

# Regency Authors

These are novels set in the early to mid 1800's. They are usually set in England but sometimes in France. They often have a romantic air about them and reflect the sensibilities of those times; however, some authors choose to write about those living on the fringes of this period.

Check for them in the regular and large print sections.

Note: Since the demise of Signet's Regency line in 2006, not many regency novels are being published. If you want to download (for a fee) new regency novels onto your computer, try [www.regencyreads.com](http://www.regencyreads.com).

## **Pamela Aidan**

A librarian by profession, Pamela Aidan became an author when she penned a trilogy based on a Jane Austen character from *Pride and Prejudice*, Fitzwilliam Darcy. Originally, she published the "Fitzwilliam Darcy, Gentleman" trilogy through a company she created, Wytherngate Press, but they were later reprinted by the Touchstone imprint at Simon & Schuster. The books tell the same story as *Pride and Prejudice*, focusing on Darcy and his growing love for Elizabeth Bennet. Aidan, who strives to mimic the same tone and writing style that is characteristic of Austen's book, adds to the story by including new characters and adding insights into Darcy's inner emotions and personality. "Her original contributions ...," as Kathy Piehl noted in a *Library Journal* review of the first installment of the trilogy, *An Assembly Such as This*, "infuse humor into the plot and reveal Darcy's humanity." "Austen fans will relish the tale's retelling from Darcy's perspective as well as new characters," concluded *Booklist* reviewer Patty Engelmann of the same book.

## **Jane Austen**

Combining what have become classic descriptions of domestic English country life with humor, irony, and wit, Austen painted a world where truth, honesty, kindness, moderation, and humility defined individuals of principle. The novels are essentially domestic, revolving around manners, male-female relationships, and questions of honor and obligation, set against the backdrop of societal rules (or the effects of those rules). At the core, her novels are love stories, but they transcend the common notion that phrase evokes by their study of the serious and sometimes damaging effects of that emotion. Throughout Austen's novels are characters who are punished (or justly pay for) their immoderation, their lack of principle, and their senseless ambition. Defined in Austen's world, honor wins, the wicked do not gain what they wish (even if they gain what they were after), and as with all good Cinderella stories, the deserving end up happy.

## **Mary Balogh**

Fans of Regency Romances already know and treasure [Mary Balogh](#); others, who enjoy well-researched, detail-rich historical fiction, have a treat awaiting them. The author of more than 50 historical novels, now also published in hardcover as well as paperback, Balogh is known for her sparkling dialog, wit, and often outrageous humor; colorful details of clothing, customs,

carriages, and mores which capture the spirit of the times; and sympathetic characterizations of her strong heroes and heroines. While her Regencies are certainly heartwarming and upbeat, they do address issues once considered taboo in the Romance genre, not to mention the once safer Regency subgenre. She often explores the dark side of this era, portraying heroines who are not the typical naive young girl, but perhaps widows, damaged by love or its lack or women forced to become mistresses or even prostitutes. The heroes, often damaged by war, accident, or circumstance, discover their true natures and heroism. These physically and emotionally flawed characters maintain their dignity and discover redemption through love.

### **Liz Carlyle**

Liz Carlyle, the pen name of Susan T. Woodhouse, is the author of historical romances that have received wide praise from critics who have admired her skill at characterization, setting, and original plotting. Carlyle worked in the corporate world for about eighteen years before writing her first novel, *My False Heart*, on a dare while she was between jobs. After a few years during which Carlyle struggled to find a publisher, the book was published in 1999 and hailed by romance novel reviewers as a promising debut. While keeping to many of the conventions of the romance genre, the book, asserted *Romance Reader* contributor Lesley Dunlap, varies from the norm: "Countless romances have featured the classic plot of the degenerate rake who sees the error of his ways, reforms, and finds a lasting and true love with a good woman. Rarely, however, does the author provide much support for this personality change. Where ... Carlyle's book excels is in the how and why."

### **Suzanne Enoch**

Suzanne Enoch has a long list of Regency and historical romance novels to her credit since publishing her first novel in the mid-1990s. A *Publishers Weekly* writer positively reviewed one of Enoch's more recent romances, *England's Perfect Hero*, the last in her "Lessons in Love" series, saying that "although the popularity of the historical romance may be waning, writers like Enoch give readers plenty of reasons to return to the genre."

### **Gaelen Foley**

Foley's "Spice Trilogy" opens with *Her Only Desire*. This novel recounts the story of Ian Prescott, Marquess of Griffith, dispatched to India to quell a nascent rebellion. Ian is surprised to discover that Georgiana Knight, sister of British cavalry officers Gabriel and Derek Knight, insists on playing a part in the diplomatic mission. *Booklist* reviewer John Charles enjoyed the book's exotic setting and noted that the novel promises to introduce "an exceptionally entertaining and sexy new ... trilogy."

In *Her Secret Fantasy* Derek Knight has returned to England, where he meets the lovely Lily Balfour. Though Lily is drawn to Derek, she is almost engaged to Edward Lundy. Edward enlists Derek's help in investigating an embezzling plot against the East India Company.

The trilogy concludes with *Her Every Pleasure*. Gabriel Knight, wounded and now living near London, is touched by the goodness of a peasant girl he meets. What he does not at first realize is that she is the disguised Princess Sophia, heir to the throne of an island kingdom conquered by Napoleon and now hiding in England until she can launch an attempt to regain her kingdom.

Though he has foresworn fighting, Gabriel sees that he must take up arms once again to protect the young woman who has brought his broken spirit back to life.

### **Georgette Heyer**

Most readers of Historical Fiction know [Georgette Heyer](#) as the author of Romantic Comedies of Manners, set mostly in the mid-Georgian (ca 1770-1800) and Regency (1811-1820) periods of English history. She also wrote Historical Fiction, Romantic Suspense, Detective Mysteries, and novels of Women's Lives and Relationships. In addition, she wrote Short Stories, re-using a mixture of the settings, plots, and even names from her Regency Romance novels to create pastiches for her clamoring public.

### **Eloisa James**

In her gracefully written Historical Romances, [Eloisa James](#) brilliantly fashions captivating characters and entertaining plots into lushly sensual love stories. Readers know they can count on James for a superbly sexy romance, but James also gives readers wonderfully original secondary characters, a vivid historical setting, and writing that is expertly infused with a subtle, yet always sharp, sense of wit.

The romantic relationship that develops between any of James's smart, strong-willed heroines and her sinfully sexy heroes is always at the center of the story, and in each of her books, this romance is sizzingly sensual.

### **Lisa Kleypas**

Kleypas is known for her tastefully written love scenes, which capture the passion of romance between the particular characters. In the interview with White, she said: "I have made a point never to use foul language or 'bed-hopping' characters, and I am even reluctant to use euphemisms for body parts. I believe what makes a love scene really sizzle is to always remind the reader of the emotional context of the scene ... what has led to this act, and how it will change their relationship from now on, and why making love with this one person is different from doing it with someone else."

### **Stephanie Laurens**

[Stephanie Laurens](#) writes Regency romances which have as their center strong family bonds and explorations of feminine power. Her romances center around relationships and extend those relationships beyond husband and wife to include family, friends, and the larger society. Most of Laurens's books are linked and she weaves characters throughout the many books in the series. This not only underscores the unity of family in her stories, but allows readers to encounter her many characters multiple times. Perhaps due to the strong family focus, the deep love between family members, and the repeated meetings between readers and characters, Laurens's books are notably engaging.

A master at male/female relationships, Laurens creates heroes that are strong, dominant, and aggressive. However, they are motivated in all they do by love, a sense of protection, and obligation to family. The men drive the action in the novels, which is different from the usual romance novel which is typically more female driven. The heroines in her novels are strong, determined, and often obstinate in their desire to get their own way. The heroines also embody a subtle sense of their own power, both the power within themselves to act and the power they have over others.

### **Amanda Quick**

[Amanda Quick](#) is the pseudonym under which [Jayne Ann Krentz](#) writes Historical Romantic Suspense. Generally these stories are set in early 19th-century England, although some have taken place in medieval times as well. Works written under this name share many of the Krentz trademark elements, such as the quirky characters she creates, a lively sense of humor, often manifested during the course of witty verbal exchanges, a strong sense of honor and of family obligation, and explicitly sexual scenes set within the context of a developing romantic relationship. Other qualities readers expect are a fast-moving plotline, an element of mystery which initially brings the main characters together and must be successfully resolved for the relationship to progress, and a sense of danger. The menacing atmosphere is, however, lightened by the humor Quick employs so well and the lack of any overtly graphic scenes of violence.

### **Julia Quinn**

It's simple: [Julia Quinn](#) writes best-selling (and award-winning), humorous, character-driven "Racy Regencies" -- and has done so since her first novel, *Splendid*, appeared in 1995. The Regency background might be not much more than wallpaper, the heroines a bit modern in their sensibilities and actions, and the plots fairly thin -- but Quinn can be counted upon to deliver a light, warm, fairly sexy, and thoroughly enjoyable reading experience every time.

### **Kate Ross**

Kate Ross, a former attorney, also authored a series of popular historical mysteries until her death in 1998. Set in the early 1800s, her fiction features Julian Kestrel, an English dandy and man-about-town who also solves crimes. In Ross's 1993 debut, *Cut to the Quick*, Kestrel becomes involved in a murder mystery when a dead woman is found in his bed while he is visiting a country estate as a guest at a wedding. No one in the house admits to knowing who the woman is or why she was murdered, but suspicion soon falls on Kestrel's valet, Dipper, who was once a pickpocket. In defense of his valet, Kestrel sets out to solve the mystery and clear Dipper's name.

A *Publishers Weekly* contributor noted in an appraisal of *Cut to the Quick* that if Ross can "learn how to smoothly integrate" the genres of Regency and mystery, "she could earn a loyal audience." Writing on *MysteryGuide.com*, a more enthusiastic reviewer commented that the story "maintains a smooth and graceful pace throughout, helped along by a remarkably elegant prose style which manages to capture both the strength and lightness of touch so admired in the Regency era."