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Romancing The Beat: Story Structure For Romance Novels (How To Write Kissing Books Book 1)

Romancing the Beat

STORY STRUCTURE
FOR ROMANCE NOVELS



Gwen Hayes

★ HOW TO WRITE KISSING BOOKS ★



Synopsis

What makes a romance novel a romance? How do you write a kissing book? Writing a well-structured romance isn't the same as writing any other genre—“something the popular novel and screenwriting guides don’t address. The romance arc is made up of its own story beats, and the external plot and theme need to be braided to the romance arc—not the other way around. Told in conversational (and often irreverent) prose, *Romancing the Beat* can be read like you are sitting down to coffee with romance editor and author Gwen Hayes while she explains story structure. The way she does with her clients. Some of whom are regular inhabitants of the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists. *Romancing the Beat* is a recipe, not a rigid system. The beats don’t care if you plot or outline before you write, or if you pants your way through the drafts and do a beat check • when you’re revising. Pantsers and plotters are both welcome. So sit down, grab a cuppa, and let’s talk about kissing books.

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Customer Reviews

First things first. Tessa Dare recommends this. She writes WONDERFUL, fresh, funny historical romances, esp. her Spindle Cove series and imo the perfect debut, Goddess of the Hunt. So that's that. (But she wrote those before this came out, so she was a natural from the get-go. Maybe a grocery list is all she needs.) In sum, this is an organized to-do list for those who already know what they're doing. If, like me, you are not Tessa Dare but dearly wish you were, you might want some more help than offered here. For what it's worth I found this too short, sketchy and narrowly formulaic to be really helpful. As a checklist, it's useful; as an exploration of what makes a romance hum along, maybe not so much. The author translates the 22-step outline of John Truby for story into the romance genre alone but I think there are even more helpful resources, if that's what you're looking for. I also made a mistake ordering paperback. Kindle is the right format. It's not a keeper. There's a 20-step outline on p.22. The good thing and the bad thing is, once you get the gist of this, you've got it all. Each following section describes in a paragraph or two a point in the main outline. There are do's and don'ts scattered here and there, such as don't dump background info into the story like an airplane drops blue toilet gunk in midair. (Too much can kill a guy in a convertible or your novel.) Point taken. But for me, it's just okay. I don't doubt the author knows what she's doing, I just wished she'd put more on the page. Leigh Michaels, *On Writing Romance*, provides more explanation of the romance elements and their variations, so more than one formula. It's excellent on structure, character arcs, developing romance and obstacles.

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