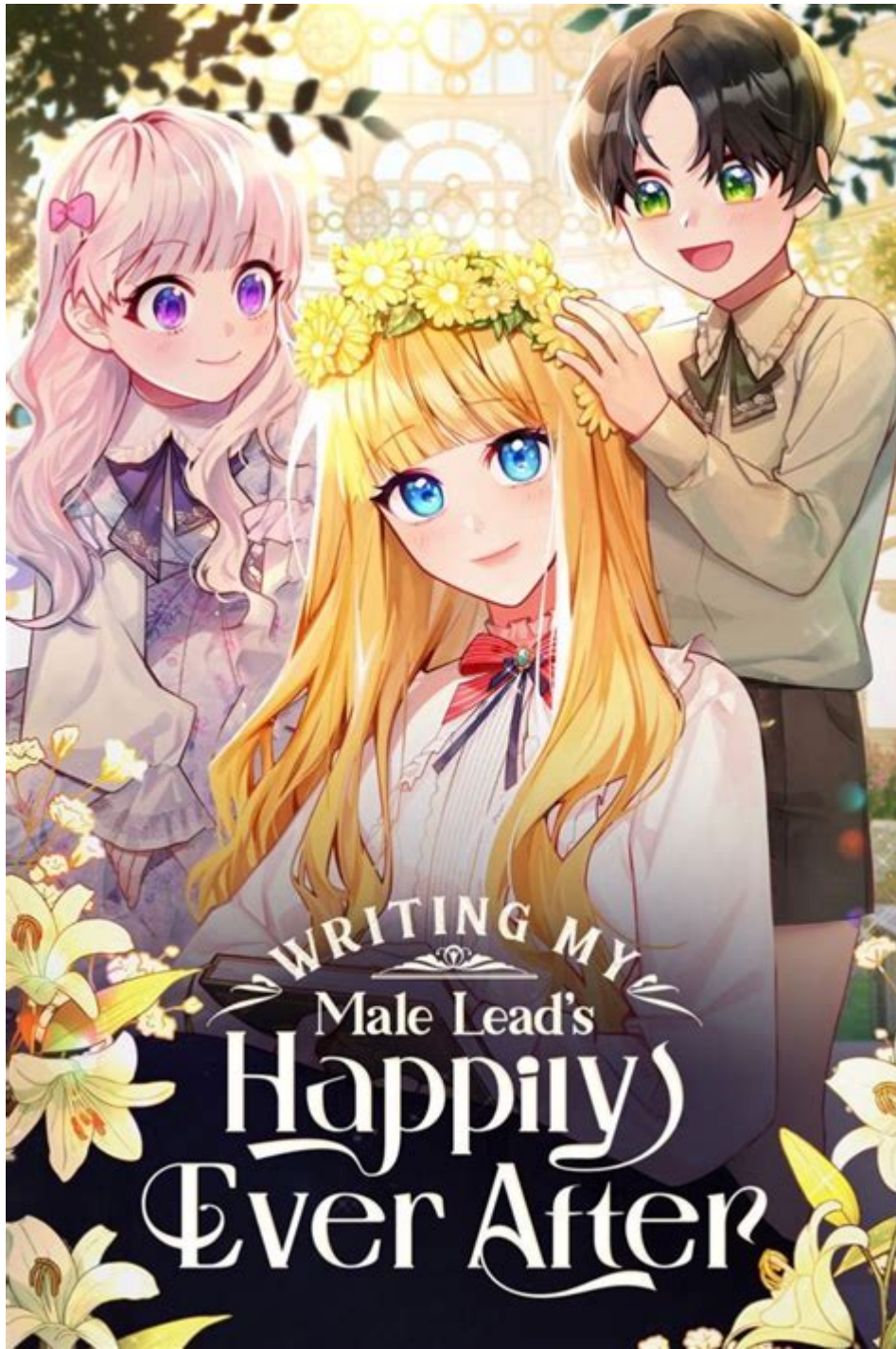


# Writing My Male Leads Happily Ever After



## **Writing My Male Leads Happily Ever After: A Guide to Crafting Satisfying Romantic Arcs**

Finding the perfect ending for your male lead can be tricky. Do you go for the grand gesture, the quiet intimacy, or something entirely unexpected? This comprehensive guide delves into the art of

crafting satisfying "happily ever afters" for your male protagonists, exploring various approaches and offering practical tips to elevate your romance writing. We'll move beyond simple tropes and explore how to create truly resonant and believable endings that leave your readers completely satisfied.

## H2: Understanding Your Male Lead's Journey Before the "Happily Ever After"

Before we even think about the ending, we need a strong foundation. A compelling "happily ever after" isn't just about a romantic partner; it's about the culmination of a character's entire arc.

H3: Internal Conflicts: What internal battles has your male lead overcome? Has he confronted his insecurities, faced his demons, or learned crucial life lessons? A fulfilling ending reflects this growth. A simple romantic resolution without addressing internal conflicts will feel shallow and unsatisfying.

H3: External Conflicts: How has he navigated the external challenges presented throughout the story? Overcoming obstacles—whether they're romantic rivals, societal pressures, or personal setbacks—builds his strength and resilience, making his eventual happiness more meaningful.

H3: Character Development: Avoid stagnant characters. Your male lead should be demonstrably different at the end of the story than he was at the beginning. This evolution is crucial to a believable and emotionally resonant conclusion.

## H2: Different Flavors of "Happily Ever After": Beyond the Trope

The classic "happily ever after" is often reduced to a simple marriage or romantic union. But there's so much more depth we can explore!

H3: The Triumphant Return: For male leads who've faced significant loss or exile, a triumphant return—reclaiming their rightful place, reuniting with loved ones—can provide a deeply satisfying conclusion. This works particularly well for characters who've undergone significant personal transformation.

H3: The Quiet Domesticity: Sometimes, the most fulfilling ending is the quietest. A simple life shared with loved ones, a sense of peace and belonging—this can be incredibly powerful if it aligns with your male lead's desires and character arc. Avoid making this seem like a "settling" – ensure it's a conscious and fulfilling choice for him.

H3: The Unexpected Twist: Consider a non-traditional "happily ever after." Perhaps your male lead finds fulfillment in an unexpected career path, a surprising friendship, or a different type of love than originally anticipated. Subvert expectations and reward readers with something unique and memorable.

## H2: Crafting a Believable and Emotional Ending

The key to a truly impactful ending is believability and emotional resonance. Avoid clichés and predictable tropes. Instead, focus on:

H3: Showing, Not Telling: Don't just tell the reader your male lead is happy; show it through his actions, interactions, and inner thoughts. Describe the subtle nuances of his contentment,

demonstrating the depth of his contentment.

H3: Authenticity and Consistency: The ending must feel authentic to your male lead's character and the overall tone of your story. Avoid sudden shifts in personality or behavior that feel forced or contrived.

H3: Emotional Impact: Aim for an emotional impact that leaves a lasting impression on your readers. Whether it's joy, contentment, or even a bittersweet sense of accomplishment, ensure the ending evokes a powerful emotional response.

## H2: Avoiding Common Pitfalls

Many writers fall into predictable traps when crafting their male lead's happy ending. Avoid these common pitfalls:

H3: Deus Ex Machina: Don't rely on sudden, improbable events to solve your problems. The resolution should feel earned and organic, stemming from the events and character development of the story.

H3: Unrealistic Resolutions: Ensure the ending is grounded in reality, even within a fantasy or sci-fi context. Avoid overly simplistic solutions or unbelievable coincidences.

H3: Ignoring Character Flaws: Don't magically erase your male lead's flaws. A true "happily ever after" often involves accepting imperfections and continuing to grow and evolve.

## Conclusion:

Writing a satisfying "happily ever after" for your male lead requires careful consideration of his journey, personality, and desires. By avoiding clichés, focusing on authenticity, and understanding the nuances of emotional resonance, you can craft an ending that is both believable and deeply moving, leaving your readers with a lasting sense of fulfillment. Remember, the best endings aren't about the destination, but the journey itself and the profound transformation your character has undertaken.

## FAQs:

1. How do I ensure my male lead's "happily ever after" feels earned, not simply given? By meticulously crafting his character arc, ensuring he overcomes internal and external conflicts, and demonstrating his growth throughout the narrative. His happiness should be a direct result of his efforts and choices.
2. What if my male lead doesn't want a romantic "happily ever after"? That's perfectly fine! Focus on what does fulfill him. It could be a fulfilling career, strong friendships, or personal achievements. The key is to align the ending with his character and aspirations.
3. How can I avoid making the ending feel rushed or unsatisfying? Allocate sufficient space for the resolution. Don't cram everything into the final chapter. Allow for emotional exploration and thoughtful reflection on the events that led to this point.

4. Is it okay to leave some questions unanswered in the ending? Absolutely. Ambiguity can be powerful, leaving readers with a lingering sense of wonder and encouraging further reflection. However, ensure the core questions related to your male lead's journey are addressed satisfactorily.
5. How can I know if my male lead's "happily ever after" resonates with readers? Seek feedback from beta readers or critique partners. Pay attention to reader responses and reviews to gauge their emotional reaction to the ending. A powerful ending will evoke a strong emotional response and a sense of closure.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Anna and the French Kiss*** Stephanie Perkins, 2013-12-16 Anna had everything figured out – she was about to start senior year with her best friend, she had a great weekend job and her huge work crush looked as if it might finally be going somewhere... Until her dad decides to send her 4383 miles away to Paris. On her own. But despite not speaking a word of French, Anna finds herself making new friends, including Étienne St. Clair, the smart, beautiful boy from the floor above. But he's taken – and Anna might be too. Will a year of romantic near-misses end with the French kiss she's been waiting for?

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Isla and the Happily Ever After*** Stephanie Perkins, 2015-08-04 “Stephanie Perkins’ characters fall in love the way we all want to, in real time and for good.”—Rainbow Rowell “This adorable YA romance is half New York love story, half Parisian romance, and fully prepared to make your heart melt quicker than a gelato dropped on a sidewalk.”—MTV.com From the glittering streets of Manhattan to the moonlit rooftops of Paris, falling in love is easy for hopeless dreamer Isla and introspective artist Josh. But as they begin their senior year in France, Isla and Josh are quickly forced to confront the heartbreaking reality that happily-ever-afters aren't always forever. Their romantic journey is skillfully intertwined with those of beloved couples Anna and Étienne and Lola and Cricket, whose paths are destined to collide in a sweeping finale certain to please fans old and new.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Happily Ever After*** Catherine M. Roach, 2016-03-31 Find your one true love and live happily ever after. The trials of love and desire provide perennial story material, from the Biblical Song of Songs to Disney's princesses, but perhaps most provocatively in the romance novel, a genre known for tales of fantasy and desire, sex and pleasure. Hailed on the one hand for its women-centered stories that can be sexually liberating, and criticized on the other for its emphasis on male/female coupling and mythical happy endings, romance fiction is a multi-million dollar publishing phenomenon, creating national and international societies of enthusiasts, practitioners, and scholars. Catherine M. Roach, alongside her romance-writer alter-ego, Catherine LaRoche, guides the reader deep into Romancelandia where the smart and the witty combine with the sexy and seductive to explore why this genre has such a grip on readers and what we can learn from the romance novel about the nature of happiness, love, sex, and desire in American popular culture.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Verity*** Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller · USA Today Bestseller · Globe and Mail Bestseller · Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the

already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Between the Lines*** Jodi Picoult, Samantha van Leer, 2013-06-25 Told in their separate voices, sixteen-year-old Prince Oliver, who wants to break free of his fairy-tale existence, and fifteen-year-old Delilah, a loner obsessed with Prince Oliver and the book in which he exists, work together to seek his freedom.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Happily Letter After*** Vi Keeland, Penelope Ward, 2020-10-20 My love story all started with a letter. Only it wasn't from the man I'd eventually fall in love with. It was from his daughter. A sweet little girl named Birdie Maxwell who'd written to the magazine that I worked for. You see, once a year my employer fulfilled a few wishes for readers. Only that column didn't start up again for months. So I fulfilled some of her wishes myself. It was harmless, so I thought. Until one day I took things too far.--Provided by publisher.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *The Idea of You*** Robinne Lee, 2017-06-13 Now an original movie on Prime Video starring Anne Hathaway and Nicholas Galitzine! When Solène Marchand, the thirty-nine-year-old owner of a prestigious art gallery in Los Angeles, takes her daughter, Isabelle, to meet her favorite boy band, she does so reluctantly and at her ex-husband's request. The last thing she expects is to make a connection with one of the members of the world-famous August Moon. But Hayes Campbell is clever, winning, confident, and posh, and the attraction is immediate. That he is all of twenty years old further complicates things. What begins as a series of clandestine trysts quickly evolves into a passionate relationship. It is a journey that spans continents as Solène and Hayes navigate each other's disparate worlds: from stadium tours to international art fairs to secluded hideaways in Paris and Miami. And for Solène, it is as much a reclaiming of self, as it is a rediscovery of happiness and love. When their romance becomes a viral sensation, and both she and her daughter become the target of rabid fans and an insatiable media, Solène must face how her new status has impacted not only her life, but the lives of those closest to her.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Hearts Unbroken*** Cynthia Leitich Smith, 2018-10-09 New York Times best-selling author Cynthia Leitich Smith turns to realistic fiction with the thoughtful story of a Native teen navigating the complicated, confusing waters of high school — and first love. When Louise Wolfe's first real boyfriend mocks and disrespects Native people in front of her, she breaks things off and dumps him over e-mail. It's her senior year, anyway, and she'd rather spend her time with her family and friends and working on the school newspaper. The editors pair her up with Joey Kairouz, the ambitious new photojournalist, and in no time the paper's staff find themselves with a major story to cover: the school musical director's inclusive approach to casting *The Wizard of Oz* has been provoking backlash in their mostly white, middle-class Kansas town. From the newly formed Parents Against Revisionist Theater to anonymous threats, long-held prejudices are being laid bare and hostilities are spreading against teachers, parents, and students — especially the cast members at the center of the controversy, including Lou's little brother, who's playing the Tin Man. As tensions mount at school, so does a romance between Lou and Joey — but as she's learned, "dating while Native" can be difficult. In trying to protect her own heart, will Lou break Joey's?

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *A Little Life*** Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning "portrait of the enduring grace of friendship" (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction

of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Princess Ever After* Rachel Hauck, 2014-02-04 Regina Beswick doesn't know she was born to be a princess. The second book in the Royal Wedding series from New York Times bestselling author Rachel Hauck! Regina Beswick is content to be a small-town girl, running a classic auto restoration shop, unaware a secret destiny awaits her. One that will leap from the pages of her grandmother's hand-painted book of fairytales. Tanner Burkhardt is the stoic Minister of Culture for the Grand Duchy of Hessenberg. When he is tasked to retrieve the long-lost princess, he must overcome his fear of failure in order to secure his nation's future—and his own. Yet lurking in the political shadows is a fierce opponent with sinister plans to abolish the throne forever. Overwhelmed with opposition, Regina must decide if she's destined to restore old cars or an ancient nation. Together—with a little divine intervention—Regina and Tanner discover the truth of her heritage and the healing power of true love. "Hauck can be counted on for captivating, page-turning stories and sincere characters with heart." —RT Book Reviews, 4 stars

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Happily Ever Afters* Elise Bryant, 2021-01-05 Jane the Virgin meets *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* in this charming debut romantic comedy filled with Black Girl Magic. Perfect for fans of Mary H. K. Choi and Nicola Yoon, with crossover appeal for readers of Jasmine Guillory and Talia Hibbert romances. Sixteen-year-old Tessa Johnson has never felt like the protagonist in her own life. She's rarely seen herself reflected in the pages of the romance novels she loves. The only place she's a true leading lady is in her own writing—in the swoony love stories she shares only with Caroline, her best friend and #1 devoted reader. When Tessa is accepted into the creative writing program of a prestigious art school, she's excited to finally let her stories shine. But when she goes to her first workshop, the words are just...gone. Fortunately, Caroline has a solution: Tessa just needs to find some inspiration in a real-life love story of her own. And she's ready with a list of romance novel-inspired steps to a happily ever after. Nico, the brooding artist who looks like he walked out of one of Tessa's stories, is cast as the perfect Prince Charming. But as Tessa checks each item off Caroline's list, she gets further and further away from herself. She risks losing everything she cares about—including the surprising bond she develops with sweet Sam, who lives across the street. She's well on her way to having her own real-life love story, but is it the one she wants, after all?

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Tears of a Tiger* Sharon M. Draper, 2013-07-23 The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Bad Boy Daddy* Chance Carter, 2015-09-29 He wanted a baby. I needed a man. Faith The first time I saw Jackson, I hated his guts. He was everything I could never have. Pure, panty-wetting, manhood. And I was trapped in a loveless relationship with his worst enemy. I never would have dreamed he craved my womb so badly he was willing to do anything for it. Jackson My father's death taught me a lot of things. Most importantly, I needed a child. I had to have a son before my enemies caught up with me. So when Faith came begging for protection, I knew exactly what I wanted. I yearned for her body. Lust raged through me like a wildfire. I longed to make her pregnant with my child. I gave her an offer she couldn't refuse. A life for a life. My protection, in exchange for everything she had to offer. I'd die for her, but she would give me a son. I took her womb. I never suspected she'd take my heart.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *The Sense of an Ending* Julian Barnes, 2011-10-05 BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A novel that follows a middle-aged man as he contends with a past he never much thought about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. A novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single setting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself,

and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Love, Sex, and Happily Ever After*** Craig Groeschel, 2011-08-16 What do you do if you want a marriage that doesn't just survive, but thrives? That doesn't just begin romantically but ends magnificently? Answer: You do something different. You've seen marriages fail time and again. Even relationships you thought were bulletproof don't last—or maybe worse—fade away to a cold, gray lovelessness. It's no wonder that for today's generation, "getting what you want" is often a substitute for love, and disillusionment about marriage is the new normal. But you can have a long-term, love-blessed marriage. Whether you're still considering it, are about to be wed, or have been married for a while and want to make changes, *Love, Sex & Happily Ever After* delivers an infusion of hope. Author Craig Groeschel clearly and honestly lays out the choices and commitments you can make now to change the way you think and act—to build the relationship you want for the rest of your life. With an invigorating mix of personal story, practical guidance and biblical truth, Craig invites you into a candid conversation about first dates, sex, communication, integrity, forgiveness, and commitment. Along the way, he shows how you can build a soul-enriching, God-honoring relationship with the one you love...and believe together again in your very own "happily ever after." Previously released as *Going All the Way*

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Before We Were Strangers*** Renée Carlino, 2015-08-18 From the USA TODAY bestselling author of *Sweet Thing* and *Nowhere But Here* comes a love story about a Craigslist "missed connection" post that gives two people a second chance at love fifteen years after they were separated in New York City. To the Green-eyed Lovebird: We met fifteen years ago, almost to the day, when I moved my stuff into the NYU dorm room next to yours at Senior House. You called us fast friends. I like to think it was more. We lived on nothing but the excitement of finding ourselves through music (you were obsessed with Jeff Buckley), photography (I couldn't stop taking pictures of you), hanging out in Washington Square Park, and all the weird things we did to make money. I learned more about myself that year than any other. Yet, somehow, it all fell apart. We lost touch the summer after graduation when I went to South America to work for National Geographic. When I came back, you were gone. A part of me still wonders if I pushed you too hard after the wedding... I didn't see you again until a month ago. It was a Wednesday. You were rocking back on your heels, balancing on that thick yellow line that runs along the subway platform, waiting for the F train. I didn't know it was you until it was too late, and then you were gone. Again. You said my name; I saw it on your lips. I tried to will the train to stop, just so I could say hello. After seeing you, all of the youthful feelings and memories came flooding back to me, and now I've spent the better part of a month wondering what your life is like. I might be totally out of my mind, but would you like to get a drink with me and catch up on the last decade and a half? M

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Beach Read*** Emily Henry, 2021-05-25 THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION*! Original, sparkling bright, and layered with feeling.--Sally Thorne, author of *The Hating Game* A romance writer who no longer believes in love and a literary writer stuck in a rut engage in a summer-long challenge that may just upend everything they believe about happily ever afters. Augustus Everett is an acclaimed author of literary fiction. January Andrews writes bestselling romance. When she pens a happily ever after, he kills off his entire cast. They're polar opposites. In fact, the only thing they have in common is that for the next three months, they're living in neighboring beach houses, broke, and bogged down with writer's block. Until, one hazy evening, one thing leads to another and they strike a deal designed to force them out of their creative ruts: Augustus will spend the summer writing something happy, and January will pen the next Great American Novel. She'll take him on field trips worthy of any rom-com montage, and he'll take her to interview surviving members of a backwoods death cult (obviously). Everyone will finish a book and no one will fall in love. Really.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Romancing the Beat*** Gwen Hayes, 2016 What



makes a romance novel a romance? How do you write a kissing book? Writing a well-structured romance isn't the same as writing any other genre—something the popular novel and screenwriting guides don't address. The romance arc is made up of its own story beats, and the external plot and theme need to be braided to the romance arc—not the other way around. Told in conversational (and often irreverent) prose, *Romancing the Beat* can be read like you are sitting down to coffee with romance editor and author Gwen Hayes while she explains story structure. The way she does with her clients. Some of whom are regular inhabitants of the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists. *Romancing the Beat* is a recipe, not a rigid system. The beats don't care if you plot or outline before you write, or if you pants your way through the drafts and do a beat check when you're revising. Pantsers and plotters are both welcome. So sit down, grab a cuppa, and let's talk about kissing books.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** Would Like to Meet Rachel Winters, 2019-12-03 Can you fall in love like they do in the movies? It's Evie Summers's job to find out. Because if she can't convince her film agency's biggest client, Ezra Chester, to write the romantic-comedy screenplay he owes producers, her career will be over. The catch? He thinks rom-coms are unrealistic—and he'll only put pen to paper if Evie shows him that it's possible to meet a man in real life the way it happens on the big screen. Cynical Evie might not believe in happily ever after, but she'll do what it takes to save the job that's been her lifeline . . . even if it means reenacting iconic rom-com scenes in public. Spilling orange juice on a cute stranger? No problem. Leaving her number in books all over London to see who calls? Done. With a little help from her well-meaning friends—and Ben and Anette, the adorable father-daughter duo who keep witnessing her humiliations—Evie is determined to prove she can meet a man the way Sally met Harry. But can a workaholic who's given up on love find a meet-cute of her very own?

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** Life Without You S.P. West, 2017-11-15 Once upon a time in a land not so far away, a man and a woman fell in love. They were very happy. Until one day they weren't – their happily ever after disappeared. This is their story.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew* Daniel Pool, 2012-10-02 A “delightful reader's companion” (The New York Times) to the great nineteenth-century British novels of Austen, Dickens, Trollope, the Brontës, and more, this lively guide clarifies the sometimes bizarre maze of rules and customs that governed life in Victorian England. For anyone who has ever wondered whether a duke outranked an earl, when to yell “Tally Ho!” at a fox hunt, or how one landed in “debtor's prison,” this book serves as an indispensable historical and literary resource. Author Daniel Pool provides countless intriguing details (did you know that the “plums” in Christmas plum pudding were actually raisins?) on the Church of England, sex, Parliament, dinner parties, country house visiting, and a host of other aspects of nineteenth-century English life—both “upstairs” and “downstairs. An illuminating glossary gives at a glance the meaning and significance of terms ranging from “ague” to “wainscoting,” the specifics of the currency system, and a lively host of other details and curiosities of the day.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *The Story Of An Hour* Kate Chopin, 2014-04-22 Mrs. Louise Mallard, afflicted with a heart condition, reflects on the death of her husband from the safety of her locked room. Originally published in *Vogue* magazine, “The Story of an Hour” was retitled as “The Dream of an Hour,” when it was published amid much controversy under its new title a year later in *St. Louis Life*. “The Story of an Hour” was adapted to film in *The Joy That Kills* by director Tina Rathbone, which was part of a PBS anthology called *American Playhouse*. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *And They Lived Happily Ever After* Therese Beharrie, 2021-11-30 Fans of *Payback's a Witch* and *The Ex Hex* won't want to miss this charming and humorous novel featuring a South African writer facing her past and literally living her dreams—and conjuring a real-life hero. A Goodreads Most Hotly Anticipated Romance A USA Today



Best RomCom of 2021 "An ambitious story of magic, romance, and healing from past trauma...Anxious Gaia's difficult background and social awkwardness will endear her to many readers." —Publishers Weekly "A sweet reminder of the connections between love and magic." —Kirkus Reviews One unexpected kiss . . . Successful romance author Gaia Anders has a secret: anything she dreams at night is magically written into her bestselling novels. After a lonely childhood in foster care, her dream life is the only one she trusts. Gaia's waking life just can't compare—until she gets caught in one utterly surprising, crazy-passionate, real-life kiss . . . One near-perfect guy . . . Workaholic businessman Jacob Scott has had a crush on his brother's best friend, Gaia, since forever—but he never expected to literally share her dreams. Living out their magical nighttime fantasies is explosive, but it's their waking desire turning his single-minded ways upside down. It's making him want a future he didn't think was possible . . . One dream that could come true . . . But Gaia has secrets from her past she won't reveal. And Jacob's attempts to keep the peace in his own fractured family puts him up against her deepest fears. Soon, they're facing hard truths about who they are and what they're running from. And the only way to break this curse is realizing true love's real-life power . . .

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** Creating Characters Writer's Digest Books, 2014-11-01 Create characters that leap off the page--and into readers' hearts! Populating your fiction with authentic, vivid characters is a surefire way to captivate your readers from the first sentence to the last. Whether you're writing a series, novel, short story, or flash fiction, Creating Characters is an invaluable guide to bringing your fictional cast to life. This book is a comprehensive reference to every stage of character development. You'll find timely advice and helpful instruction from best-selling authors like Nancy Kress, Elizabeth Sims, Orson Scott Card, Chuck Wendig, Hallie Ephron, Donald Maass, and James Scott Bell. They'll show you how to:

- Effectively introduce your characters
- Build a believable protagonist
- Develop strong anti-heroes and compelling villains
- Juggle multiple points of view without missing a beat
- Craft authentic dialogue that propels the story forward
- Motivate your characters with powerful objectives and a believable conflict
- Show dynamic character development over the course of a story

No matter what your genre, Creating Characters gives you the tools necessary to create realistic, fascinating characters that your readers will root for and remember long after they've finished the story.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** Ever After Always Chloe Liese, 2021-01-12 A marriage-in-crisis rekindles its passion in this second chance romance about going the distance to make love last. Freya Bergman has spent a dozen years loving Aiden and never thought they'd find their marriage on the rocks. He's her partner and best friend, the person she knows she can count on most. Until one day Freya realizes the man she married is nowhere to be found. Now Aiden is quiet and withdrawn, and as the months wear on, the growing distance between them becomes too much to bear. Aiden would spend a dozen lifetimes making his wife happy. But the one thing that will make her happiest is the one thing he's not sure he can give her: a baby. With the pressure of providing and planning for a family, his anxiety is at an all-time high. They're drifting apart and he doesn't know how to change the tide. As if weathering marriage counseling wasn't enough, Freya and Aiden are thrown together for a Bergman family island getaway. Will this trip help them finally work through their trouble in paradise, or be the final wave that tows them under?

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** The Magic of Fiction Beth Hill, 2016-03 Writing a novel can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. No matter where you are with your writing project--beginning the first draft, rewriting the fifth draft, or editing the final draft--help is available. The Magic of Fiction is a comprehensive guide for crafting fiction. It's the perfect resource for writers planning to self-publish, authors looking for an edge for manuscript submissions, and editors looking for a handbook on craft. Students and educators will also benefit, with details about the crafts of writing and editing available in a single book. Whether you intend to self-publish or submit your manuscript to agents or publishers, use The Magic of Fiction to master the ins and outs of writing and revision, create stronger early drafts, and edit your own stories. This guide addresses all aspects of editing and writing, from the mechanics to story issues to style concerns. In it you'll

find--~ A comprehensive editing checklist~ Fixes for common writing mistakes~ Specifics for punctuation in dialogue~ Tips for putting setting to work for your fiction~ Suggestions for editing for the reader~ Help for writing to genre conventions~ Tips for word choices~ A guide for editing approaches and much more. Every fiction writer should be equipped to not only write well, but to rewrite and edit. There are books designed to help you write a novel, books to help you revise, and books to help you with the nitty-gritty of punctuation and grammar. The Magic of Fiction brings all those elements together in a single easy-to-digest resource for the writer looking for an edge in today's literary marketplace. The format of The Magic of Fiction helps you focus on what you need when you need it. Chapters provide detailed discussions of topics and end with quick lists to help you get straight to work on your own stories. Written by freelance fiction editor Beth Hill, The Magic of Fiction will help you produce high-quality fiction that will earn attention for all the right reasons.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: Double Standards** Judith McNaught, 2016-11-01 "Judith McNaught not only spins dreams, but she makes them come true.... She makes you laugh, cry, and fall in love again" (RT Book Reviews), especially in this romance that takes place in the glittering world of the business elite. Nick Sinclair, the ruggedly handsome president of Global Industries, handles his business the way he handles his women: with charm, daring, and complete self-control. When he hires Lauren Danner, he assumes the whip-smart beauty will be another easy conquest but much to his surprise, her wit and rare spirit dazzles him and he slowly finds himself falling in love. Yet he has no idea that Lauren is living a lie, one that is becoming more dangerous with every passing moment. Trapped in a web of deceit, she fights her growing love for Nick and the promise of life with the most compelling man she has ever met.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: The Mother of All Questions** Rebecca Solnit, 2017-02-12 A collection of feminist essays steeped in "Solnit's unapologetically observant and truth-speaking voice on toxic, violent masculinity" (The Los Angeles Review). In a timely and incisive follow-up to her national bestseller Men Explain Things to Me, Rebecca Solnit offers sharp commentary on women who refuse to be silenced, misogynistic violence, the fragile masculinity of the literary canon, the gender binary, the recent history of rape jokes, and much more. In characteristic style, "Solnit draw[s] anecdotes of female indignity or male aggression from history, social media, literature, popular culture, and the news . . . The main essay in the book is about the various ways that women are silenced, and Solnit focuses upon the power of storytelling—the way that who gets to speak, and about what, shapes how a society understands itself and what it expects from its members. The Mother of All Questions poses the thesis that telling women's stories to the world will change the way that the world treats women, and it sets out to tell as many of those stories as possible" (The New Yorker). "There's a new feminist revolution—open to people of all genders—brewing right now and Rebecca Solnit is one of its most powerful, not to mention beguiling, voices."—Barbara Ehrenreich, New York Times–bestselling author of Natural Causes "Short, incisive essays that pack a powerful punch." —Publishers Weekly "A keen and timely commentary on gender and feminism. Solnit's voice is calm, clear, and unapologetic; each essay balances a warm wit with confident, thoughtful analysis, resulting in a collection that is as enjoyable and accessible as it is incisive." —Booklist

**writing my male leads happily ever after: Weaveworld** Clive Barker, 2021-03-30 The Seerkind, a people who possess the power to make magic, have weaved themselves into a rug for safekeeping. Now, with the last human caretaker dead, a variety of humans vie for ownership of the rug.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: If Men Are Like Buses, Then How Do I Catch One?** Michelle McKinney Hammond, 2009-10-07 Readers have asked for more from Chicago talk show cohost Michelle McKinney Hammond -- especially women from her huge following of Christian singles. Buses will pick them up where two previous bestsellers left off, with counsel that is both enjoyable and instructional. The mood of the book is conversational, scriptural, with a touch of humor, Michelle says. It's the kind of book I wanted, but couldn't find, so I had to write it! Singles have been waiting too long to be caught up by human love. When they halt their pursuit and let

God's love catch their hearts, they'll be on board for the greatest discovery of all -- His true purpose for them.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *What I Was Doing While You Were Breeding* Kristin Newman, 2014-05-20 A "truly hilarious" (Glamour), sexy, and ultimately poignant memoir about mastering the art of the "vacationship" from a writer and co-executive producer of Hulu's *Only Murders in the Building*—now with a new afterword "What I Was Doing While You Were Breeding is kind of like if *Eat, Pray, Love* were written by your funniest friend."—Rachel Dratch Kristin Newman spent much of her twenties and thirties buying dresses to wear to her friends' weddings and baby showers. Not ready to settle down and in need of an escape from her fast-paced job as a sitcom writer, Kristin instead traveled the world, often alone, for several weeks each year. In addition to falling madly in love with the planet, Kristin fell for many attractive locals, men who could provide the emotional connection she wanted without costing her the freedom she desperately needed. Kristin introduces readers to the Israeli bartenders, Finnish poker players, sexy Bedouins, and Argentinean priests who helped her transform into "Kristin-Adjacent" on the road—a slower, softer, and, yes, sluttier version of herself at home. Equal parts laugh-out-loud storytelling, candid reflection, and wanderlust-inspiring travel tales, *What I Was Doing While You Were Breeding* is a compelling debut that will have readers rushing to renew their passports.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *American Dirt* (Oprah's Book Club) Jeanine Cummins, 2022-02 También de este lado hay sueños. On this side, too, there are dreams. Lydia Quixano Perez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with four books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the jefe of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride la bestia—trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach el norte, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to? *American Dirt* will leave readers utterly changed when they finish reading it. A page-turner filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page, it is a literary achievement.--

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte, K.M. Weiland, 2014-06-26 Part of Penguin's beautiful hardback Clothbound Classics series, designed by the award-winning Coralie Bickford-Smith, these delectable and collectible editions are bound in high-quality colourful, tactile cloth with foil stamped into the design. Charlotte Brontë's first published novel, *Jane Eyre* was immediately recognised as a work of genius when it appeared in 1847. Orphaned into the household of her Aunt Reed at Gateshead, subject to the cruel regime at Lowood charity school, *Jane Eyre* nonetheless emerges unbroken in spirit and integrity. How she takes up the post of governess at Thornfield Hall, meets and loves Mr Rochester and discovers the impediment to their lawful marriage are elements in a story that transcends melodrama to portray a woman's passionate search for a wider and richer life than that traditionally accorded to her sex in Victorian society.

**writing my male leads happily ever after:** *Women and Men* Joseph McElroy, 2023-01-17 Beginning in childbirth and entered like a multiple dwelling in motion, *Women and Men* embraces and anatomizes the 1970s in New York - from experiments in the chaotic relations between the sexes to the flux of the city itself. Yet through an intricate overlay of scenes, voices, fact, and myth, this expanding fiction finds its way also across continents and into earlier and future times and indeed the Earth, to reveal connections between the most disparate lives and systems of feeling and power.

At its breathing heart, it plots the fuguelike and fieldlike densities of late-twentieth-century life. McElroy rests a global vision on two people, apartment-house neighbors who never quite meet. Except, that is, in the population of others whose histories cross theirs believers and skeptics; lovers, friends, and hermits; children, parents, grandparents, avatars, and, apparently, angels. For *Women and Men* shows how the families through which we pass let one person's experience belong to that of many, so that we throw light on each other as if these kinships were refracted lives so real as to be reincarnate. A mirror of manners, the book is also a meditation on the languages, rich, ludicrous, exact, and also American, in which we try to grasp the world we're in. Along the kindred axes of separation and intimacy *Women and Men* extends the great line of twentieth-century innovative fiction.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Once Upon a Prince*** Rachel Hauck, 2013-05-07 The story that inspired the Hallmark Original movie! He's a royal prince. She's an ordinary girl. But this holiday could change everything. Susanna Truitt never dreamed of a great romance or being treated like a princess—just to marry the man she has loved for twelve years. But life isn't going according to plan. When her high-school-sweetheart-turned-Marine-officer breaks up with her instead of proposing, Susanna scrambles to rebuild her life. The last thing Prince Nathaniel expects to find on his American holiday to St. Simons Island is the queen of his heart. The prince has duties, and his family's tense political situation means he won't be able to marry for love or even choose his own bride. When Prince Nathaniel stops to help Susanna, who is stranded with a flat tire under the fabled Lover's Oak, he is immediately enchanted by her. And even though he's a total stranger, Susanna finds herself pouring her heart out to him. Their lives are worlds apart, and soon Nathaniel must face the ultimate choice: his kingdom or her heart? Enchanting modern-day fairy tale romance Includes discussion questions for book clubs Part of the Royal Wedding series Book 1: *Once Upon a Prince* Book 2: *Princess Ever After* Book 3: *How to Catch a Prince* Book 4: *A Royal Christmas Wedding*

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *I Who Have Never Known Men*** Jacqueline Harpman, 1997-04-08 A work of fantasy, *I Who Have Never Known Men* is the haunting and unforgettable account of a near future on a barren earth where women are kept in underground cages guarded by uniformed groups of men. It is narrated by the youngest of the women, the only one with no memory of what the world was like before the cages, who must teach herself, without books or sexual contact, the essential human emotions of longing, loving, learning, companionship, and dying. Part thriller, part mystery, *I Who Have Never Known Men* shows us the power of one person without memories to reinvent herself piece by piece, emotion by emotion, in the process teaching us much about what it means to be human.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *A Man in Full*** Tom Wolfe, 2010-04-01 The Bonfire of the Vanities defined an era--and established Tom Wolfe as our prime fictional chronicler of America at its most outrageous and alive. With *A Man in Full*, the time the setting is Atlanta, Georgia--a racially mixed late-century boomtown full of fresh wealth, avid speculators, and worldly-wise politicians. Big men. Big money. Big games. Big libidos. Big trouble. The protagonist is Charles Croker, once a college football star, now a late-middle-aged Atlanta real-estate entrepreneur turned conglomerate king, whose expansionist ambitions and outsize ego have at last hit up against reality. Charlie has a 28,000-acre quail-shooting plantation, a young and demanding second wife--and a half-empty office tower with a staggering load of debt. When star running back Fareek Fanon--the pride of one of Atlanta's grimmest slums--is accused of raping an Atlanta blueblood's daughter, the city's delicate racial balance is shattered overnight. Networks of illegal Asian immigrants crisscrossing the continent, daily life behind bars, shady real-estate syndicates, cast-off first wives of the corporate elite, the racially charged politics of college sports--Wolfe shows us the disparate worlds of contemporary America with all the verve, wit, and insight that have made him our most phenomenal, most admired contemporary novelist. *A Man in Full* is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Fiction.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: *Man Seeks God*** Eric Weiner, 2011-12-05

Bestselling author of *Geography of Bliss* returns with this funny, illuminating chronicle of a globe-spanning spiritual quest to find a faith that fits. When a health scare puts him in the hospital, Eric Weiner—an agnostic by default—finds himself tangling with an unexpected question, posed to him by a well-meaning nurse. Have you found your God yet? The thought of it nags him, and prods him—and ultimately launches him on a far-flung journey to do just that. Weiner, a longtime spiritual voyeur and inveterate traveler, realizes that while he has been privy to a wide range of religious practices, he's never seriously considered these concepts in his own life. Face to face with his own mortality, and spurred on by the question of what spiritual principles to impart to his young daughter, he decides to correct this omission, undertaking a worldwide exploration of religions and hoping to come, if he can, to a personal understanding of the divine. The journey that results is rich in insight, humor, and heart. Willing to do anything to better understand faith, and to find the god or gods that speak to him, he travels to Nepal, where he meditates with Tibetan lamas and a guy named Wayne. He sojourns to Turkey, where he whirls (not so well, as it turns out) with Sufi dervishes. He heads to China, where he attempts to unblock his chi; to Israel, where he studies Kabbalah, sans Madonna; and to Las Vegas, where he has a close encounter with Raelians (followers of the world's largest UFO-based religion). At each stop along the way, Weiner tackles our most pressing spiritual questions: Where do we come from? What happens when we die? How should we live our lives? Where do all the missing socks go? With his trademark wit and warmth, he leaves no stone unturned. At a time when more Americans than ever are choosing a new faith, and when spiritual questions loom large in the modern age, *Man Seeks God* presents a perspective on religion that is sure to delight, inspire, and entertain.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: Story Genius** Lisa Cron, 2016-08-09 Following on the heels of Lisa Cron's breakout first book, *Wired for Story*, this writing guide reveals how to use cognitive storytelling strategies to build a scene-by-scene blueprint for a riveting story. It's every novelist's greatest fear: pouring their blood, sweat, and tears into writing hundreds of pages only to realize that their story has no sense of urgency, no internal logic, and so is a page one rewrite. The prevailing wisdom in the writing community is that there are just two ways around this problem: pantsing (winging it) and plotting (focusing on the external plot). Story coach Lisa Cron has spent her career discovering why these methods don't work and coming up with a powerful alternative, based on the science behind what our brains are wired to crave in every story we read (and it's not what you think). In *Story Genius* Cron takes you, step-by-step, through the creation of a novel from the first glimmer of an idea, to a complete multilayered blueprint—including fully realized scenes—that evolves into a first draft with the authority, richness, and command of a riveting sixth or seventh draft.

**writing my male leads happily ever after: Under the Magnolias** T. I. Lowe, 2021 This night not only marked the end to the drought, but also the end to the long-held secret we'd kept hidden under the magnolias. Magnolia, South Carolina, 1980 Austin Foster is barely a teenager when her mama dies giving birth to twins, leaving her to pick up the pieces while holding her six siblings together and doing her best to stop her daddy from retreating into his personal darkness. Scratching out a living on the family's tobacco farm is as tough as it gets. When a few random acts of kindness help to ease the Fosters' hardships, Austin finds herself relying upon some of Magnolia's most colorful citizens for friendship and more. But it's next to impossible to hide the truth about the goings-on at Nolia Farms, and Austin's desperate attempts to save face all but break her. Just when it seems she might have something more waiting for her—with the son of a wealthy local family who she's crushed on for years—her father makes a choice that will crack wide-open the family's secrets and lead to a public reckoning. There are consequences for loving a boy like Vance Cumberland, but there is also freedom in the truth. T. I. Lowe's gritty yet tender and uplifting tale reminds us that a great story can break your heart . . . then heal it in the best possible way.

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