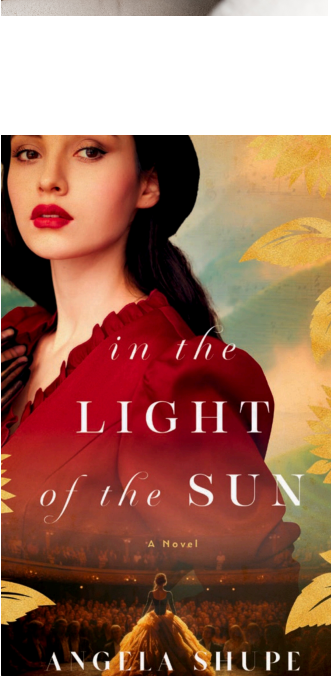




FROM OUR SHELF TO YOURS, WITH LOVE

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to celebrate love in all its wild and wondrous forms. *TBR* is delighted to present fourteen new books to fall for in this special bonus edition, all about love. We invite you to read along as our authors offer heartfelt reflections about their love of women's fiction and remind us of the shared love of reading that connects us all.

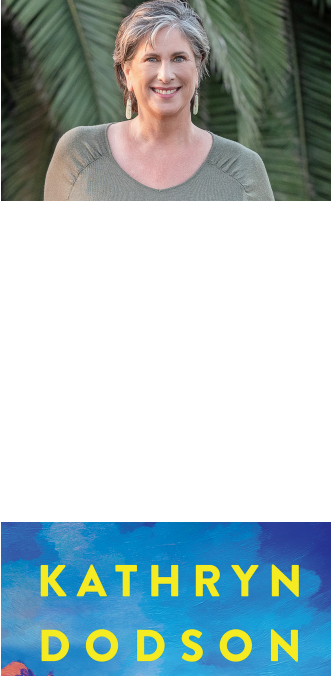
WFWA AUTHORS TO LOVE



...Angela Shupe

What do you love about women's fiction?

Love forms the backdrop of so many great women's fiction stories. Sisterly love, motherly love, romantic love, the strong bond of love that exists between close friends. I particularly love sister stories. Our early interactions with siblings are where we first learn what it means to love and support others. Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry are two of my favorites.



In the Light of the Sun by Angela Shupe

Two sisters—one in the Philippines, one in Italy—find themselves caught up in the secrets, devastation, and intrigues of war. Inspired by true wartime experiences of the author's mother, aunt, and great-grandmother, who performed with the Gran Compagnia de Opera Italiana, *In the Light of the Sun* is the unforgettable story of sisterhood, hope, and the enduring power of music to uplift the human spirit in the darkest of times.

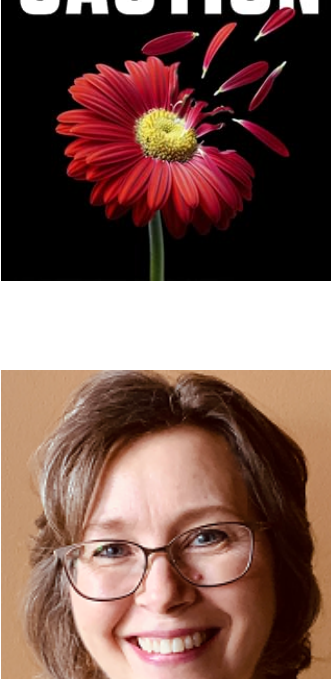
Learn more on Angela's [website](#).



The Podcast Chronicles by Kathryn Dodson

Sue Cleary left her high-powered career for family, but when developers threaten her beloved Colorado mountain town, she abandons her quiet life to fight back. Teaming up with two unexpected friends to campaign against city hall, Sue faces devastating costs—her marriage strains and her friends' jobs hang in the balance. Delving into the seedy underbelly of politics, she discovers that to transform her life and save her community, she'll need friendship, loyalty, and love.

Learn more on Kathryn's [website](#).



...Lori Zoss

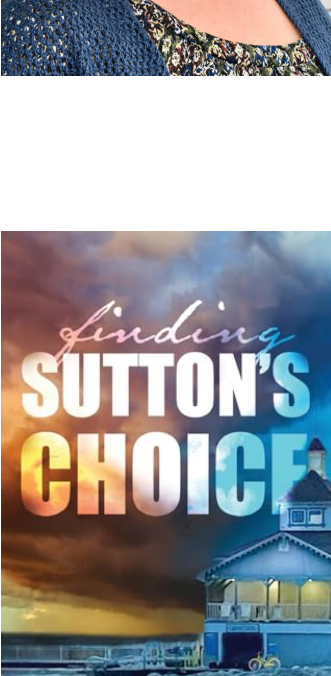
What do you love about women's fiction?

What I love about women's fiction is its emotional honesty and its ability to offer escape. These stories linger in the inner lives of women while inviting readers to step away from daily demands for a while and fully inhabit another world. Women's fiction honors love in all its forms—romantic, self-love, friendship, resilience, and becoming. As a reader, I'm drawn to how it reflects real emotional terrain. As a writer, I love that it allows space for complexity without apology. At its heart, women's fiction reminds us that our stories and our capacity to love matter.

Under Caution by Lori Zoss

Daisy Kray thrives at high speed, but when she's sabotaged at the Tennessee 400 and a teammate is attacked, the danger turns personal. A vengeful former driver is closing in. As Daisy fights to reclaim her place on the track, her fiercest rival and former love, Jackson Wyatt, reenters her life. With obsession, rivalry, and desire colliding, Daisy must outrun a deadly threat and decide if love is worth the risk.

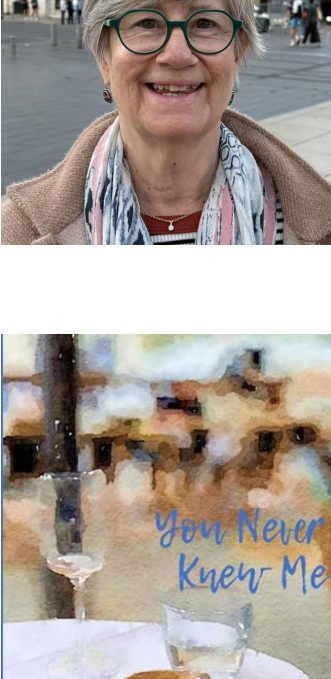
Learn more on Lori's [website](#).



...Brenda Lobbezoo

What do you love about women's fiction?

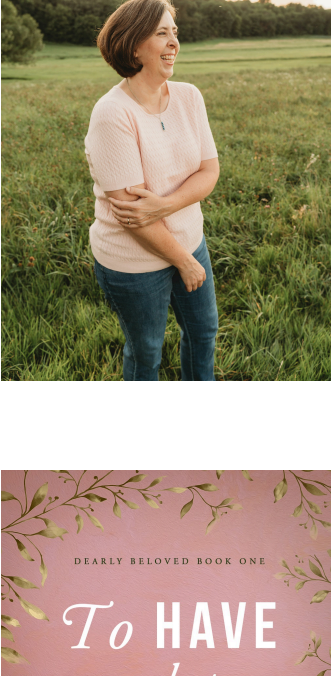
I love that women's fiction is as varied as the women who write and read it. From relationship dramas to stories of coming home, from overcoming loss to discovering untapped strengths, the women's fiction genre encompasses the entire emotional spectrum, including love. While the object of that love is often a person, our characters—and, through them, our readers—might also fall in love with a place that feels like home or a pet that tugs at the heartstrings, or even realize that in order to love well, they must first love themselves.



A Time to Hope by Brenda Lobbezoo

Hope, Andi, and Liz find themselves living lives they never wanted or expected. Hope must insulate herself from everything she thought she believed in. Andi is thrust into life on her own at 17, and Liz recoils from an unimaginable loss. Set in the fictionalized town of Frankfort on the shore of Lake Michigan, *A Time to Hope* is an emotionally engaging story of three women losing everything and finding hope.

Learn more on Brenda's [website](#).



...Brenda Haas

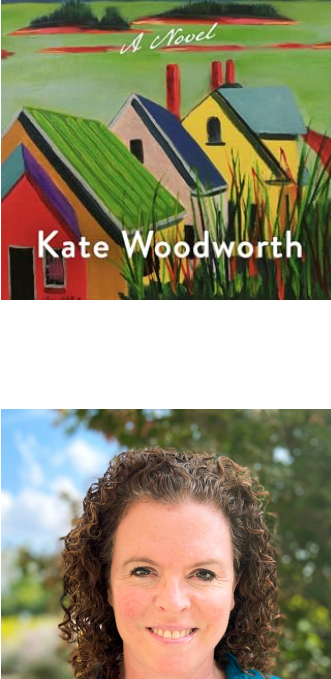
What do you love about women's fiction?

Women's fiction brings all the love: love of self, love of growth, and—my personal favorite—love of understanding. WFWA defines women's fiction as "a story with a central theme of the protagonist's emotional journey." Writing women's fiction gives me the opportunity to better understand myself and others through the emotional journey of my characters. It's an exercise in analyzing human nature. We all have past actions or interactions we wish we could change. I appreciate the opportunity, through my writing, to sometimes allow myself a fictional do-over. Self-love comes with understanding, which is not always an easy journey.

Finding Sutton's Choice by Brenda Haas

It's been 10 years since Charlotte Sutton's escape. Receiving a cryptic voicemail, she returns to her hometown of Lakeside, Ohio, to discover her estranged father, beloved local celebrity Chuck Sutton, doesn't recognize her and a surprise half-sibling has taken her place. To reconcile the past and unearth family secrets, Charlotte must reconnect with Chuck despite his Alzheimer's diagnosis and reevaluate her own misconceptions about growing up in the small Ohio town that still holds her heart.

Learn more on Brenda's [website](#).



...Marty Almqvist

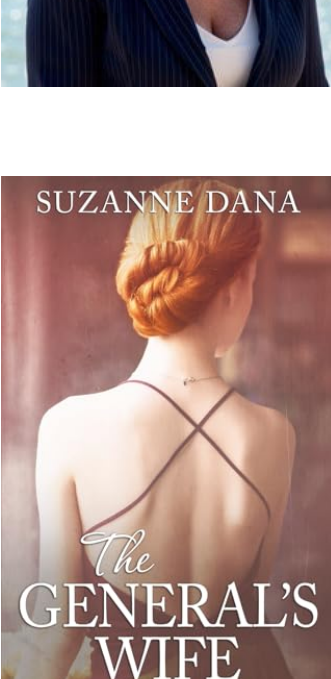
What do you love about women's fiction?

For me, women's fiction has always been my escape from the stresses of daily life. Especially during COVID-19, it was an escape from the dreariness of days spent in isolation. I'm a social person, and I need my weekly "fix" of time with female friends. Reading stories about women finding love and fulfillment in life gives me renewed optimism about the world.

You Never Knew Me by Marty Almqvist

When Jane's husband upends her hopes for their next chapter, she finds herself alone in Paris, reeling and uncertain. Veronique, 30 and ambitious, faces mounting pressure at work and at home as her career and marriage pull her in opposite directions. Fiona, 45 and newly bereaved, escapes Liverpool for Paris to reconsider a life spent putting others first. Brought together by chance in a cooking class, the three women form an unexpected bond as they confront choices that could change everything—even if the cost is heartbreak.

Learn more on Marty's [website](#).



...Deb L. Brown

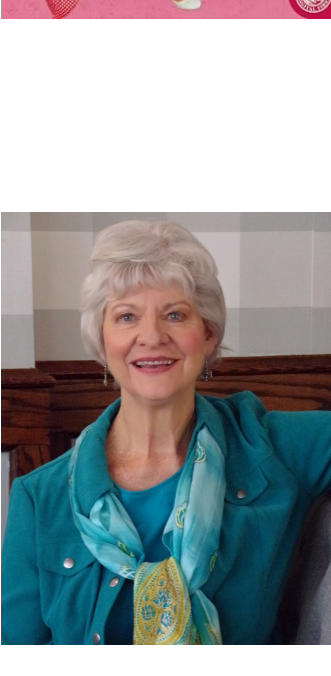
What do you love about women's fiction?

Women's fiction makes me think about different perspectives, deep themes, and authentic challenges. In my personal life, I enjoy deep conversations and relationships. Women's fiction gives me that kind of relationship with the characters. I come to know and love them and cheer them on through their journey. Stories have the power to help us understand different perspectives and experiences. It gives me hope and inspiration to see how people navigate their problems and find unexpected solutions.

To Have and to Hold by Deb L. Brown

Told with compassion and a touch of humor, *To Have and to Hold* shines a light on the often-silent grief of pregnancy and infant loss. Amelia Greathouse is a meticulous event planner who wants to have it all. Her husband Melvin is a creative museum curator with a spontaneous streak. As they pursue a family, can Amelia and Melvin hold their marriage together and their faith in God steady, no matter how their story unfolds?

Learn more on Deb's [website](#).



...Kate Woodworth

What do you love about women's fiction?

As a reader and a writer, I gravitate to literary fiction that emphasizes our (often imperfect) relationship to one another and to the world that surrounds and sustains us. At 72, I've lived too long to believe that romantic love between two people is the ultimate curative, but I do believe that novels (and real-life relationships) that focus on understanding and acceptance—often the themes of women's fiction—remind us that happiness is rooted in honesty and connection, not corruption and conflict.

Little Great Island by Kate Woodworth

When climate change cripples their Maine lobster fishery, the year-round residents of Little Great Island need a new economy. Differing visions of the region's future fracture relationships and threaten to destroy the social ecosystem of the island. Told from a dozen points of view—including that of the island itself—*Little Great Island* is the story of how members of a small Maine community learn to set aside individual differences and come together to save the island they love.

Learn more on Kate's [website](#).



...Debbie Burns

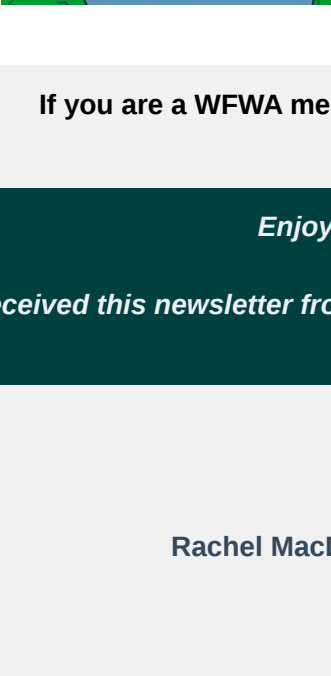
What do you love about women's fiction?

I became drawn to both reading and writing women's fiction while still knee-deep in a contract for my seven-book Rescue Me romance series. Thankfully my editor gave me a shot at publishing in the genre with *Summer by the River*, a novel that remains one of my best-rated works by readers. While love stories still dominate my TBR list, novels layered with the complex, character-centered journeys associated with women's fiction are my favorite. Given that my all-time favorite romance *Pride and Prejudice* is aptly categorized as women's fiction, maybe that should be no surprise.

Bigger Than Us by Debbie Burns

When the husband she's on the cusp of divorcing dies in an accident, Maddie's world is turned upside down. Needing help to raise her 5-year-old twins, she moves back home with her whimsical mother. Before she can carve out a new life on her own terms, she discovers secrets at just about every turn and must make a decision that has the potential to change her and her children's lives completely.

Learn more on Debbie's [website](#).



...Suzanne Dana

What do you love about women's fiction?

Women's fiction captures the meaning and impact of love. It recognizes that romantic love is only one kind of love that shapes a woman's life. There's the love between friends who become anchors, the love for an institution, and the love of oneself. Writing women's fiction allows me to explore all these notions of love, including what you owe the person you love and what you owe yourself.

The General's Wife by Suzanne Dana

In *The General's Wife*, Margaret Stone appears to be the perfect military spouse—supportive, resilient, and respected as the wife of Brigadier General George "Rocky" Stone. But beneath her carefully composed exterior lies a past shadowed by tragedy and one fateful night that could destroy everything she's built. In this compelling narrative of love, betrayal, and redemption, one woman discovers that while the past shapes us, it need not define us. True strength comes from facing the most painful truths of all.

Learn more on Suzanne's [website](#).

...Beth Brookhart

What do you love about women's fiction?

Everyone can enjoy women's fiction. I love writing and reading women's fiction because it focuses on the unique experiences women have in the world. As women, we often bring a different perspective, intention, and analysis of life events. This is what makes life exciting and filled with the variety that provides the nucleus for great fiction. Every woman has a story to tell, and, as a woman, I love to hear (and write) about that.

The Four Queens of the Buttonbush Museum by Beth Brookhart

In 1950, as the Buttonbush Museum faces ruin, Irene Pickett—a sharp, weary farmer's wife—refuses to watch it collapse. Joining three spirited women as the Four Queens, she battles to save the museum with grit and creativity. But fellow Queen, Odilia Delgado, a dazzling spotlight-stealer, threatens to overshadow Irene's efforts. When the county plans demolition, Irene launches the Buttonbush Harvest Festival as a last-ditch fundraiser. With sabotage looming, the Queens must unite. Can Irene rescue the museum and finally step out of Odilia's shadow?

Learn more on Beth's [website](#).

...Heidi M. Thomas

What do you love about women's fiction?

Writing women's fiction, for me, is a chance to showcase strong, independent women who have a love of the land, horses, and family. This comes from my forebears, my rodeoing grandmother and my immigrant mother, who forged their way past intimidating obstacles. I love reading about similar women, how they overcome problems, staying true to themselves while falling in love with men who partner and support them in their endeavors. In *Saving Her Prairie*, Dede is one of those women.

Saving Her Prairie by Heidi M. Thomas

In this modern "David vs Goliath" story, Dede Hume is thrust into the decades-old battle for grasslands in the west. When her dad is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Dede is left in charge, plunged into a dilemma beyond her wildest imagination—a struggle to save the family legacy. Keeping the ranch afloat is hard enough without a powerful wildlife-preserve organization buying up surrounding grasslands to reintroduce species that could be ranching altogether. Now Dede must gamble on a bold plan or lose everything her parents built.

Learn more on Heidi's [website](#).

...Eliana Megerman

What do you love about women's fiction?

I love reading and writing women's fiction because it gets to the heart of the meaningful things in life. Women's fiction is like meeting an old friend for coffee after years apart. From the outside, you've seen the perfect glimpses of her life. Then, after you take your first sips and she starts sharing the real behind-the-scenes, you discover the difficulties she's endured, how she's dealt with them, and how different she's become even though she's still the same person you've known for years. Before you know it, two hours have passed, and it's like you haven't missed a beat.

Together on Our Own by Eliana Megerman

Alex Galen, a 31-year-old emergency medicine resident, is unraveling after a patient's unexpected death lands her on probation. Isolated and anxious, she confides in the hospital's new AI system and even gives it a name. But it is not real, and everything she shares is recorded. As Alex and a real colleague investigate another suspicious death, she must confront what it means to truly connect and whether she's been trusting the wrong version of intimacy all along.

Learn more on Eliana's [website](#).

...Stacy Elizabeth

What do you love about women's fiction?

Tina Turner once asked, "What's love got to do with it?" My answer would be: everything. I've always loved reading words written by women. Love stories hit differently, with their abundant happily-ever-afters. When I finally set out to write my own female-driven story, I knew it needed to be a romance. I've tried in the past to write something darker, more serious, more mysterious, but the words didn't flow as they do when I'm writing about falling in love. Watching your own characters navigate past heartache only to find the person they were meant to be with forever is something I'll never not want to read.

That Little Town Street by Stacy Elizabeth

Running from the ruins of a life she's desperate to leave behind, Vivian returns to the rocky shores of Shearwater Cove after two decades, hoping the salty air will help her rebuild what was broken. When she runs into Will, the town handyman who is struggling to keep his family together, everything changes. Vivian and Will must navigate the slow burn of something neither of them saw coming. This is a story about the kind of love that finds you when you least expect it.

Learn more on Stacy's [website](#).

If you are a WFWA member and want to be considered for *TBR*, please fill out a book submission form [here](#).

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Rachel MacDonald, Editor | rbeditor@womensfictionwriters.org

Caraline Bullen, Assistant Editor

Doretta Martelli, Proofreader

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