



# Evie Alexander

## List of 150 Romance Tropes

Rather than list these romance tropes alphabetically, I've tried to organise them into groups with similar themes. Many are applicable to several groups, and some are so iconic they need to stand on their own.

### Friends

- |                         |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Friends to lovers     | • Best friend's sibling | • Best friend's lover               |
| • Best friend's ex      | • Fake Relationship     | • Marriage pact                     |
| • Innocent cohabitation | • Pen pals              | • Matchmaker/ matchmaker gone wrong |

### Enemies

- |                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| • Enemies to lovers          | • Old enemies - from school/ work/ anything   | • Love/hate                                   |
| • Nobody thinks it will work | • Rivals                                      | • Bully turned nice guy                       |
| • Revenge                    | • Not good enough for him/her (pov of anyone) | • Not good enough for him/her (pov of anyone) |
| • Pen pals                   | • Sworn off a relationship                    |   |

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## Family

- Parent with new love - kids want them to get together or don't want them to
- Guardian
- Widow/widower
- Forbidden love/ star-crossed lovers
- Step siblings
- Parent and child's carer/teacher/nanny
- Love interest reminds of estranged family member
- Orphan
- Sibling's ex
- Sudden/unexpected baby (can be coupled with fling/one night stand)

## Blind to love

- Pen pals
- Sworn off a relationship
- Everyone can see it (fits well with friends to lovers)
- Last to know
- Amnesia
- Changing sexual preferences. This may be seen as very contentious but in real life, these situations do occur.
- Oblivious to love
- Fall in love with the wrong person

## Three's a crowd

- Unrequited love
- Love Triangle/ imaginary love triangle
- Matchmaker gone wrong
- Two person love triangle (mistaken identity) eg superman
- If I can't have you, nobody will

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## Secrets, disguises, surprises

- Secret baby
- Mistaken identity
- Secret/lost heir
- Sudden/unexpected baby
- Is it all as it seems?
- Mistaken declaration of love leads to love/ can be coupled with marriage of honour
- Secret admirer
- Secret royal/billionaire/boss
- Virgin/ unexpected virgin
- Reality TV show
- Unrequited love
- Fling/one night stand (can lead to unexpected baby)
- Disguise
- Undercover love
- Rags to riches
- Amnesia
- Two person love triangle (mistaken identity) eg superman

## Forced Proximity

- Stranded
- Innocent cohabitation
- ‘Trapped in an elevator’ - Two people who barely know each other, or don’t like each other are forced together into a relatively small space.

## Grow a pair

- Afraid to commit
- Lovers in denial
- All grown up
- Can’t spit it out/ Say I love you or how they feel

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## Marriage

- Arranged marriage
- Double-in law marriage
- Marriage before romance
- Altar diplomacy (arranged for political reasons)
- Vegas/drunk marriage
- Marriage pact
- Mistaken declaration of love leads to love
- In love with best man/chief bridesmaid/groom/ etc
- Runaway bride
- Jilted bride
- Honorable marriage (typical of historical novels)

## One true love/Here we go again

- Love potion
- Belated love epiphany
- Second chance romance/ first love
- Return to hometown/ reunion romance
- Sworn off a relationship
- Destined to be together/ one true love/ soulmate/ fate
- Star-crossed lovers
- Age gap ('May to December')
- Star-crossed lovers
- The one that got away
- Working with the ex
- You've changed/ on the rocks - couple then have to find their way back to each other
- Long distance relationship
- Love at first sight/ 'insta love'
- Magic
- All grown up
- Amnesia
- Good people have good sex - anything prior to this relationship is not good for some reason

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## Beauty and the Beast

- |  |   |                                      |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Loveable rogue                                 | • Beauty and the Beast                        | • Wallflower                         |
| • Ugly duckling - beautiful all along            | • Bully turned nice guy                       | • Blackmail                          |
| • Playboy/rake in love                           | • Sleeps with everyone but you                | • Fall in love with the wrong person |
| • Antihero / All girls want bad boys/ Alpha hero | • Not good enough for him/her (pov of anyone) |                                      |

## Job

- |  |  |                       |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| • Men in uniform   | • Politician                                     | • Priest              |
| • Bodyguard  | • Royal/Sheikh                                   | • Working with the ex |
| • Billionaire/ rock star/ actor/ performer/ celebrity/ cowboy/ military/ law enforcement/ athlete/ | • Office romance/ Work colleagues/ Boss/Employee |                       |

## Peril

- |             |                            |   |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|
| • Kidnapped | • Protector                | • Injury  |
| • Road trip | • Damsel/ dude in distress | • Too dumb to live (protagonist - usually female - makes stupid decisions designed to land her in trouble so the hero can save her) |



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## Dark past

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dark secret</li><li>• Break up to save him/her</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emotional scars</li><li>• Broken in some way</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redemption</li><li>• Rejected as unworthy by parents, friends or former lovers</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

## Opposites

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opposites attract</li><li>• Love interest has profession protagonist hates</li><li>• Sunny vs grumpy/ spontaneous vs serious/ Messy vs neat etc</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rich vs poor</li><li>• Sunny vs grumpy/ spontaneous vs serious/ Messy vs neat etc</li><li>• Physically very different - huge guy/ tiny girl and the opposite</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Age gap ('May to December')</li><li>• Social inferior/ different social class/ different worlds</li><li>• Want different things - eg one wants true love/the other a fling/ One wants city life, the other country</li></ul> |
|---|--|--|

## Bonus extras (can go anywhere)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amnesia</li><li>• Time travel</li><li>• Fairytale retelling/ eg Cinderella story/ Beauty and the Beast</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bet</li><li>• Road trip</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blind date</li><li>• Fish out of water</li></ul> |
|--|---|--|