

# BARTON

## LIBRARY

*Dare to Know*

### Regency Fiction

*Fiction set during the British Regency period.*

A sub-genre in which stories feature the period of the British Regency (1811–1820), although historians have expanded this era to be between 1780 to 1830. There is a strong cross-over with **romance fiction**. Traditional “Regency romances” have their own unique plot and stylistic conventions, such as witty, fast-paced dialogue between the protagonists. These stories are written without explicit sex scenes. Georgette Heyer created the sub-genre, and her *Regency Buck* (1935) and *The Grand Sophy* (1950) are classic examples. Other examples include D. L. Murray’s *Regency* (1936), W. P. Drury’s *Regency Rascal* (1937), and Eleanor Smith’s *The Man in Grey* (1941).

Alternately, “Regency historical” novels, historical romances set in the Regency period, emerged in the 1990s and are bolder, more adventurous, more socially realistic or anachronistically modern, and depict characters acting on their passions. Whether traditional or historical, Regency novels usually involve England’s high society (known as *le bon ton*) and social activities such as carriage rides, fencing, hunting, shooting, morning calls, dinner parties, plays, operas, and balls.

### Common Elements

Royals, aristocrats, and wealthy middle-class characters
Headstrong and independent heroines
Eligible bachelors with distinguished titles
Longing between characters
Implied sexual tension
Flirtatious banter

Marriages of convenience
Language, fashions, and rigid social conventions specific to the Regency period
Refined and elegant settings
Vicious gossip
Comedy of manners

### Benefits of Reading

Provides readers with an escape from the modern world
Shows readers an entertaining world of glitz and glamor
Permits readers to vicariously live a fantasy life of the rich and well born
Provides readers with stories of external

conflict and resolutions
Offers readers examples of good manners and courtesy
Demonstrates to readers the high stakes that can occur over small actions
Allows readers to experience a historical culture

### Modern Literary Examples

*The Accidental Romance* (1999) by

Elizabeth Mansfield

<i>The Admiral's Penniless Bride</i> (2010) by Carla Kelly	<i>The Duke and I</i> (2000) by Julia Quinn
<i>Again the Magic</i> (2004) by Lisa Kleypas	<i>Lady of Fortune</i> (1988) by Mary Jo Putney
<i>Cecily; or, A Young Lady of Quality</i> (1972) by Clare Darcy	<i>Lord Wraybourne's Betrothed</i> (1990) by Jo Beverley
<i>A Change of Fortune</i> (1985) by Sandra Heath	<i>A Masked Deception</i> (1985) by Mary Balough
<i>Consequences</i> (1981) by Shelia Bishop	<i>Scandal Bound</i> (1987) by Anita Mills
<i>The Designs of Lord Randolph Cavanaugh</i> (2018) by Stephanie Laurens	<i>Viscount Vagabond</i> (1989) by Loretta Chase
<i>Desperate Duchess</i> (2007) by Elosia James	<i>A Well Pleasured Lady</i> (1997) by Christina Dodd
	<i>With this Ring</i> (1998) by Amanda Quick