

Download A Natural History Of The Romance Novel

The romance novel has the strange distinction of being the most popular but least respected of literary genres. While it remains consistently dominant in bookstores and on best-seller lists, it is also widely dismissed by the critical community. Scholars have alleged that romance novels help create subservient readers, who are largely women, by confining heroines to stories that ignore issues other than love and marriage. More than any other literary genre, the romance novel has been misunderstood by mainstream literary culture—book review editors, reviewers themselves, writers and readers of other genres, and, especially, literary critics. The romance novel has the strange distinction of being the most popular but least respected of literary genres. While it remains consistently dominant in bookstores and on best-seller lists, it is also widely dismissed by the critical community. Scholars have alleged that romance novels help create subservient readers, who are largely women, by confining heroines to stories that ignore issues other than love and marriage. Unfortunately, after reading their outspoken opinions, this well-researched book on romance novels can seem a bit dry. It is not without its merits however. As promised in the title, Pamela Regis does go through the natural history of the romance novel from its not-so-humble beginnings to now., A Natural History Of The Romance Novel.

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