

Adding Romantic Elements to Other Genres

To Mysteries

- Add a subplot to develop a romantic relationship.
 - The relationship can raise the stakes for the protagonist (story lead) by adding tension.
 - Protagonist can be torn by wanting to protect the other person and fearing that the other person's motives are suspect.
 - Romance adds emotional depth to the lead character.
 - It can force the protagonist to act out of his/her comfort zone.
 - It can force him/her to make choices under pressure.
 - Increases the story conflict
- In a series mystery with a romance subplot, the comfortable or happy relationship has ups and downs in subsequent books.
- Sex may occur off-screen, the author building up to the moment and then letting the reader use their imagination.

To Fantasy or Science Fiction

- Introduce a strong character deeply committed to a cause to someone of the opposite sex who is equally strong and committed.
 - The need for each other must go both ways.
 - One character offers the other character something that is necessary for the way the world is set up.
- The obstacle in the story must be important to the world and the plot.
 - Set up the world to make it difficult for the two characters to fall in love.
- Romance is more about talking than about the physical contact.
 - It is not necessary to write about physical intimacy.

To Young Adult Stories

- Love is a primary driving force behind the plotline.
- The romantic element can range from an unrequited crush to falling deeply in love.