The recuperative powers of the stunning countryside work their magic as Fleur and Matt search together for the people they're meant to be.



Looking Out for Love
Sophia Money-Coutts
HQ (HarperCollins)

Should we champion romantic love above all other forms? Looking Out For Love examines the many glorious forms that love can take, and follows heroine Stella Shakespeare as she works out what life is really about. Plus an eccentric 'affair hunter' called Marjorie and a retired police dog called Basil.



Jana Goes Wild
Farah Heron
Piatkus Books (Little Brown Book Group)

Jana is in the bridal party for a wedding in Tanzania... and so is her gorgeous-but-not-to-be-trusted ex. When the bridesmaids concoct a go-wild list to get Jana through the week, she realises it's one thing to walk on the wild side, and quite another to fall for her ex again.



Chasing the Light
Julia Boggio
Midnight Publishing

Second chances, Bollywood and talking rats make Chasing the Light the perfect beach holiday read. Through the story of Francesca March, it questions whether we're all worthy of love, even if it's at the expense of someone else's dreams.



The Break-Up Clause
Niamh Hargan
Harper Fiction

When Benjamin swans into Fia's New York law firm, it's no secret they dislike each other. But there's one secret no one knows. The last time they met was at a Las Vegas wedding chapel. Now, if anyone discovers they're husband and wife, both their jobs are on the line.

THE HISTORICAL ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



The Night She Met the Duke
Sarah Mallory
Harlequin Mills & Boon

Having been called "a lady as dull as her name," Prudence flees London to become her aunt's companion. It is an unexciting life, until she finds the handsome and enigmatic Duke of Hartland sitting at the kitchen table one night...



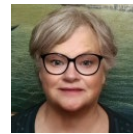
The Secret Shore
Liz Fenwick
HQ (HarperCollins)

Merry, one of the Navy's most skilled mapmakers, knows lives depend on her work. But when a family crisis draws her back to Cornwall, Merry finds herself working alongside an enigmatic American on secret operations. Not everything is as clear as the maps she draws. It's a dangerous time to fall in love...



A Secret Garden Affair
Erica James
HQ (HarperCollins)

It's July 1981 and as the country prepares to celebrate the Royal Wedding, Libby flees London and her cheating fiancé for Larkspur House in Suffolk. There she hopes to mend her broken heart in the company of her great-aunt Bess and renowned garden designer and former socialite Elfrida.



The Flame Tree
Siobhan Daiko
Independently Published

When colonial service cadet Will sets sail for Hong Kong in 1939, he meets beautiful Connie during the journey. Romance blossoms but, once they arrive, will war and duty tear them apart? A tale of love and survival against all the odds, The Flame Tree is inspired by true events.



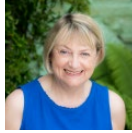
Never Wager with a Wallflower
Virginia Heath
Headline Eternal

Venus Merriwell knows exactly what she wants in a husband: a selfless academic, free from all the wretched vices of her gambling father. Gambling isn't just Galahad Sinclair's life, it's in his blood. He's about to build the pleasure palace of his dreams in Covent Garden. The only fly in his ointment? His perfect building just happens to be right next door to the orphanage Venus volunteers at.

THE JACKIE COLLINS AWARD FOR ROMANTIC THRILLERS



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Masquerade on the Riviera
Evonne Wareham
Choc-Lit/Joffe

Renowned Egyptologist Dr Elliott Elwood and mysterious private investigator Maisie Norris are thrown together on the trail of a stolen artefact – the 'Cleopatra Necklace' – an infamous piece rumoured to be cursed – in a chase that takes them from the English Riviera to the glamour of Monaco.



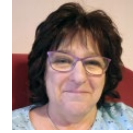
Bad Men
Julie Mae Cohen
Zaffre (Bonnier Books)

Saffy has a shameful secret. It's not that she's a serial killer. After all, she's only killing bad men. She's making the world a better place. Her secret is far worse: Saffy has a crush. So while she's busy plotting her next murder, she also has the much harder task of getting a boyfriend.



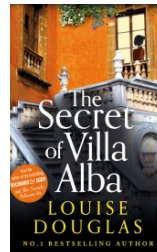
The Dance Teacher of Paris
Suzanne Fortin
Embla Books

During the Nazi occupation, Parisian teacher Adele Basset continues dance lessons for her students. When the Germans demand the names of her Jewish students, Adele knows they are in danger and hides them in the school attic, risking her life to keep them safe.



Viscount in Hiding
Caitlyn Callery
The Wild Rose Press

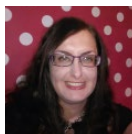
Adam Mason must find the leader of a treasonous smuggling gang. He's sure his quarry is Catherine Ashton's father, who persuaded her to reject Adam two years ago. Now, if Adam finds enough evidence to arrest him, Catherine and her family will be ruined. But is that what he wants?



The Secret of Villa Alba
Louise Douglas
Boldwood Books

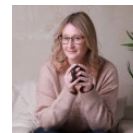
This is the story of Irene Borgata who disappears from a broken-down car on a remote Sicilian mountain road months after the area was devastated by an earthquake. What really happened to Enzo Borgata's lively young wife? A story of love, loyalty, secrets, truth and lies.

THE CONTEMPORARY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD



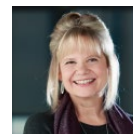
A Midnight Kiss on Ever After Street
Jaimie Admans
Boldwood Books

Shy Cinderella-like seamstress Sadie goes to a fairytale ball at the local castle, knowing she has to be home by midnight. She doesn't expect to meet Prince Charming and spend a magical night with him... and she definitely doesn't expect him not to recognise her the next morning!



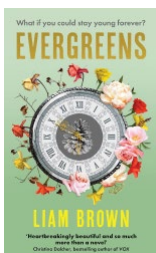
Summer at the Chateau
Annabel French
Avon (HarperCollins)

A newly single girl. A tall, dark and handsome stranger. A crumbling chateau that keeps bringing them together. What could possibly go wrong? As Lizzie spends the summer in France, mending the chateau will she also mend her broken heart?



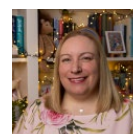
Summer Wedding
Sarah Morgan
HQ (HarperCollins)

Catherine Swift is a bestselling romance author, but three failed marriages have left her relationship with her two daughters strained. Engaged once again, Catherine is counting on this wedding, at her villa in Corfu, to reunite the family for better or for worse, but that means revealing long kept secrets.



Evergreens
Liam Brown
Legend Press

When Ben joins the Evergreens project, a controversial medical trial that promises to keep him young forever, his girlfriend Sophie is unconvinced. Decades later, her fears come true. With Ben hospitalised and ageing rapidly, Sophie races to uncover the dark secret at the heart of Evergreens – and save Ben's life.



The Start of Something Wonderful
Jessica Redland
Boldwood Books

After losing her creative spark Autumn's penpal, Rosie, invites her to stay in the stunning Lake District. Where better to re-discover her creativity than the place which inspired her heroine, Beatrix Potter? A new beginning is a daunting prospect, but could it be the start of something wonderful too?

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ANTON DU BEKE

The Paris Affair by Anton Du Beke
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