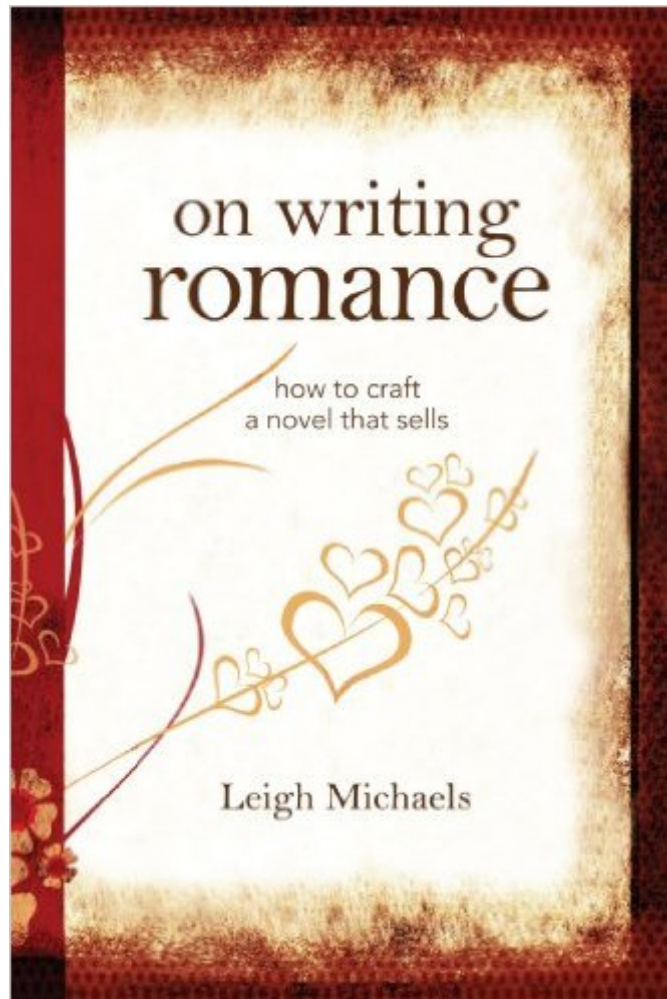


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# On Writing Romance: How To Craft A Novel That Sells



## Synopsis

Sweep Readers Off Their Feet With a Romance They'll Never Forget! In *On Writing Romance*, award-winning romance novelist Leigh Michaels talks you through each stage of the writing and publishing process. From the origins and evolution of the romance novel to establishing a vital story framework to writing that last line to seeking out appropriate publishers, everything you ever wanted to know about writing a romance novel is here. In addition to a comprehensive breakdown of more than thirty romance subgenres, including such categories as historical, inspirational, Regency, and sweet traditional, you'll discover how to:

- Steer clear of clichés and stereotypes by studying the genre
- Craft engaging and realistic heroes and heroines readers will adore
- Convincingly develop the central couple's blossoming relationship
- Add conflict by utilizing essential secondary characters like the "other woman"
- Use tension and timing to make your love scenes sizzle with sensuality
- Get your characters to happily-ever-after with an ending readers will always remember

Plus, read a sample query letter, cover letter, and synopsis, and learn how to properly prepare your romance novel for submission to agents and editors. *On Writing Romance* has everything you need to leave readers swooning!

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books (January 30, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582974365

ISBN-13: 978-1582974361

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (58 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #339,485 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Romance](#) #519 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Authorship](#) #1217 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > Creative Writing & Composition](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'm a recent college graduate with a degree in English Literature who, very recently, came to the conclusion that if I could spend the rest of my life writing romance novels, I'd be a happy camper. Without the time (or money) to enroll in a creative writing MFA program, or even an

in-person writing workshop, I've had to "educate" myself with books on writing style. I've read and skimmed several over the past several months--books on dialogue, scene/plot development, characterization, etc--but Leigh Michaels' "On Writing" is the ONLY style book I've been literally compelled to read cover-to-cover. Usually, I start these types of books with the best laid plans, then end up skimming or skipping to the pertinent parts (i.e., what I need help with at that moment), but THIS book is so well-structured, it pulls you along. Aimed at the beginning romance writer (like me!), Michaels' clearly outlines common pitfalls and cliches to avoid, gives extremely helpful tips on how to write "from a male POV" or "a female POV", and goes so far as to explain the structure, layout and general guidelines for several types of romance fiction (inspiration, sweet, short contemporary, long contemporary, chick-lit AND erotica). Basically, no matter what type of romance you're trying to write, there are helpful tips for you! It's also chock-full of excerpts from published romance novels, which helps Michaels illustrate the topics she's discussing (there's one section where she points out how silly the overusage of dialogue tags can be that made me laugh out loud). I just bought this book yesterday and, despite the fact that it's really just a style book, I've read almost the entire 250-some pages.

While there are certainly some excellent romance-writing specific bits in here, most of the information is the same old basic how-to write any type of genre stuff. I have at least a dozen of those already. I wanted the whole book to be specifically on writing romance novels and it was far from it. If you are new to writing and want to do romance then this book is a good investment, maybe four or even five stars. But if you already know how to write, this book is not really worth it in my opinion. Things I learned from this book were to always introduce your hero and heroine in chapter one and there should be some kind of tension between them right away. Don't let them fall in love too fast or too late. Don't separate them for more than a chapter or two at a time; find ways to bring them and keep together as much as possible. Keep ramping up the romantic tension between them by using a lot of tags (like "her ivory shoulders beckoned to him" instead of "he wanted to hold her"). Make sure the romance never takes a backseat to anything else. A lot of the "rules" of romantic fiction seem to be just common sense but there are several that will not be readily apparent to a writer unfamiliar with the genre and that's where this book shines. Unfortunately, there's just not enough romance-specific tips and tricks to justify the price for me. Other useful books I recommend for writing romance (or any genre, for that matter) are: Romance Writer's Phrase Book (Perigee),

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