



COMMON ROMANCE TROPE VARIANTS IN SUB GENRES

ROM-COM

1. Enemies to Lovers (with Snark)

- Two people who can't stand each other (colleagues, neighbors, rival business owners) keep getting thrown together.
- Their sarcastic jabs turn into flirtation, then into undeniable attraction.

2. Fake Dating / Marriage of Convenience

- Two characters pretend to be a couple for some external reason (impressing family, getting a job promotion, securing an inheritance).
- They set rules... and then break every single one when real feelings get involved.

3. Friends to Lovers (Oblivious to Love)

- One or both characters have been secretly in love for years.
- Often involves a major moment (jealousy, a fake relationship, or a drunken confession) that forces them to finally see each other.

4. Grumpy & Sunshine

- One character is serious, brooding, or socially awkward; the other is an extroverted ray of sunshine.
- The sunshine character slowly melts the grump's heart (often with exasperated patience).

5. Only One Bed

- Due to bad luck, bad planning, or a hotel mix-up, the characters have to share a single bed.
- Cue awkwardness, tension, and the classic "we must stay on our own sides" rule that inevitably gets broken.

6. The Makeover Glow-Up

- One character gets a physical or confidence-boosting transformation (new clothes, new hair, new attitude).
- The love interest suddenly realizes what was right in front of them all along.

7. Opposites Attract

- A chaotic, free-spirited artist and a buttoned-up corporate lawyer.
- A reckless adventurer and a play-it-safe planner.
- They clash, but their differences balance each other perfectly.

8. Accidental / Awkward First Meetings

- Meeting in the most embarrassing way possible: spilling coffee, walking in on them changing, getting handcuffed together, mistaken identity at a blind date.
- The worse the first impression, the funnier the love story.

ROM-COM, CONT.

9. The Matchmaker Falls in Love

- A character is helping someone else find love—only to realize they are actually the perfect match.

10. The Fake Breakup to Get Over Someone

- One character pretends to have a terrible relationship (or an awful breakup) to get out of an unwanted situation.
- Only, the fake ex starts looking very appealing.

11. Forced Proximity (They're Stuck Together!)

- Snowstorm? Broken elevator? Long road trip? They're stuck in the same place and have no choice but to deal with each other.

12. The Wedding Disaster Romance

- A wedding is about to happen, but one of the main characters is not marrying the right person.
- The best man, maid of honor, or ex has to stop the wedding—and win their heart.

13. The Roommate Situation

- Two characters (often strangers or reluctant acquaintances) have to share an apartment, leading to awkward situations and eventual romance.

14. The Bet or Dare Romance

- One character is dared (or makes a bet) to date someone, transform them, or make them fall in love.
- They go in for the wrong reasons but fall hard for real.

15. Mistaken Identity / Secret Identity

- One character thinks the other is someone they're not (e.g., a billionaire posing as a regular guy, an actor pretending to be a nobody).
- The truth coming out causes drama—but also brings them closer.

16. The "I Hate How Much I Like You" Romance

- Two people who are wildly attracted to each other but refuse to admit it.
- Cue constant bickering, unresolved tension, and a hilariously slow-burn romance.

17. Second Chance Romance (Rekindling the Old Flame)

- Exes reunite unexpectedly, whether it's years after high school or bumping into each other in a small town.
- They pretend they've moved on, but their unresolved chemistry proves otherwise.

ROM-COM, CONT.

18. The "Oops, We're Married" Situation

- A drunken Vegas wedding, an impulsive legal arrangement, or a marriage by mistake.
- Now they have to navigate being legally bound—and maybe actually falling in love.

19. The Overprotective Best Friend / Sibling's Best Friend

- A character falls for their best friend's sibling (or their sibling's best friend).
- It's off-limits... but that only makes it more tempting.

20. The Bad Date That Leads to the Right One

- A character goes on a disastrous blind date or setup—only for someone else (the waiter, their friend, a stranger watching) to step in and steal their heart.

Bonus: Rom-Com Tropes with a Twist

- The Clueless Love Interest – One character has no idea the other is flirting with them, making for hilarious misunderstandings.
- The Breakup & Glow-Up Revenge – A character gets dumped and goes through a fabulous transformation... only to have their ex crawling back just as they find someone better.
- The Adorkable Mess – A clumsy, awkward, but lovable character keeps making a fool of themselves—yet somehow still charms the love interest.
- The Grand Romantic Gesture Gone Wrong – Someone tries to pull off an over-the-top rom-com moment, but it backfires in a hilarious (and heartwarming) way.

ROMANTASY

1. Fated Mates / Soul Bond

- The hero and heroine are destined to be together due to magic, fate, or an unbreakable bond.
- Often involves a reluctant pairing where one (or both) resist their connection.

2. The Chosen One & the Broody Warrior

- A seemingly ordinary heroine discovers she has special powers or a hidden destiny.
- A brooding warrior, prince, or immortal creature becomes her protector or reluctant ally.

3. Enemies to Lovers (with Magic)

- A witch and a witch hunter. A fae and a human. A warrior and an assassin.
- They start on opposing sides, but undeniable chemistry forces them together.

4. Forced Proximity in a Dangerous World

- A prince and a captured rebel. A warrior and a kidnapped princess.
- They must rely on each other to survive, and feelings develop.

ROMANTASY, CONT.

5. **The Mortal & the Immortal**

- One lover is centuries (or millennia) old, while the other is human or newly transformed.
- Themes of experience, regret, and what it means to love across lifetimes.

6. **The Cursed Hero / Heroine**

- One character is cursed, often doomed to an eternal fate unless they find true love.
- Could involve a monstrous transformation, inability to touch, or a prophecy.

7. **Hidden Royalty / Secret Heir**

- The heroine (or hero) is actually the lost heir to a throne, kingdom, or magical bloodline.
- They must embrace their true identity—with their love interest by their side.

8. **The Magical Marriage of Convenience**

- Two characters must marry due to political alliances, magical contracts, or survival.
- Passion slowly (or very quickly) ignites.

9. **The Warrior Princess & the Rogue**

- A tough, battle-trained heroine falls for a mischievous rogue, thief, or mercenary.
- Their skills and attitudes clash, but sparks fly.

10. **The Shadowy, Mysterious Antihero**

- A morally gray hero (often with a tragic past) who walks the line between villain and savior.
- Often starts as the antagonist but falls for the heroine.

11. **The Magic Trainer / Mentor Romance**

- A powerful mage or warrior teaches the heroine how to use her powers.
- Forbidden attraction grows between them.

12. **Blood Magic, Soul Bonds & Forbidden Power**

- Magic is dangerous, and love often makes it worse.
- A heroine's power could be deadly to her love interest—or they could be each other's only salvation.

13. **The Beastly Hero**

- A monster, cursed prince, or literal beast who finds love despite his terrifying form.
- Inspired by Beauty and the Beast but often darker.

14. **The Rebel Queen & the Tyrant King**

- A rebel leader is forced to work with or wed an enemy king/emperor.
- Will they destroy each other, or will love change them both?

ROMANTASY, CONT.

15. The Prophecy that Binds Them

- A prophecy foretells their union—but also possibly their doom.
- They must defy fate or lean into it.

16. The Lost or Stolen Bride

- A heroine is taken from her intended life and thrown into a world of magic, war, or fae politics.
- Love blooms in the most unexpected place.

17. The Protective Bodyguard

- A fierce warrior is tasked with protecting the heroine.
- Their duty forbids romance, but the tension is undeniable.

18. The Fae / Demon / Dragon Shifter Romance

- A powerful non-human hero (or heroine) struggles with their nature while falling in love.
- Often involves courts, magical politics, and ancient rivalries.

19. The Dangerous Bargain

- A heroine makes a deal with a dark entity, fae king, or demon—and the price is steep.
- Love may be her undoing... or her salvation.

20. The Rival Magic Users

- Two powerful spellcasters from opposing factions fall for each other.
- Magic duels turn into passionate encounters.

COWBOY ROMANCE

1. The Cowboy with a Tragic Past

- A brooding cowboy haunted by loss, whether it's a deceased spouse, a troubled family history, or a past mistake that keeps him from opening his heart.

2. The City Girl vs. Country Boy

- A sophisticated city woman (journalist, lawyer, businesswoman) ends up on a ranch, struggling to adapt while falling for a rugged cowboy.

3. The Rancher and the Runaway Bride

- A bride escaping a bad situation (arranged marriage, abusive ex, crime) finds refuge on a ranch where a cowboy offers protection—and eventually love.

4. The Cowboy Single Dad

- A hard-working cowboy raising a child on his own, hesitant to love again until a new woman enters his life.

COWBOY ROMANCE, CONT.

5. Marriage of Convenience / Fake Relationship

- Two people (often a cowboy and a woman in need) agree to a fake or practical marriage for financial reasons, inheritance, or land disputes—only to fall in love.

6. The Rodeo Romance

- The hero (or heroine) is a rodeo star or bull rider, facing risks in the arena while navigating a turbulent love life.

7. The Cowboy Protector / Bodyguard

- A cowboy with a military, law enforcement, or bounty-hunting background becomes the protector of a woman in danger.

8. The Enemies-to-Lovers Ranch Feud

- Two rival ranchers or families are in a long-standing feud, but love sparks between their children or heirs.

9. The Small-Town Second Chance

- A cowboy returns to his hometown (or a woman returns to hers), rekindling an old romance with the one that got away.

10. The Cowboy Billionaire

- A wealthy, self-made cowboy who built an empire but longs for a woman who loves him for who he is, not his fortune.

11. The Horse Whisperer / Cowboy with a Special Bond

- A cowboy known for his deep connection with horses also struggles with human relationships, until the right person comes along.

12. The Damsel in Distress

- A woman in trouble (stranded, lost, injured) is rescued by a cowboy, leading to an intense romance.

13. The Cowboy Christmas Romance

- A lonely cowboy and a woman experiencing holiday heartbreak find warmth and love during the Christmas season.

14. The Cowboy's Secret Baby

- A woman has the cowboy's child (without him knowing), only for fate to bring them back together.

15. The Cowgirl Heroine

- A tough-as-nails cowgirl who can rope and ride as well as any man, but still faces challenges in love.

SCIENCE FICTION ROMANCE

Alien Warrior & Human Woman

- A powerful, battle-scarred alien falls for a human woman, often protecting her from danger.
- Variations include alien abductions, mail-order alien brides, or interspecies diplomatic marriages.

2. The Cyborg with a Heart

- A genetically or mechanically enhanced warrior, assassin, or soldier struggles to embrace their humanity and finds love in an unlikely place.

3. Enemies to Lovers in Space

- A human and an alien (or rival factions) are forced to work together despite being on opposite sides of a war or political conflict.

4. The Space Pirate & the Captive

- A daring space pirate takes a captive—who may be royalty, a scientist, or a rebel spy—leading to a passionate love affair.

5. Forbidden Love Across the Stars

- Lovers from different planets, alien species, or political factions defy the odds to be together.

6. The Genetic Mate Bond

- A futuristic society or alien race determines soulmates through DNA matching, pheromones, or psychic links, leading to an intense and unavoidable romance.

7. The Scientist & the Alien

- A scientist studying extraterrestrial life unexpectedly falls in love with an alien subject—or an alien studying humanity develops feelings for a human.

8. The Last of Their Kind

- A hero or heroine is the sole survivor of their species or planet and struggles to find love while carrying the burden of their legacy.

9. The AI Who Loves

- A sentient artificial intelligence, android, or robot develops emotions and falls in love, often questioning what it means to be human.

SCIENCE FICTION ROMANCE, CONT.

10. Space Royalty Romance

- A prince or princess from a distant galaxy is betrothed, kidnapped, or seeking escape, and love changes their fate.

11. Time Travel Romance

- A scientist, astronaut, or alien ends up in another time period, sparking a romance that defies time itself.

12. Post-Apocalyptic Survival Romance

- Love blooms in a world ravaged by war, plague, or environmental disaster, often involving a tough warrior and a resourceful survivor.

13. The Alien Gladiator / Warrior Tournament

- A hero or heroine is forced into an alien combat arena where romance develops between competitors, captives, or even between fighter and spectator.

14. The Space Colony Romance

- A pioneering group of humans (or hybrids) settles on a new planet, facing challenges like unknown creatures, harsh conditions, and, of course, love.

15. The Bodyguard / Protector

- A mercenary, space ranger, or bounty hunter is assigned to protect a scientist, diplomat, or runaway royal—leading to a dangerous and passionate affair.

16. The Mind Link / Psychic Connection

- Telepathic or empathic bonds between lovers allow them to feel each other's emotions, leading to an intense and often fated connection.

17. The Alien Invasion Love Story

- A romance blossoms between an invader and a human, or between two people on opposite sides of the war.

18. The Rebel & the Soldier

- A freedom fighter and a soldier from an oppressive regime fall for each other, forced to question their loyalties.

19. The Sleeper Awakens

- A hero or heroine wakes up from cryosleep, time travel, or an artificial hibernation to a completely changed world—and a potential new love.

20. Virtual Reality / Hologram Romance

- Love develops in a digital or simulated world, raising questions about reality, identity, and what it means to truly connect.

REGENCY ROMANCE

1. Marriage of Convenience

- Two characters must marry for financial reasons, family duty, or scandal.
- They enter a loveless (or so they think!) marriage, only for passion and true love to develop.

2. The Rake & the Wallflower

- A notorious, charming rogue who has never taken love seriously meets a quiet, overlooked heroine who captures his heart.
- Often involves the rake trying to teach the wallflower about seduction—only to fall for her instead.

3. The Fake Engagement

- A couple pretends to be engaged to avoid scandal, satisfy a relative's wishes, or get out of another unwanted match.
- Of course, they end up falling in love for real.

4. Enemies to Lovers (High-Society Edition)

- A proud duke and an independent-minded lady clash at every turn.
- Their rivalry is filled with sharp wit, heated debates, and undeniable attraction.

5. The Governess & the Aristocrat

- A nobleman falls for his children's governess, despite the social divide.
- Themes of duty, forbidden love, and undeniable chemistry.

6. The Bluestocking & the Duke

- A bookish, intelligent heroine who doesn't fit into high society catches the attention of a powerful nobleman.
- He's fascinated by her wit and independence, despite societal norms.

7. The Disgraced Heroine

- A lady is ruined by scandal (whether true or false) and must find a way to survive.
- A surprising suitor steps in to protect her reputation—or sees past it entirely.

8. The Rogue with a Secret Past

- A notorious rake or scandalous nobleman has a hidden wound—whether emotional, familial, or even criminal.
- Only love can redeem him.

9. The Spinster Who Finally Finds Love

- A woman past the "acceptable" age for marriage (gasp! Over 25!) has resigned herself to being alone.
- Then, an unexpected romance changes everything.

REGENCY ROMANCE, CONT.

10. The Country Heiress vs. London Society

- A wealthy but uncultured country heiress is thrust into high society.
- A dashing nobleman either helps her navigate it—or is charmed by her wild, unpolished nature.

11. The Cinderella Story

- A poor or illegitimate heroine suddenly finds herself courted by nobility.
- Could involve a hidden inheritance, a lost noble family, or simply love triumphing over class.

12. The Secret Identity

- A nobleman masquerades as a commoner (or vice versa).
- The heroine/hero falls in love before discovering their true identity.

13. The Forbidden Love Affair

- A romance that should never happen due to class, family rivalry, or prior obligations.
- Secret meetings, longing looks, and slow-burn romance ensue.

14. The Runaway Bride

- A heroine fleeing an unwanted marriage (often to a cruel or boring suitor) falls into the arms of a more suitable love match.

15. The Widowed Heroine / Hero

- A second-chance love story involving a widow or widower who never expected to love again.
- Often involves overcoming grief, societal expectations, and personal fears.

16. The Gambling Debts / Ruined Fortune

- A nobleman (or lady) has lost everything due to gambling, bad investments, or scandal.
- A strategic marriage (or a desperate attempt to turn things around) leads to romance.

17. The Dashing Spy / Secret Agent

- A seemingly ordinary nobleman (or lady!) is actually working as a spy.
- Their mission collides with romance, leading to danger, intrigue, and passion.

18. The Best Friend's Sibling

- A nobleman falls for his best friend's sister—someone he once saw as a child but now can't resist.
- Or, a lady secretly pines for her brother's best friend.

REGENCY ROMANCE, CONT.

19. The "I Shall Never Marry" Heroine

- A fiercely independent woman declares she'll never marry—until she meets someone who makes her question everything.

20. The Scandalous Masquerade

- A masked ball leads to an anonymous, passionate encounter.
- When identities are revealed, things get very complicated.

Bonus Tropes with a Twist

- **The Duke in Disguise** – A nobleman pretending to be a commoner to experience real life (or avoid marriage-minded mamas).
- **The Woman Disguised as a Man** – A heroine pretending to be a man (for inheritance, to enter university, or for adventure) finds herself in tricky situations.
- **The Unwanted Chaperone Romance** – A grumpy guardian overseeing a young debutante's season unexpectedly falls for her.

SCOTTISH ROMANCE

1. Highlanders & Clans

- The Brawny Highlander – A strong, fierce, and often brooding warrior or laird who is deeply loyal to his clan.
- Feuding Clans – Star-crossed lovers from rival clans must overcome long-standing enmities.
- The Chieftain’s Duty – A Highland chief must marry for political alliance but falls in love with someone else.

2. Marriage of Convenience / Forced Marriage

- A heroine is forced to marry a Highlander due to a treaty, war, or financial necessity, leading to an eventual deep romance.
- Sometimes, this comes with a “kidnapping bride” element, where the hero abducts the heroine for strategic reasons.

3. Time Travel / Modern Woman in the Past

- A contemporary heroine finds herself transported back in time to medieval or 18th-century Scotland, often falling in love with a Highland warrior.
- Example: *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon popularized this trope.

4. Enemies to Lovers

- A Highland warrior and an English noblewoman (or vice versa) initially despise each other due to national or clan rivalries but slowly develop feelings.

5. The Outlaw / Rogue Hero

- The hero is an outlawed Highlander, accused of a crime he didn’t commit or fleeing persecution, and the heroine gets entangled in his plight.

6. The Independent, Fiery Heroine

- A strong-willed heroine who refuses to be forced into a match, often disguising herself, fighting alongside men, or taking up an unusual profession.

7. The Secret Identity

- One or both characters are hiding something—a false name, noble birth, or even being on the run from a dark past.

8. The Highland Healer

- A heroine with healing knowledge (often herbal medicine) is brought to the hero’s castle or hideout to tend to his wounds, leading to a slow-burn romance.

SCOTTISH ROMANCE, CONT.

9. Mistaken Identity / Switched Places

- A woman might pretend to be a servant or commoner but is actually of noble birth, or vice versa.

10. The Cursed Laird / Haunted Castle

- A brooding, tormented hero with a tragic past believes he is cursed—until the heroine’s love redeems him.
- Sometimes, an actual ghost or supernatural element is involved.

11. The Bonnie Prince Charlie / Jacobite Rebellion Theme

- A romance set against the backdrop of Scotland’s struggle for independence, often featuring a hero loyal to the Jacobite cause.

12. The Highland Wedding Night Dilemma

- A couple forced into marriage but not sure whether they will (or should) consummate the relationship right away, adding tension and longing.

13. Revenge or Redemption Arc

- A hero seeking vengeance against the English (or another clan) but ultimately choosing love over war.

14. Hidden Treasure / Secret Legacy

- A plot centered around a hidden heirloom, lost family fortune, or secret inheritance that ties the lovers together.

15. A Harsh but Beautiful Landscape

- The setting itself acts as a character—misty moors, rugged cliffs, and stormy seas mirroring the passion and danger in the romance.

OFFICE ROMANCE

1. Boss/Employee (Forbidden Love)

- A powerful CEO or manager falls for their assistant, intern, or subordinate.
- Often involves ethical dilemmas, secrecy, and undeniable chemistry.

2. Office Rivals to Lovers

- Two ambitious coworkers competing for the same promotion or recognition.
- Heated arguments turn into passionate encounters as tension shifts from professional to personal.

3. The Grumpy Boss & the Sunshine Employee

- A cold, workaholic boss softens when their charming, optimistic employee brightens their life.
- A classic “opposites attract” dynamic.

OFFICE ROMANCE, CONT.

4. The Workplace Bet / Fake Dating for Work Reasons

- A character makes a bet about romance (e.g., "I can make them fall in love with me").
- Or, two colleagues pretend to date for a company event, only for real feelings to develop.

5. The Secret Office Romance

- Two employees are dating but must hide it due to strict workplace rules or personal fears.
- Sneaking around adds excitement, but what happens when they're caught?

6. The Executive & the Assistant

- A high-powered executive leans heavily on their dedicated assistant, only to realize they can't live without them.
- Often includes slow-burn romance with years of unspoken feelings.

7. The Workaholic Who Needs Love

- A character is obsessed with their career and has no time for relationships—until love finds them at the office.
- Could involve a free-spirited coworker showing them how to balance life and work.

8. The Intern & the Senior Professional

- A fresh-faced intern or junior employee falls for a more experienced coworker.
- Power dynamics and ethics can add complications.

9. The Holiday / Business Trip Romance

- Two coworkers who barely interact suddenly find themselves alone on a business trip.
- Forced proximity in hotels, airports, and conferences leads to romance.

10. The Office Best Friends to Lovers

- Two colleagues who've been work besties for years suddenly realize there's more between them.
- Could be a slow-burn romance filled with inside jokes and emotional support.

11. The Reformed Playboy Boss

- A notorious office flirt or womanizer falls hard for the one person immune to their charm.
- They must prove they can be serious about love.

OFFICE ROMANCE, CONT.

12. The New Hire & the Office Veteran

- A fresh-faced new employee shakes up the workplace, challenging the way a longtime worker sees things.
- Their energy (or idealism) conflicts with the other's experience, but love grows.

13. The Accidental Office Fling

- A wild night at a work party or conference leads to an unexpected romance.
- Can they go back to being just coworkers?

14. The Business Partners Who Fall in Love

- Two entrepreneurs start a business together and, over late nights and high stakes, develop deeper feelings.
- Can love and business mix?

15. The Workplace Protector

- One colleague (often a boss) shields another from workplace drama, harassment, or unfair treatment.
- Their protectiveness sparks a deeper connection.

16. The Temporary Arrangement

- A temporary hire (e.g., temp assistant, consultant, or substitute) shakes up the office and someone's heart.
- But what happens when their contract is up?

17. The Workplace Bet / Competition

- Two coworkers make a bet about something at work (who can close the biggest deal, who can last longest without caffeine) and the stakes turn romantic.
- Playful competitiveness turns into flirtation.

18. The Overachiever & the Slacker

- One person is a perfectionist, while the other is a laid-back genius who doesn't play by the rules.
- Their work styles clash, but their hearts don't.

19. The Office Christmas Romance

- A holiday party, Secret Santa, or end-of-year office tradition forces two coworkers together.
- The festive setting creates a romantic spark.

20. The Mentor & the Protégé

- A skilled professional guides a rising star in their field, and respect turns into attraction.
- Ethical dilemmas and career ambitions create tension.

OFFICE ROMANCE, CONT.

Bonus: Workplace Tropes with a Twist

The "We're Getting Fired Anyway" Romance

Two employees on the verge of being let go decide to throw caution to the wind and fall in love.

The Work Nemesis Who Turns Out to Be Nice

A colleague they've always despised turns out to have a hidden soft side.

The Job Swap Romance

Two people switch roles for a period (e.g., CEO undercover as an intern) and find love in unexpected places.