

Harlequin

ROMANCE INCLUDES YOU

2025 MENTORSHIP

ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
MAY 1-31, 2025



March 27, 2025

Welcome!



Carol Dunsmore
She/her
Manager, Author
Communications
& Events



Errin Toma
She/they
Associate Editor
Afterglow Books



Rebecca Garnett
She/her
Communications
Specialist



In This Session

- What is the mentorship?
- What does Harlequin publish?
- What are we looking for?
- How to submit?
- Ask us anything



What is the Romance Includes You Mentorship?

- Publish more diverse romance voices and stories
- Debut romance writers
- Authors in underrepresented communities
- Publishing contract with advance for their debut novel
- One-year mentorship with a Harlequin editor
- Writing grant to support writing development
- \$5,000 US value





The Roadmap to Writing Romance: 5 Tips for Plotters | How to Make Sure Your Writing Stays Spontaneous



Top Five Romance Writing Tips with Kellie VanHorn

Harlequin ROMANCE INCLUDES YOU

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Harlequin's Romance Includes You Mentorship Opens for Submissions May 1

Submission Calls

We are always on the lookout for talented writers

Romance Glossary

Over 100 definitions for common romance terms

Diverse Voices

We welcome all authors to the Harlequin community

Writing Guidelines

Read guidelines for Harlequin's 11 series and Carina Press

Details at **WriteForHarlequin.com**

What are we looking for?

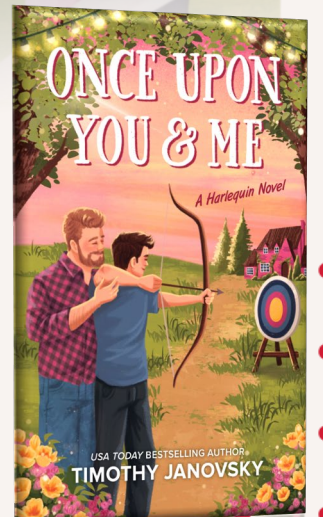
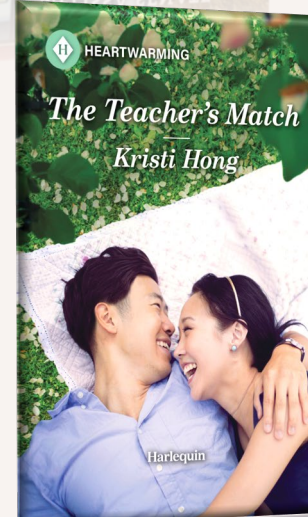
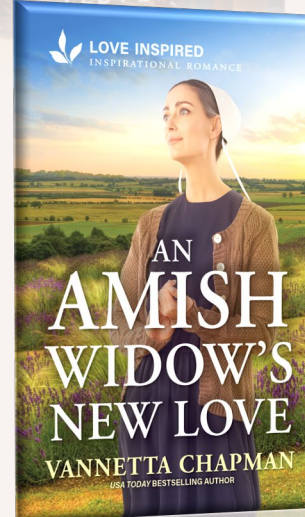
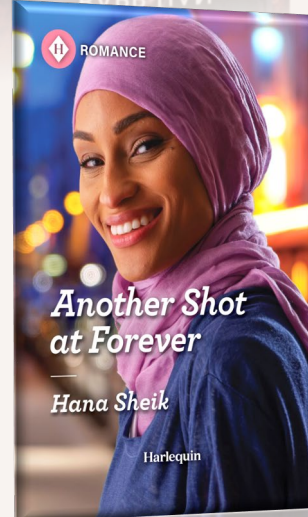
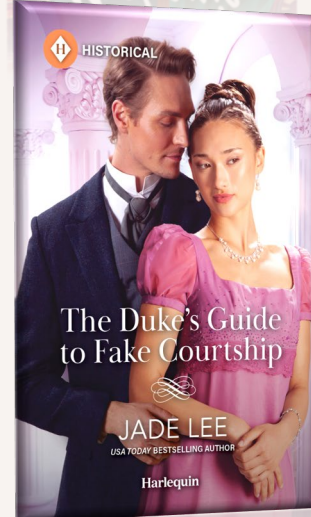
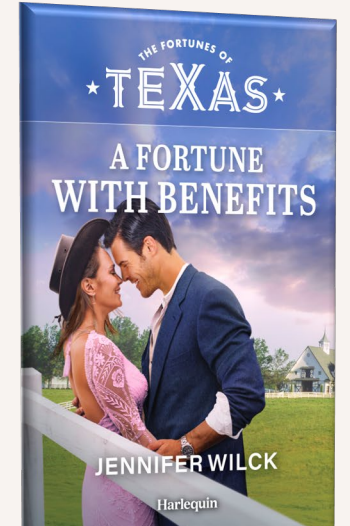
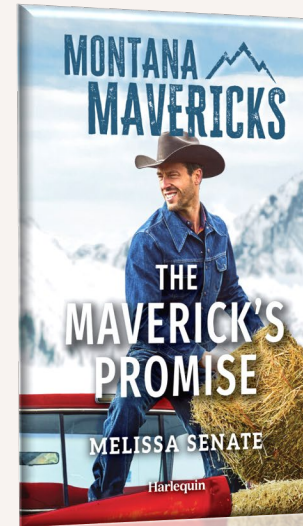
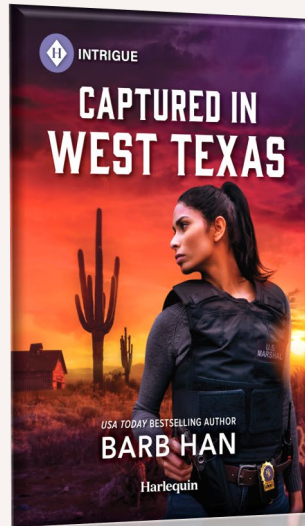
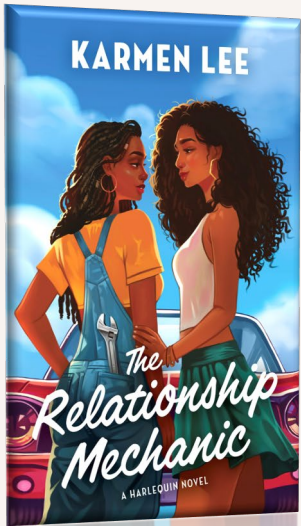
- Category romance stories
- Suitable for publication in one of Harlequin's series romance lines
- Offering a publishing contract



What is Harlequin Series?

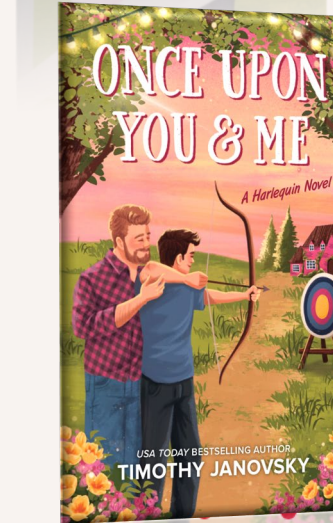
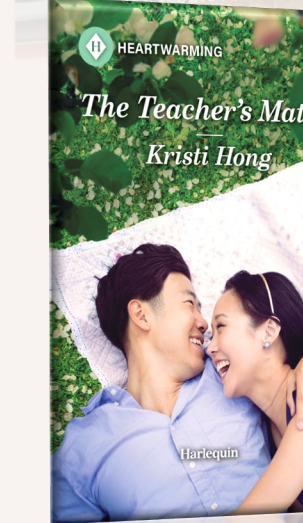
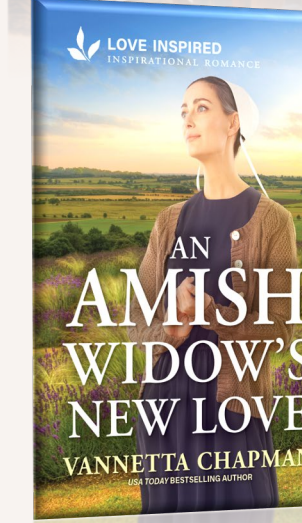
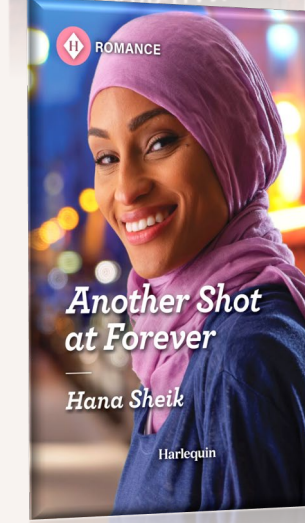
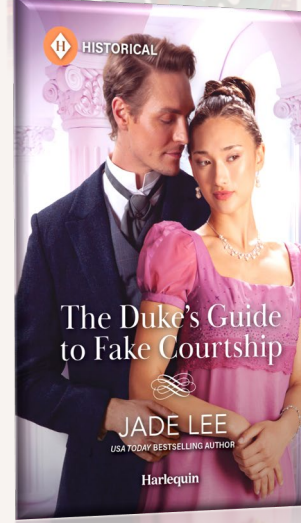
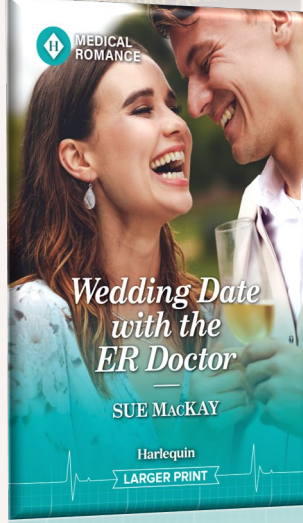
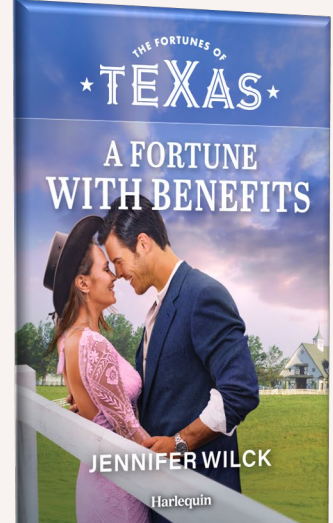
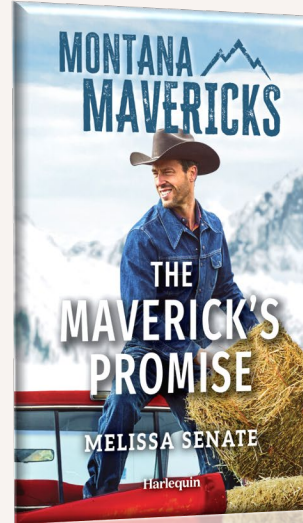
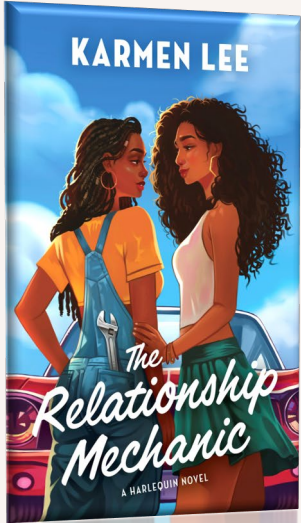
What do we publish?





Harlequin

Variety of romance lines
Distinct reader promise in each series



Harlequin

Monthly publishing schedule
4-8 new books a month in each series

Harlequin Series by Style

Passion/Spicy

Harlequin Presents
Afterglow Books

Hope & Inspiration

Love Inspired / Love Inspired Suspense
Harlequin Heartwarming

Thrilling

Harlequin Intrigue
Harlequin Romantic Suspense

Love & Life

Harlequin Special Edition / Harlequin
Romance / Harlequin Medical Romance

Historical

Harlequin Historical Romance

Read writing guidelines at
[Harlequin.Submittable.com](https://www.harlequin.com/submittable)



Keys to Category Romance

50,000 –
70,000 words

Romance
central to plot

Strong romantic
conflict

Equal focus on
characters

Classic tropes
Strong hooks

Different
heat levels

Popular
Settings

Happily
ever after

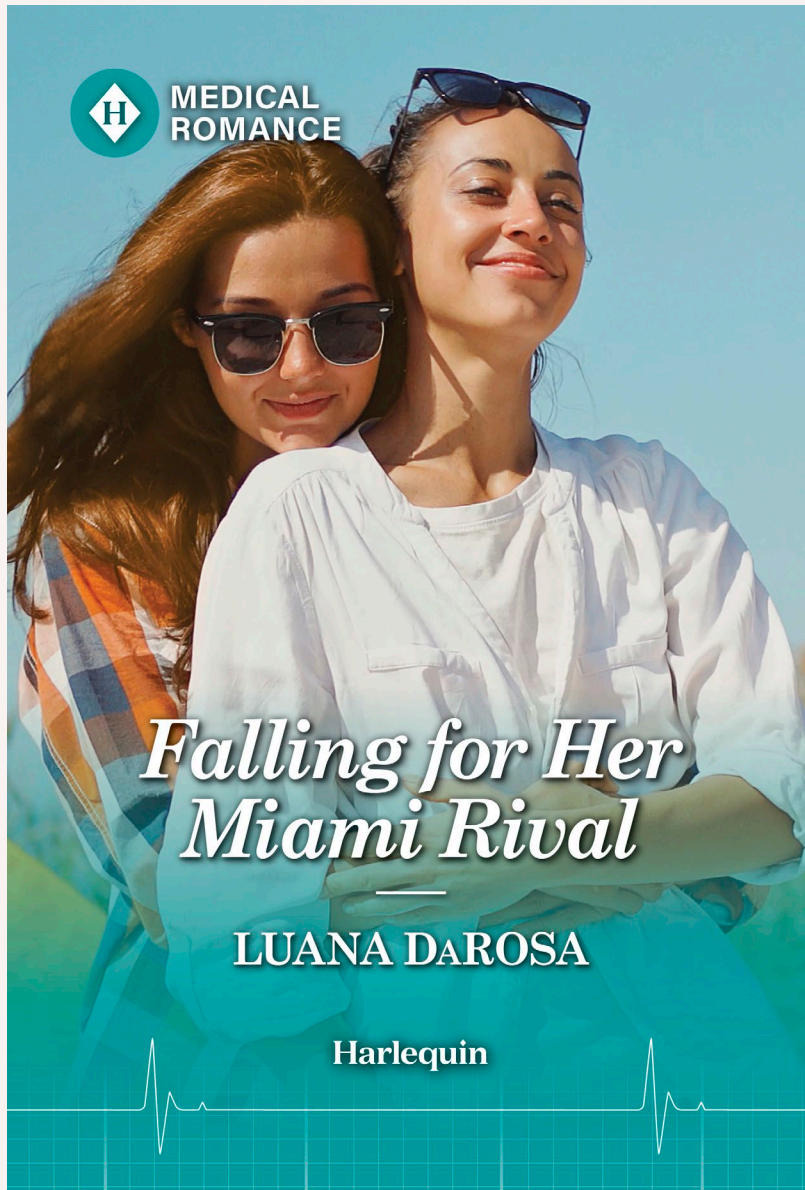
Uplifting,
optimistic



1

- ✓ Enemies to lovers
- ✓ Central romance story
- ✓ His father stole her family's fortune – she detests them all – but she has a chance to marry him for payback.
- ✓ Wedding, billionaire hooks
- ✓ Internal conflicts, high stakes, clear goals
- ✓ Happily ever after
- ✓ 50,000 words – swift pacing





2

- ✓ Workplace romance – tensions rise in the ER!
- ✓ ER docs vying for the same job – immediately in conflict
- ✓ Get each others' pulse racing on a personal level – plot is all about a romance happening in a medical setting
- ✓ Hospital environment, doctors, rivals, big city hooks
- ✓ Happily ever after
- ✓ 50,000 words



Visit
Harlequin.Submittable.com

Read writing guidelines for series
that best suits your writing style

Find out what editors look for



How do I make a mentorship submission?



Who should apply

- Authors whose backgrounds and communities are not well represented in the genre
- Debut, unpublished or self-published authors
- Not repped by a literary agent
- Living in Canada, U.S. and its territories



What to submit

- Original, unpublished stories
- First 5,000 words of your story, full plot summary
– don't forget the ending!
- Cover letter with a short story pitch (teaser), your bio, any previous writing credits or programs
- Personal statement in your cover letter – why you applied, what you expect, what greater diversity in the romance genre means to you personally



How to submit

- Read the details on WriteForHarlequin.com
- Prepare your submission
- When ready, go to Harlequin.Submittable.com
- Choose the "2025 Romance Includes You Mentorship" inbox
- Accepting submissions May 1 – 31
- Hit "submit" button and upload your Word documents
 - Cover letter
 - First 5,000 words and synopsis in one Word doc
- One submission only please

DEADLINE!
May 31, 2025
11:59 PM ET



Learn More

WriteForHarlequin.com

- Full mentorship details
- Writing and submission advice from editors

Harlequin.Submittable.com

- Read writing guidelines for all series
- Submit your story

TryHarlequin.com

- Free eBooks
- Get familiar with your preferred series





Ask Us Anything



Harlequin

Thank You

We can't wait to read
your story!

