

A romantic scene featuring a lit candle in a brass holder, a bouquet of pink roses, and an open book with a fountain pen resting on it. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with light streaming in. The overall mood is warm and intimate.

PLOT PROSE

— FREE DOWNLOAD —

The Romance Plot *Outline Template*

Your step-by-step blueprint for plotting a page-turning romance, from meet-cute to happily ever after.

By Coral Hart

PLOTPROSE.COM



— BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Introduction

“After plotting 200+ romance novels, I’ve learned that every great love story follows a pattern. Not a formula — a pattern. The difference matters. A formula feels predictable. A pattern gives you freedom to create within a structure that keeps readers turning pages until 3 AM.”

— Coral Hart, PlotProse

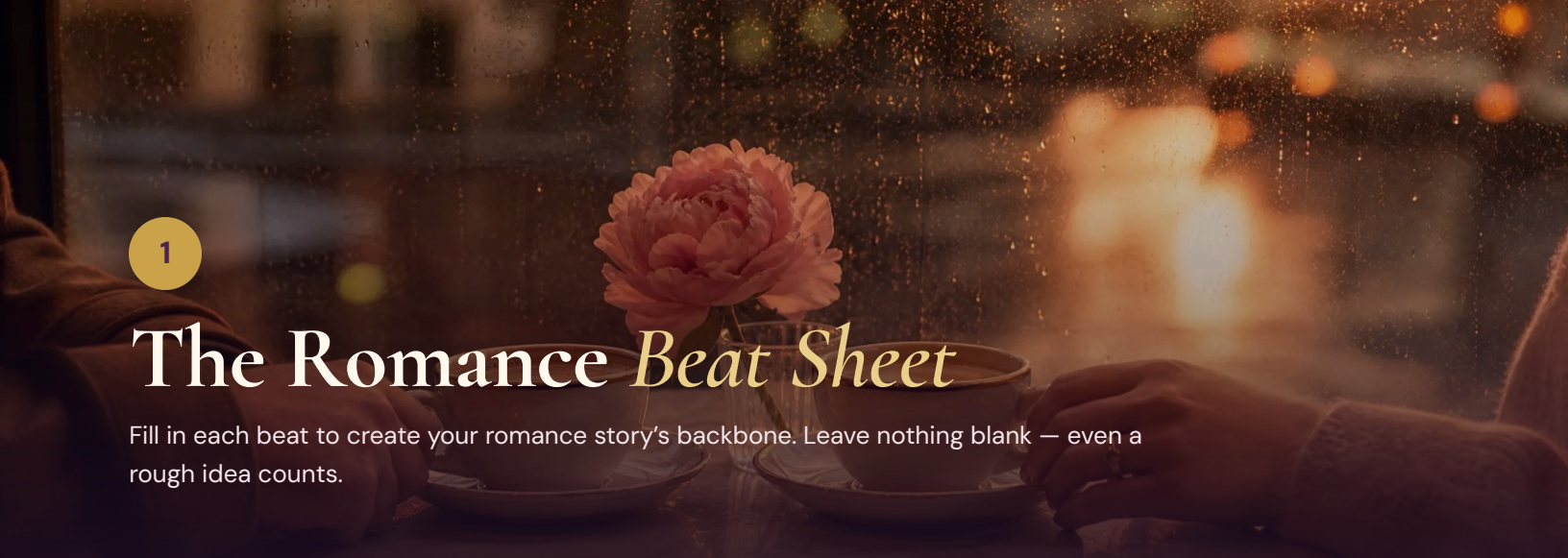
What this template covers

- ♥ **The Romance Beat Sheet** — 9 essential story beats from opening hook to HEA
- ♥ **Character Chemistry Worksheet** — define your hero, heroine, and the conflict that binds them
- ♥ **Tension Building Checklist** — the “3 Almosts Before the Real Thing” framework
- ♥ **Trope Selector** — quick reference to the most popular romance tropes
- ♥ **Subgenre Quick Guide** — find the right category for your story

How to use it

- 1 Print it out or use a PDF editor to fill in the blanks digitally.
- 2 Work through each section in order, or jump to whatever inspires you first.
- 3 Use it for brainstorming, detailed plotting, or as a revision checklist.
- 4 Revisit it with each new book — the beats stay the same, but your stories never will.

Tip: This template works for any heat level — from sweet to steamy. Adjust the beats to match your story’s tone.



1

The Romance *Beat Sheet*

Fill in each beat to create your romance story's backbone. Leave nothing blank — even a rough idea counts.

1. The Hook / Opening Image

What is the protagonist's life BEFORE love?

2. The Meet-Cute

How do they first encounter each other?

3. The Reluctance

Why can't / won't they be together?

4. The Growing Attraction

3 key scenes of increasing closeness

5. The First Kiss / Turning Point

When do they cross the line?



The Romance Beat Sheet *(continued)*

6. The Deepening

What makes them vulnerable to each other?

7. The Dark Moment / All Is Lost

What tears them apart?

8. The Grand Gesture

How does one fight for the relationship?

9. The Resolution / HEA

How do they choose each other? What's changed?

Notes & scene ideas

2

Character *Chemistry* Worksheet

Great romance is built on characters who need each other to grow. Define both sides of the equation.

The Hero

Core Wound

False Belief

What They Want

What They Actually Need

The Heroine

Core Wound

False Belief

What They Want

What They Actually Need

The Conflict

External Obstacle

Why They're Wrong for Each Other

Internal Obstacle

Why They're Actually Right

3

Tension Building *Checklist*

The “3 Almosts Before the Real Thing” framework. Readers crave anticipation. Give them three near-misses before the real payoff.

NEAR-MISS ONE

Almost Kiss #1

Setting

What Interrupts

Emotional Impact

NEAR-MISS TWO

Almost Kiss #2

Setting

What Interrupts

Emotional Impact

NEAR-MISS THREE

Almost Kiss #3

Setting

What Interrupts

Emotional Impact

THE PAYOFF

The Real Thing

How It Pays Off All the Tension

Why NOW Is the Right Moment

Emotional Impact

4

Trope Selector

Circle or tick the trope(s) that fit your story. Mix and match for a fresh twist.

☐

Enemies to Lovers

They start with conflict, clashing at every turn, until passion breaks through the hostility.

☐

Second Chance

Former lovers reunite, older and wiser, to face what went wrong the first time around.

☐

Forced Proximity

Stuck together by circumstance — a cabin, a road trip, a job — they can't escape each other.

☐

Fake Dating

A pretend relationship becomes dangerously real when the lines begin to blur.

☐

Friends to Lovers

Best friends who've always been there suddenly see each other in a whole new light.

☐

Forbidden Romance

Society, family, or duty says no. Their hearts say yes.

☐

Age Gap

The years between them don't matter — until someone says they should.

☐

Marriage of Convenience

A practical arrangement that was never supposed to involve real feelings.

☐

Grumpy / Sunshine

One broods. One beams. Together, they balance each other out.

☐

Boss / Employee

Power dynamics and professional boundaries make every stolen glance electric.

Your trope mix

Main trope + supporting trope(s)

The fresh twist you're adding

Subgenre *Quick Guide*

Knowing your subgenre helps you meet reader expectations. Here's a quick overview of the most popular categories.

Contemporary Romance

Set in the present day with relatable, everyday characters. Think small-town charm, big-city career women, and the boy next door. Reader expectation: modern dialogue, realistic conflict, and emotional authenticity.

Historical Romance

Set before 1960, most commonly Regency, Victorian, or Medieval. Rich world-building, period-accurate detail, and social constraints that heighten the stakes of forbidden desire.

Paranormal / Fantasy (Romantasy)

Magic, shapeshifters, vampires, or epic fantasy worlds where love transcends the ordinary. High-stakes plots with world-building that enhances the romance arc.

Romantic Suspense

Love under pressure. A mystery or thriller plot runs parallel to the romance, creating urgency and danger. The hero or heroine (or both) face real physical or emotional peril.

Small Town Romance

A tight-knit community where everybody knows your business — and has an opinion about your love life. Cozy settings, quirky side characters, and a strong sense of place.

Sports Romance

Athletes, competition, and the tension between public persona and private vulnerability. Whether it's football, hockey, or MMA, the sport adds stakes and structure.

Dark Romance

Explores morally complex themes, power dynamics, and intense emotional territory. Not for the faint of heart. Reader trust is essential — content warnings matter here.

Ready to turn this outline into a *published series?*

Or hand the hours to our team. We build it with you, from your concept up, and hand you back an upload-ready series.

01

Your concept, shaped with Coral

Coral Hart runs your concept session herself, once per series, so every book that follows already knows where it's going.

03

Ready to upload

Cover, back-cover blurb, full Amazon metadata and A+ content, ready for KDP. Your name, your KDP account, your rights.

From \$260 per book · 6-book series \$1,335 (\$222.50 a book)

02

Drafted and polished for you

A complete full-length draft, line-level revision and a full pre-flight check, then a read by an independent human beta reader.

Up to 50,000 words per book · longer on request

04

After launch, too (optional)

Author Operations: a weekly newsletter in your voice, uploads for every release, promotion, and fresh ad images every month.

\$95 per series per month · cancel any time

See how it works & reserve a slot ›

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