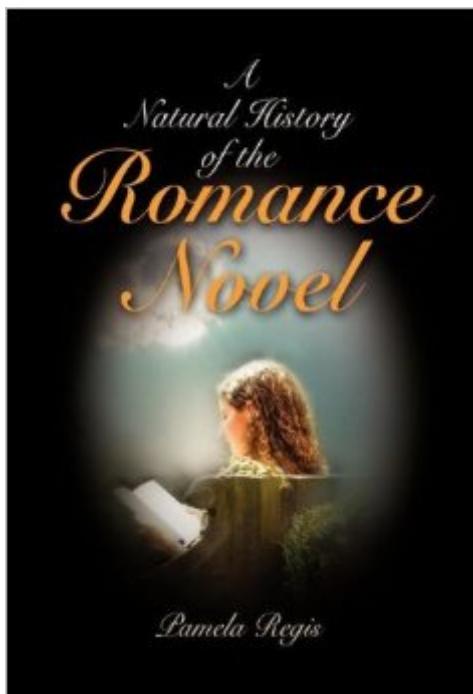


The book was found

A Natural History Of The Romance Novel



Synopsis

The romance novel has the strange distinction of being the most popular but least respected of literary genres. While it remains consistently dominant in bookstores and on best-seller lists, it is also widely dismissed by the critical community. Scholars have alleged that romance novels help create subservient readers, who are largely women, by confining heroines to stories that ignore issues other than love and marriage. Pamela Regis argues that such critical studies fail to take into consideration the personal choice of readers, offer any true definition of the romance novel, or discuss the nature and scope of the genre. Presenting the counterclaim that the romance novel does not enslave women but, on the contrary, is about celebrating freedom and joy, Regis offers a definition that provides critics with an expanded vocabulary for discussing a genre that is both classic and contemporary, sexy and entertaining. Taking the stance that the popular romance novel is a work of literature with a brilliant pedigree, Regis asserts that it is also a very old, stable form. She traces the literary history of the romance novel from canonical works such as Richardson's *Pamela* through Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and E. M. Hull's *The Sheik*, and then turns to more contemporary works such as the novels of Georgette Heyer, Mary Stewart, Janet Dailey, Jayne Ann Krentz, and Nora Roberts.

Book Information

File Size: 758 KB

Print Length: 239 pages

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press (August 31, 2013)

Publication Date: August 31, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C3K6CZC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #513,913 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #80

in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Romance #100

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements &

Customer Reviews

If an indignant member of the 'If you have any criticisms of romantic novels or their defenders, then it must be because you have never read any/don't understand the genre' school wishes to post an angry comment on my objections to the arguments advanced in Pamela Regis' book, then please don't. I have read many romantic novels and even sometimes, write them. Three stars, because I don't believe in giving low star ratings because I disagree agree with a writer's arguments. I don't normally write such scathing reviews, but this book's soft treatment of rapist heroes really dismayed me and I thought the author did the genre no favours by putting forward illogical arguments. With this book, though, I was really tempted to give a low star rating, if only because the author falls over backwards to justify the heroine of 'Pamela' in her idiotic choice of marrying her one time would be rapist Mr B. In this, she makes the following astounding statement: - 'The story can be called oppressive, I think, only if one believes that marriage is an institution so flawed that it cannot be good for a woman.' Excuse me! What sort of an argument is this? (Steam bursts from my ears!) I can't dispute that Professor Regis does think that, but it's a ridiculous assertion. The story can be called oppressive because it romanticizes the relationship between a would be rapist and his victim in the most distasteful way. The story can be called oppressive, because the heroine is wholly oppressed by Mr B both before he puts the relationship on a nominally respectable basis, and afterwards, when he controls her every behaviour. Not only that, but Regis has unfortunately neglected her research.

Pamela Regis' book, *A Natural History of the Romance Novel*, is a remarkable example of circular reasoning in literary analysis. She sets up a very specific definition of the concept "romance novel" -- namely "a work of prose fiction that tells the story of the courtship and betrothal of one or more heroines." In Chapter 4, *The Definition Expanded*, she then narrows this definition by defining eight aspects which she perceives as necessary to the form: Society Defined, The Meeting, The Barrier, The Attraction, The Declaration, Point of Ritual Death, The Recognition, and The Betrothal. It should be noted that in this context, she presumes that the "betrothal" will occur between the hero and heroine, thus eliminating from the "romance novel" category an immensely popular work such as Anthony Hope's 1895 *The Prisoner of Zenda*, which followed the trope of love between hero and heroine sacrificed to the more imperative needs of honor and duty. Given these tight limits on what

the author is willing to consider to be a "romance novel," she focuses on tracing the form from Joseph Richardson's 18th century epistolary blockbuster, *Pamela*, through Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, and other selected 19th century authors, picking up Georgette Heyer in the first half of the 20th century, and continuing through Janet Dailey, Jayne Ann Krentz, and Nora Roberts. From the perspective of the historian rather than the literary critic, the major deficiency of the book lies in its lack of attention to authors who, in their own time, were blockbuster bestsellers.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Erotica Stories: Historical Erotic Romance Novels - Adult Love Story Collection of Victorian Romance, Regency Romance, Adult Romance, Highlander Romance, Viking History Romance, XXX, Novels for Women BWWM Romance: Lust During The Heat Of The Moment: A Billionaire Interracial Romance BWWM (Alpha Male Erotic Romance, Billionaire Taboo Romance, Contemporary Erotica Romance) Natural Remedies for Dogs : 101 Safe & Natural Essential Oils' Remedies for Your DOG: (Natural Remedies For Dogs, Essential Oils Remedies For Dogs, Natural Dog Care, Recipes For Dogs, Home Remedies) BDSMerotica Romance: A Dark Billionaire Romance Series Complete Boxed Set: BDSMerotica Romance Series (A Dark Billionaire BDSMerotica Romance Full Book Collection) Historical Romance: Maid for Majesty Absence Erotica Version (Maid for Majesty Series Book 2 Historical Romance, Victorian Romance, Regency Erotica, Erotic Romance) Alien Romance: Her Alien Beast: Scifi Alien Abduction Romance (Alien Romance, Alien Invasion Romance, BBW) (Space Beasts Book 1) Alien Romance: The Barbarian's Owned: Scifi Alien Abduction Romance (Alien Romance, Alien Invasion Romance, BBW) (Celestial Mates Book 1) Alien Romance: Caged By The Alien: Scifi Alien Abduction Romance (Alien Romance, Alien Invasion Romance, BBW) (Celestial Mates Book 4) Alien Romance: The Alien's Pregnant Mate: Scifi Alien Abduction Romance (Alien Romance, Alien Invasion Romance, BBW) (Celestial Mates Book 2) Alien Romance: Stranded With The Alien Assassin: Scifi Alien Abduction Romance (Alien Romance, Alien Invasion Romance, BBW) (Celestial Mates Book 3) Adult Romance: Adult Bedtime Short Stories - Sultry XXX Romantic Billionaire Romance, Mail Order Bride Historical Romance, Western, Alpha Male Love, New Adult, Victorian Romance, Bedtime Anthology History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11) A Natural History of the Romance Novel Natural Relief from Asthma (Natural Health Guide) (Alive Natural Health Guides) The Idea of Natural Rights: Studies on Natural Rights, Natural Law, and Church Law 1150 1625 (Emory University Studies in Law and

Religion) Mallory - Billionaire Romance Series: A Billionaire Romance Box Set 1-10 (An Alpha Billionaire Romance) Military Romance Series: Soldier's Bride: (Alpha Billionaire Arranged Marriage Romance) (Military Romance Novels) ROMANCE: Triple Heat (Menage Bad Boy Threesome Pregnancy Romance) (Contemporary Alpha Male Romance) Historical Romance: Maid for Majesty Forbidden Fruit Erotica Version (Maid for Majesty Series Book 1 Historical Erotica, Victorian Romance, Regency Erotica, Erotic Romance)

[Dmca](#)