

Glossary, Act I: The Book Club Play by Karen Zacarías

by Susan Myer Silton, with a lot of help from the Internet

Note: page numbers refer to page numbers in the text

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Pundit: a critic or authority on a subject, especially in the media

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For characters and their jobs, see Book Club Play: Job Descriptions supplement

Protégé: from the French “to protect”, a young person who receives help, guidance, training, and support from somebody who is older and has more experience or influence

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“I came up with it a good 16 months before Oprah” (Ana): see *History of Book Clubs in the US* supplement

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Moby Dick by Herman Melville: see *The Book Club Reading List* supplement for all references to book titles and their characters

Picture byline: a byline is the name of the author of an article in a newspaper or magazine, printed at the head of the article. A picture byline includes a photo of the author, reserved for those who have a regular column or have achieved a degree of status at the publication and/or recognition as a writer

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Brook Brother's: This is a typo; it should read “Brooks Brothers.” Will is responding to Ana’s characterization of him as “best dressed”. Brooks Brothers is a men’s clothing company-- the oldest men's clothier in the United States. Its headquarters is on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, New York City.



Brooks Brothers

The original Brooks Brothers logo

On April 7, 1818, forty-five year-old Henry Sands Brooks (1772–1833) opened H. & D. H. Brooks & Co. on the northeast corner of Catherine and Cherry streets in Manhattan. Its guiding principle was, "To make and deal only in merchandise of the finest body, to sell it at a fair profit, and to deal with people who seek and appreciate such merchandise." In 1833, his four sons, Elisha, Daniel, Edward, and John, inherited the family business and in 1850 renamed the company "Brooks Brothers."

Brooks Brothers now has a very "prep school" image. In fact, the preppiest of them all, Ralph Lauren, started out as a salesman at the Brooks Brothers Madison Avenue flagship store. Although many people today consider Brooks Brothers a very traditional clothier, the company introduced many clothing novelties to the American market throughout its history as a leader in the American menswear industry, including ready-to-wear in 1849, the original "polo" shirt in 1896 (the rights for which Brooks Brothers sued and won against its former employee, Ralph Lauren), argyle socks in 1957, and the no-iron 100% cotton dress shirt in 1998.

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Lars Knudsen: there are many Lars Knudsens to be found, but none are a "cutting edge documentary director from Denmark whose work captures the essence of humanity by unobtrusively filming real people going about their real lives in real time" (Ana). However, the Danish documentary filmmaker Anders Østergaard could easily be a model for the fictional Lars Knudsen.



Anders Østergaard

Anders Østergaard was born in 1965 in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is a director and writer, known for *Tintin and I* (2003), *Gasolin'* (2006), *Same Old Story* (2008), *Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country* (2009), *19|89* (2014), and *Shadow of a Hero* (2015). His documentary films have received numerous awards, including an Academy Award nomination in 2010 for best documentary feature for *Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country*.

Although he hasn't yet done a film like *Hard Hats*, his films fit Ana's description perfectly, as shown by these descriptions of four of them:

Tintin and I (2003) is about Belgian writer-artist Georges Remi, better known as Hergé, and his creation Tintin, the fictional hero of *The Adventures of Tintin*, a comics series created in 1929 and introduced in *Le Petit Vingtième*, a weekly youth supplement to the Belgian newspaper *Le Vingtième Siècle*. Tintin is a young man, around 14 to 19 years old who travels around the world with his dog Snowy as a reporter and adventurer. Hergé died in 1983, yet Tintin remains a popular literary figure. Østergaard's film is based on revealing interviews with Hergé from the 1970s, and goes into detail about Hergé's life and how the success of Tintin affected it. The film is based strongly around Hergé's experiences and state of mental health leading up to the writing of Tintin.

Gasolin' is a 2006 documentary film about Denmark's most influential rock band Gasolin'. For the first time since their split in 1978, in a series of intimate interviews, the four band members reflect upon their career and why they parted.

Same Old Story is a 2008 film about Dan Turèll, a popular Danish writer who greatly influenced Danish literature. It is based on autobiographical texts, poems, prose, essays, short, informal writings and video and audio clips that Turèll recorded throughout his professional life. His mother, Inge Turèll, and his widow, Chili Turèll, contribute to the film, in which Turèll's inner thoughts, as well as his interpretation of life, the "incorrigible human folly," are examined.

Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country shows a rare inside look into the 2007 uprising in Myanmar through the cameras of the independent, underground video journalist (VJ) group, the Democratic Voice of Burma. The film, which Østergaard released in 2009, takes its title from the collective of 30 anonymous VJs who recorded the historic and dramatic events on handycams and smuggled the footage out of the country, where it was broadcast worldwide via satellite. While 100,000 people (including 1,000s of Buddhist monks) took to the streets to protest the country's repressive regime that has held them hostage for over 40 years, foreign news crews were banned to enter and the Internet was shut down. Risking torture and life imprisonment, the VJs vividly documented the brutal clashes with the military and undercover police—even after they themselves become targets of the authorities.

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Cannes: Ana is referring to the Cannes Film Festival, which takes place yearly in Cannes, France, and is considered the premiere independent film festival in the world. Until 2002, the Festival de Cannes, as it is known in France, was called the International Film Festival (Festival international du film in French).

The Festival previews new films of all genres, including documentaries, from all around the world. The festival has become an important showcase for European films. Along with other festivals such as the Venice Film Festival and Berlin International Film Festival, Cannes offers an opportunity to determine a particular country's image of its cinema and generally foster the notion that European cinema is "art" cinema.

Founded in 1946, the invitation-only festival is usually held in May at the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès. Cannes has become extremely important for critical and commercial interests and for European attempts to sell films on the basis of their artistic

quality. In addition, given its massive media exposure, the non-public festival is attended by many movie stars and is a popular venue for film producers to launch their new films and attempt to sell their works to the distributors who attend from all over the globe.

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Lox dip: Lox is a fillet of brined, or salt-cured salmon, traditionally served on a bagel with cream cheese, and garnishes such as dill, capers, tomato, and/or sliced red onions. Lox dips usually include these ingredients swirled together and chilled, and can be served with crackers, bread, biscuits, crudités and/or bagel chips. I make a lox dip that is rolled into a ball, coated with chopped walnuts, chilled and then served encircled with a wreath of overlapping biscuits. There's a little bit of Ana in all of us.



Lox dip and bagel chips

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Public domain: the state of belonging or being available to the public as a whole, and therefore not subject to copyright.

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Novum: Ortho-Novum, composed of the estrogen and progestin combination norethindrone/ethinyl estradiol, is one of numerous types of oral contraceptives used as birth control to prevent pregnancy. Ortho-Novum is the trade name; it is also available in generic form.

The science behind the birth control pill is to prevent pregnancy by replicating the condition of pregnancy hormonally, thereby tricking the body into thinking it is already pregnant.



The original Ortho-Novum Dialpak dispenser, circa 1960

Ortho-Novum pill packs contain 28 pills with active medication: 21 have active medication (hormones) and 7 are inert reminder pills. Users take one active pill once daily for 21 days in a row, and then an inactive pill once daily for 7 days after they have taken the last active pill.

Rob's parents had quite the sense of humor, giving him that middle name as a tongue-in-cheek homage to his grandfather's invention.

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Coxswain: the member of a rowing crew who faces forward, steers the boat, and directs the speed and rhythm of the rowers. No surprise that this was Ana's job on the crew.

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Sharecropper: a tenant farmer who farms land for the owner and is paid a share of the value of the yielded crop

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Historical preservation society: Historic preservation is an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historical significance. The term tends to refer specifically to the preservation of the built environment, and not to preservation of, for example, primeval forests or wilderness.

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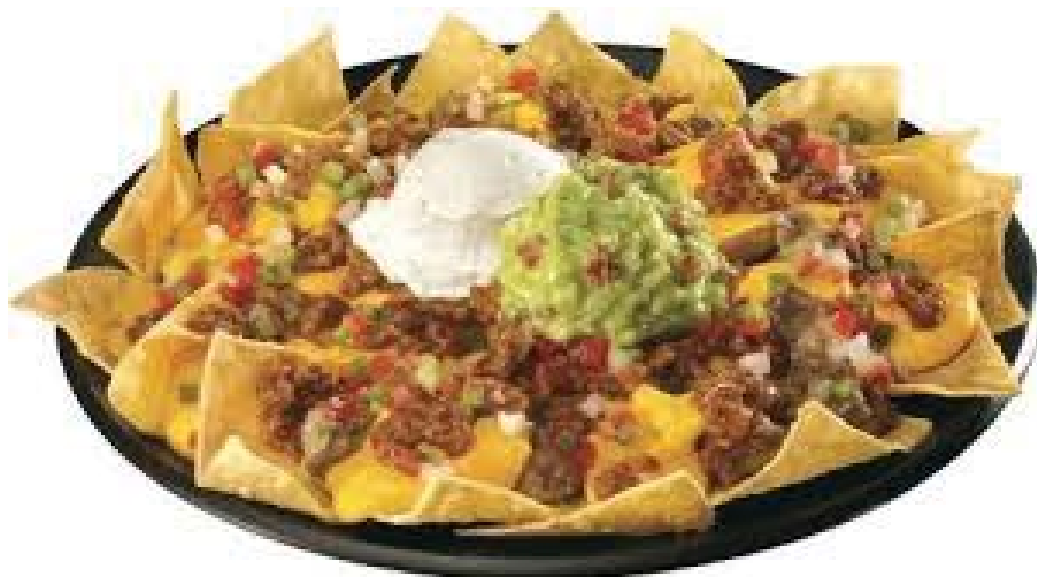
Catharsis: an experience or feeling of spiritual release and purification brought about by an intense emotional experience

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Nachos: Nachos are a snack or appetizer dish where homemade or store-bought tortilla chips are covered with layers of cooked black beans, pinto beans, kidney

beans or refried beans (see definition below), as well as other ingredients, such as jalapeno or other peppers, and ground or chopped meat. The concoction is topped with grated cheese and put in the oven or microwave to heat up until the cheese melts.

Nachos can be served with garnishes such as sliced or chopped avocado, olives, green onions, bacon and/or tomatoes, guacamole, and sour cream. Nachos are generally eaten with the hands.



A plate of Nachos. This glossary is making me hungry!

Refried beans: Refried beans is a dish of cooked and mashed beans. It is a traditional staple of Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine, although each cuisine has a different approach when making the dish. Refried beans are also popular in many other Latin American countries.

The name is a literal translation of Spanish frijoles refritos, refritos meaning "well-fried", and not "fried again" as might be assumed from the use of re- in English.

To prepare the dish, beans are boiled and then mashed into a paste. Sometimes they are then fried or baked, though usually neither, thus making the term "refried" even more misleading.

In northern Mexico and in US Tex-Mex cuisine, refried beans are usually prepared with pinto beans, but many other varieties of bean are used in other parts of Mexico, such as black or red (kidney) beans. The raw beans can be cooked when dry or soaked overnight, then stewed, drained of most of the remaining liquid, and converted into a paste with a masher (such as a potato masher), or pressed through a fine mesh sieve (to remove the skins). Some of the drained liquid, or chicken or vegetable stock, is added if the consistency is too dry. The paste is then baked or fried, usually with onion and garlic in a small amount of lard, vegetable oil, bacon drippings or butter and seasoned to taste with salt and spices. Lard is generally used more often in Mexico, and it has a large effect on flavor. Epazote is a common herb used to

add a special and unique flavor. It is also a carminative, which means it reduces the gas associated with beans.

You can understand why Jen uses the canned variety!

In the US, refried beans are most commonly made from pinto beans. They are served as a side dish with most Tex-Mex restaurant meals. They also have become very popular as a dip for corn tortilla chips. Refried beans are also a primary ingredient in many tostada, chimichanga, and pupusa recipes. In addition, they are a typical ingredient in layered dips, such as seven-layer dip or in nachos.

My sense is that Jen brought a can of refried beans, accompanied by a bag of tortilla chips, not Nachos, and dumped them into two separate bowls from Ana's cupboard.

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Scorsese movie. Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day Lewis: Lily is referring to the 1993 movie, *The Age of Innocence*, based on the book of the same name. It was directed by Martin Scorsese and starred Michelle Pfeiffer as Ellen Olenska and Daniel Day Lewis as Newland Archer. Winona Ryder played May Welland. Among many other awards, it was nominated for five Academy Awards in 1994; Gabriella Pescucci won for Best Costume Design. Winona Ryder won the Golden Globe that year for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture and the movie won Best Motion Picture – Drama. It had two other Golden Globe nominations.



Original Poster for the movie, *The Age of Innocence*, 1993

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Heartburn: an uncomfortable burning sensation in the lower chest, usually caused by stomach acid flowing back into the lower end of the esophagus. This can cause chest pain that sometimes radiates to the neck, throat or jaw.

The technical term for heartburn is *cardialgia (sense 1) pyrosis*.

Despite its name, heartburn is related to the esophagus, but because the esophagus and heart are located close to one another, either one can cause angina, or chest pain. That's why many people mistake heart burn for angina and vice versa.

Author and practicing physician Mary Ann Bauman, M.D. addresses this: "Our stomach is made for acid and can handle it, but our esophagus is not. I tell my patients that if you belch and the symptoms go away, it probably isn't related to your heart but to your esophagus," Bauman said. "But if you have shortness of breath or sweating, then it's likely a heart-related issue."

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Pepto: short for Pepto-Bismol, an over-the-counter (OTC) medication described on its website as providing "relief from diarrhea and upset stomach due to overindulgence in food and drink, including heartburn, indigestion, and nausea". It comes in both a liquid form and in tablets that can be chewed.



A 1957 ad for Pepto-Bismol

Pepto-Bismol is pink because its main ingredient, bismuth subsalicylate, AKA **pink bismuth**, is pink. It is the same ingredient that turns your tongue black when you take it. Pink bismuth reacts with the tiny amounts of sulfur in your saliva and forms

bismuth sulfide, which is black, and it can coat your tongue after you take Pepto. I took Pepto once, and after I woke up with a black tongue, I never took it again. Way too scary-looking.

Alka-Seltzer: another OTC medication for the relief of occasional heartburn, Alka-Seltzer contains three active ingredients: aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) (ASA), sodium bicarbonate, and anhydrous citric acid. The aspirin is a pain reliever and anti-inflammatory, and the sodium hydrogen carbonate and citric acid form an antacid by their effervescent reaction with water.



Alka-Seltzer effervescent wafers

Besides coming in a wafer form that dissolves in water and makes it bubbly, it also comes in a chewable tablet and as a gummy. The effervescent Alka-Seltzer is the more iconic variety. It's advertised as "effervescent analgesic alkalizing tablets" that promise "quick relief" and have "no chalky taste", as compared to Pepto-Bismol.

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A Summa Cum Laude (from Kenyon College): Ana is telling the others that Lily earned her degree "with highest honor." Summa Cum Laude, translating in Latin as "highest with honor," it is an academic level of distinction used by educational institutions to signify the degree of status with which an academic degree is received. Summa cum laude is the highest distinction of three commonly used types of Latin honors recognized in the United States, the other two being magna cum laude and cum laude. The Latin honors summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude are nationally recognized symbols of academic achievement.

Kenyon College: Lily's alma mater, Kenyon College is a private liberal arts college in Gambier, Ohio, which was founded in 1824 by Philander Chase. It is the oldest private college in Ohio and is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. The campus is noted for its Collegiate Gothic architecture, rural setting and small number of students (1,600).

Kenyon College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The acceptance rate for the Class of 2019 was 23.8%, the most selective year to date.

According to the 2017 U.S. News & World Report rankings, Kenyon was the No. 27 liberal arts college in the United States. Forbes magazine in 2016 ranked Kenyon 48th overall, and 7th in the Midwest out of the 650 colleges and universities on its list of America's Best Colleges. In 2006 Newsweek selected Kenyon College as one of twenty-five "New Ivies" on the basis of admissions statistics as well as interviews with administrators, students, faculty and alumni. It was also listed in Greene's list of Hidden Ivies in 2000.

Kenyon's campus also garners acclaim for its beauty; for example, it ranked 2nd on The Best College's "50 Most Amazing College Campuses for 2014".



Ascension Hall at Kenyon College, built in 1845

Affirmative action: an active effort to improve the employment or educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women; *also*: a similar effort to promote the rights or progress of other disadvantaged persons.

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Gabriel Garcia Marquez: Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez (March 6, 1927 –April 17, 2014) was a Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist. Considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century and one of the best in the Spanish language, he was awarded the 1972 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature. He pursued a self-directed education that resulted in his leaving law school for a career in journalism.

From early on, Marquez showed no inhibitions in his criticism of Colombian and foreign politics. He started as a journalist, and wrote many acclaimed non-fiction works and short stories, but is best known for his novels, such as *One Hundred Years*

of Solitude (1967), *The Autumn of the Patriarch* (1975), and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985). His fiction works have achieved significant critical acclaim and widespread commercial success, most notably for popularizing a literary style labeled as magic realism, combines more conventional storytelling with vivid fantasy by using magical elements and events in otherwise ordinary and realistic situations. He not only introduced readers to magical realism, but also greatly impacted the work of generations of writers and filmmakers. Some of his works are set in a fictional village called Macondo (the town mainly inspired by his birthplace Aracataca), and most of them explore the theme of solitude.

On his death in April 2014, Juan Manuel Santos, the President of Colombia, called him "the greatest Colombian who ever lived."



King Carl Gustav of Sweden, right, presents García Márquez with the Nobel Prize for Literature on December 10, 1982

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Vetted: to vet (*transitive verb*) means to subject somebody or something to a careful examination or scrutiny, especially when this involves determining suitability for something

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Touch-and-Feel vase exhibit for children: Will, as curator of Greek antiquities at the History museum, clearly has staff who are enthusiastic but may not realize that while a Touch-and-Feel vase exhibit might support object-based learning, the intact state of a vase is rather tenuous in the hands of a child. In fact, their primary interest may not be the story etched into the surface of the artifact, but whether or not it might bounce back up when thrown hard onto the floor.

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Sperm bank: a place that stores semen until it is required for use in artificial insemination

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Prozac: Fluoxetine, also known by trade names Prozac and Sarafem among others, is an antidepressant of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) class. It is used for the treatment of major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), bulimia nervosa, panic disorder, and premenstrual dysphoric disorder. It is taken by mouth.

It is unclear whether or not it is safe in pregnancy.

Its mechanism of action is also not entirely clear, but it is believed to be related to increasing serotonin activity in the brain.

Fluoxetine was discovered by Eli Lilly and Company in 1972, and entered medical use in 1986. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, the most important medications needed in a basic health system.



Prozac

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Romance: In this application, Romance refers to the romance novel or romantic novel of the contemporary mass-market literary genre. Novels of this genre place their primary focus on the relationship and romantic love between two people, and must have an "emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending," according to the guidelines set by the Romance Writers of America (RWA).

There are many subgenres of the romance novel including fantasy, historical romance, paranormal fiction, and science fiction. Literature historian Walter Scott defined the literary fiction form of romance as "a fictitious narrative in prose or verse; the interest of which turns upon marvelous and uncommon incidents".

Precursors to the genre can be found in literary fiction of the 18th and 19th centuries, including Samuel Richardson's sentimental novel *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740) and the novels of Jane Austen, considered a pioneer of the genre.

Austen inspired Georgette Heyer, a British author of historical romance whose books are set around the time Austen lived. Heyer's first romance novel, *The Black Moth* (1921), was set in 1751.

The British company Mills and Boon began releasing escapist fiction for women in the 1930s. Their books were sold in North America by Harlequin Enterprises Ltd, which began direct marketing to readers and allowing mass-market merchandisers to carry the books. Harlequin Romance, as Lily attests, would become one of the most recognized purveyors of the genre.

An early American example of a mass-market romance was Kathleen Woodiwiss' *The Flame and the Flower* (1972), published by Avon Books, another widely read publisher of romantic fiction. This was the first single-title romance novel to be published as an original paperback in the US, though in the UK the romance genre was long established through the works of Georgette Heyer, and from the 1950s Catherine Cookson, as well as others. The genre boomed in the 1980s, with the addition of many different categories of romance and an increased number of single-title romances. Popular authors started pushing the boundaries of both the genre and plot, as well as creating more contemporary characters.

In North America, romance novels are the most popular literary genre, comprising almost 55% of all paperback books sold in 2004. The genre is also popular in Europe and Australia, and romance novels appear in 90 languages. Most of the books, however, are written by authors from English-speaking countries, leading to an Anglo-Saxon perspective in the fiction. Despite the popularity and widespread sales of romance novels, the genre has attracted significant derision, skepticism, and criticism. Romance erotica, which is risqué but not pornographic, is on the rise as more women explore this new subgenre.

According to the RWA, the main plot of a romance novel must revolve about two people as they develop romantic love for each other and work to build a relationship. Both the conflict and the climax of the novel should be directly related to the core theme of developing a romantic relationship, although the novel can also contain subplots that do not specifically relate to the main characters' romantic love. Furthermore, a romance novel must have an "emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending." Others, including Leslie Gelbman, a president of Berkley Books, define the genre more simply, stating only that a romance must make the "romantic relationship between the hero and the heroine ... the core of the book."

In general, romance novels reward characters who are good people and penalize those who are evil, and a couple who fights for and believes in their relationship will likely be rewarded with unconditional love. Bestselling author Nora Roberts sums up the genre, saying: "The books are about the celebration of falling in love and emotion and commitment, and all of those things we really want." Women's fiction (including "Chick Lit") is not directly a subcategory of the romance novel genre, because in

women's fiction the heroine's relationship with her family or friends may be as important as her relationship with the hero.

Some romance novel authors and readers believe the genre has additional restrictions, from plot considerations (such as the protagonists' meeting early on in the story), to avoiding themes (such as adultery). Other disagreements have centered on the firm requirement for a happy ending; some readers admit stories without a happy ending if the focus of the story is on the romantic love between the two main characters (e.g., *Romeo and Juliet*). While the majority of romance novels meet the stricter criteria, there are also many books widely considered to be romance novels that deviate from these rules. Therefore, the general definition, as embraced by the RWA and publishers, includes only the focus on a developing romantic relationship and an optimistic ending.

As long as a romance novel meets those twin criteria, it can be set in any time period and in any location. There are no specific restrictions on what can or cannot be included in a romance novel. Even controversial subjects are addressed in romance novels, including topics such as date rape, domestic violence, addiction, and disability. The combination of time frame, location, and plot elements does, however, help a novel to fit into one of several romance subgenres. Despite the numerous possibilities this framework allows, many people in the mainstream press claim that all romance novels seem to read alike. Stereotypes of the romance genre abound. For instance, some believe that all romance novels are similar to those of Danielle Steel, featuring rich, glamorous people traveling to exotic locations. Many romance readers disagree that Steel writes romance at all, considering her novels more mainstream fiction.

Romance novels are sometimes referred to as "smut" or female pornography, and are the most popular form of modern erotica for women. While some romance novels do contain more erotic acts, in other romance novels the characters do no more than kiss chastely. The romance genre runs the spectrum between these two extremes. Because women buy 90% of all romance novels, most romance novels are told from a woman's viewpoint, in either first or third person.

Although most romance novels are about heterosexual pairings there is a sizable number of romance novels that deal with same-sex relationships. This is often considered a subgenre, and some participants in the book industry characterize books dealing with same-sex relationships as F/F, and M/M.

*This definition came nearly intact from Wikipedia. I don't have much knowledge or experience with romance novels, though an eternity ago I played Kate in Wendy Wasserstein's *Uncommon Women and Others*, and in one scene she is reading a romance novel instead of studying *The Genealogy of Morals*. My scene partner gifted a Nora Roberts novel to me, which I still haven't read.*

Harlequin: mentioned in the definition above, Harlequin Enterprises Limited (popularly known simply as Harlequin) is a Toronto-based company that publishes series romance and women's fiction. The Torstar Corporation, the largest newspaper

publisher in Canada, owned Harlequin from 1981 to 2014. It was then purchased by News Corp and is now a division of HarperCollins.

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Salman Rushdie: Salman Rushdie is the author of twelve novels: *Grimus*, *Midnight's Children* (which was awarded the Booker Prize in 1981), *Shame*, *The Satanic Verses*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, *Fury*, *Shalimar the Clown* and *The Enchantress of Florence*, and *Luka and the Fire of Life*. His most recent novel, *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights*, was published in the English language in September 2015.



Salman Rushdie at the 2016 Hay Festival of Literature and Arts

His best known and most galvanizing book, *The Satanic Verses*, which was first published in the United Kingdom in 1988, provoked a heated and frequently violent reaction of Muslims, who accused Rushdie of blasphemy or unbelief. In 1989, Iran 's leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa ordering Muslims to kill Rushdie. Numerous killings, attempted killings, and bombings resulted from Muslim anger over the novel. Rushdie himself was forced into isolation, and his activities were severely limited. Nevertheless, he strongly defended not only the right, but also the necessity, of the artist's voice to be allowed to be heard despite the controversy it might enflame.

The Iranian government backed the fatwa against Rushdie until 1998, when the succeeding government of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said it no longer supported the killing of Rushdie. However, the fatwa still remains in place.

The issue divided Muslims from Westerners in the issue of culture, and pitted a core Western value of freedom of expression against the view of many Muslims that no one should be free to disparage the honor of the Prophet Muhammad. This same issue was behind the killings at *Charlie Hebdo*, a French satirical magazine, in January 2015. *Charlie Hebdo* had attracted attention from Al Qaeda and its sympathizers for its controversial depictions of Muhammad. Hatred for Charlie Hebdo's cartoons, which made jokes about Islamic leaders as well as Muhammad, is considered to be the principal motive for the massacre.

Rushdie is also the author of a book of stories, *East, West*, and four works of non-fiction – *Joseph Anton – A Memoir*, *Imaginary Homelands*, *The Jaguar Smile*, and *Step Across This Line*. He is the co-editor of *Mirrorwork*, an anthology of contemporary Indian writing, and of the *2008 Best American Short Stories* anthology.

He has adapted *Midnight's Children* for the stage, which the Royal Shakespeare Company performed in London and New York. In 2004, an opera based upon *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* premiered at Lincoln Center by the New York City Opera.

A Fellow of the British Royal Society of Literature, Salman Rushdie has received numerous international honors. He holds the rank of Commandeur in the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres – France's highest artistic honor. He holds honorary doctorates and fellowships at six European and six American universities, is an Honorary Professor in the Humanities at M.I.T, and University Distinguished Professor at Emory University. Currently, Rushdie is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

Between 2004 and 2006 he served as President of PEN American Center and for ten years served as the Chairman of the PEN World Voices International Literary Festival, which he helped to create. In 2008 he became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was named a Library Lion of the New York Public Library. In addition, *Midnight's Children* was named the Best of the Booker – the best winner in the award's 40-year history – by a public vote.

His books have been translated into over forty languages.

In other media, a film of Rushdie's book, *Midnight's Children*, directed by Deepa Mehta, was released in 2012. *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, in which the Orpheus myth winds through a story set in the world of rock music, was turned into a song by U2 with lyrics by Salman Rushdie.

Danielle Steel: Danielle Fernandes Dominique Schuelein-Steel was born August 14, 1947 in New York City, the only child of Norma da Câmara Stone dos Reis and John Schuelein-Steel. Her father was a German Jewish immigrant, a descendant of owners of Löwenbräu beer. Her mother, born in Portugal, was the daughter of a diplomat. Better known by the name Danielle Steel, she is an American novelist, currently the best selling author alive and the fourth bestselling author of all time, with over 800 million copies sold.



Danielle Steel

Based in California for most of her career, Steel has produced several books a year, often juggling up to five projects at once. All her novels have been bestsellers, including those issued in hardback. Her formula is fairly consistent, often involving rich families facing a crisis, threatened by dark elements such as jail, fraud, blackmail and suicide. Steel has also published children's fiction and poetry, as well as raising funds for the treatment of mental disorders. Her books have been translated into 28 languages, with 22 adapted for television, including two that have received Golden Globe nominations. She has written the lyrics for two albums currently being recorded in France, and is published in 69 countries and 43 languages.

Steel was decorated by the French government as an “Officier” of the distinguished Order of Arts and Letters. She is the mother of nine children.

Steel lives in San Francisco and Paris, which inspired many of the scenes in PRETTY MINNIE IN PARIS.

La Traviatta: *La Traviata*, as it is actually spelled, is an opera in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi set to an Italian libretto by Francesco Maria Piave. Translated from the Italian as “the fallen woman”, the opera is based on *La Dame aux Camélias* (1852), a play adapted from the novel by Alexandre Dumas, fils. The opera was originally titled *Violetta* after the main character. It was first performed on March 6, 1853 at the La

Fenice opera house in Venice. It was revised, and the revision was performed May 6, 1854.

A Summary of the plot of the opera, *La Traviata*:

Act 1

In around the mid-19th century, in Paris, there is a great party at the salon in the house of Violetta who is the most popular high-class prostitute. A young man, Alfredo, comes to this party, and sings the song of "Brindisi." He has adored Violetta from long before, and he uses this opportunity to express his feelings for her after singing. Violetta had believed that she had no interest in true love because of her occupation, but she is confused by Alfredo's pure mind.

Act 2

Violetta goes out of the fashionable society, and she peacefully lives just with Alfredo in the suburbs of Paris. One day, when Alfredo is away, Violetta unexpectedly receives a visit from Alfredo's father, Germont. He puts pressure on her to break up with Alfredo, because of her past. This upsets the marriage plans of his daughter, that is, Alfredo's sister. Violetta is filled with sorrow, but she makes up her mind to break up with her boyfriend. She leaves their home without telling him the truth. Alfredo, who knows nothing, gets angry at her breaking his trust in her.

That same night, Violetta goes back to the society in Paris, and appears accompanied by a former patron, the Baron. Alfredo pursues her, and arrives at the party. He makes accusations about her in front of all the guests.

Act 3

After a few months, Violetta lies down on her bed alone. In fact, she has been ill with a serious disease for some day. She has known about this since she lived with Alfredo. She is now seriously with death fast approaching. Finally, Alfredo rushes to her bedside, having been given a true account by his father. Alfredo asks for her forgiveness. They swear to live together, but time is up, Violetta breathes her last breath as she remembers the time she spent with Alfredo.

Piave and Verdi wanted to follow Dumas in giving the opera a contemporary setting, but the authorities at La Fenice insisted that it be set in the past, "c. 1700". It was not until the 1880s that the composer and librettist's original wishes were carried out and "realistic" productions were staged.

Verdi and Giuseppina Strepponi, who were staying in Paris from late 1851 and into March 1852, attended a performance of Alexander Dumas fils's *The Lady of the Camellias*. Biographer Mary Jane Phillips-Matz wrote that the composer immediately began to compose music for what would later become *La Traviata*. Another biographer, Julian Budden, noted that Verdi had probably read the Dumas novel some time before and, after seeing the play and returning to Italy, "he was already setting up an ideal operatic cast for it in his mind." On their return to Italy, the composer had immediately set to work on *Trovatore* for the January 1853 premiere in Rome, but at the same time seemed to have ideas for the music for *Traviata* in his head. After Verdi's return from Paris a contract was signed in May 1852, with performances scheduled for March 1853.



Poster for the world premiere of La Traviata

The audience jeered at times during the premiere, directing some of their scorn at the casting of soprano Fanny Salvini-Donatelli in the lead role of Violetta. Though she was an acclaimed singer, they considered her, at 38, to be too old and ALSO too overweight to credibly play a young woman dying of consumption. Nevertheless, the first act was met with applause and cheering at the end; but in the second act, the audience began to turn against the performance, especially after the singing of the baritone Felice Varesi and the tenor Lodovico Graziani. The next day, Verdi wrote to his friend Emanuele Muzio in what has now become perhaps his most famous letter: "La traviata last night a failure. Was the fault mine or the singers'? Time will tell."

Time did indeed tell, for today the opera has become immensely popular and is a staple of the standard operatic repertoire. As of the 2012/13 season, it was in first place on the Operabase list of the most-performed operas worldwide.

Swan Lake: Pyotr (in English, Peter) Ilyich Tchaikovsky (April 25/May 7, 1840 – October 25/ November 6, 1893), who composed *Swan Lake* in 1875, was a Russian composer of the late-Romantic period. It was his first ballet score, and is considered by many to be one of the greatest classical ballets of all time. Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* was composed as a commission by Vladimir Petrovich Begichev, the intendant of the Russian Imperial Theatres in Moscow. Like *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* was unsuccessful after its first year of performance. Conductors, dancers and audiences alike thought Tchaikovsky's music was too complicated and hard to dance to. The production's original choreography by German ballet master, Julius Reisinger, was uninspiring and unoriginal. Much is unknown about the original production of *Swan Lake* – no notes, techniques or instruction concerning the ballet was written down. Only little can be found in letters and memos. It wasn't until after Tchaikovsky's death that *Swan Lake* was revived. Much of the *Swan Lake* we know of today was a revision by the famous choreographers Petipa and Ivanov. Although several versions exist, most ballet companies stage the ballet according to the choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov for their St. Petersburg performance of 1895. The first American production was performed by the San Francisco Ballet. *Swan Lake* is traditionally presented in four acts.

Tchaikovsky had much control over the story's content. He and his colleagues both agreed that the swan represented womanhood in its purest form. The stories and legends of swan-maidens date as far back as ancient Greece; when the Greek god

Apollo was born, flying swans circled above their heads. Legends of swan maidens can also be found in *The Tales of the Thousand and One Nights*, *Sweet Mikhail Ivanovich the Rover* and *The Legend of the Children of Lir*.



A scene from San Francisco Ballet's 2016 production of *Swan Lake*

The storyline revolves around a prince and a young woman. While hunting, Prince Siegfried sees an amazing swan. As he takes aim to shoot, the swan turns into a beautiful woman. The woman, Odette, tells the prince that she is a princess who has come under the spell of an evil sorcerer. During the day she must be a swan and swim in a lake of tears. At night she is allowed to be a human again. The spell can only be broken if a virgin prince swears eternal fidelity to her. She tells Prince Siegfried, who happens to be a virgin prince, that if he refuses her she must remain a swan forever.

Prince Siegfried falls madly in love with Odette. However, through a spell by the evil sorcerer, he accidentally proposes to another woman at a party, believing that the woman is really Odette.

Princess Odette feels doomed. She threatens to kill herself and throws herself into the lake. The Prince feels terribly sorry and throws himself into the lake with her. In an incredibly touching moment, the two are transformed into lovers in the afterlife.

American Idol: *American Idol* is an American singing competition television series that began airing on Fox on June 11, 2002, and ended on April 7, 2016. It started off as an addition to the Idols format based on the British series *Pop Idol*, and became one of the most successful shows in the history of American television. The concept of the series involves discovering recording stars from unsigned singing talents, with the winner determined by the viewers in America through telephones, Internet, and SMS text voting.



The American Idol logo

American Idol employed a panel of judges who critiqued the contestants' performances. The original judges were record producer and music manager Randy Jackson, pop singer and choreographer Paula Abdul and music executive and manager Simon Cowell. The judging panel for the final seasons consisted of country singer Keith Urban, singer and actress Jennifer Lopez, and jazz singer Harry Connick, Jr. The first season was hosted by radio personality Ryan Seacrest and comedian Brian Dunkleman, with Seacrest as the sole master of ceremonies for the rest of the series.

The success of American Idol has been described in *Global Media Ecologies: Networked Production in Film and Television* as "unparalleled in broadcasting history". In a 2007 article, the New York Times quoted rival TV executive Bill Carter, who called *American Idol* "the most impactful show in the history of television". For an unprecedented eight consecutive years, from the 2003–04 television season through the 2010–11 season, either its performance or result show had been ranked number one in U.S. television ratings. The series concluded after 15 seasons.

American Idol was based on the British show *Pop Idol* created by Simon Fuller, which was in turn inspired by the New Zealand television singing competition *Popstars*. Television producer Nigel Lythgoe saw a version in Australia and helped bring it over to Britain. Fuller was inspired by the idea from *Popstars* of employing a panel of judges to select singers in audition. He then added other elements, such as telephone voting by the viewing public (which at the time was already in use in shows such as the *Eurovision Song Contest*), the drama of backstories and real-life soap opera unfolding in real time. The show debuted in Britain in 2001 with Lythgoe as showrunner—the executive producer and production leader—and Simon Cowell as one of the judges; it was quite successful with the viewing public.

In 2001, Fuller, Cowell, and TV producer Simon Jones attempted to sell the *Pop Idol* format to the United States, but the idea was initially met with poor responses from the Fox television network. However, Rupert Murdoch, head of Fox's parent company, was later persuaded to buy the series by his daughter, Elisabeth, who was a fan of the British show. The show was renamed *American Idol: The Search for a Superstar* and

debuted in the summer of 2002. Cowell was initially offered the job as showrunner but later turned down the offer; Lythgoe then took over that position. Much to Cowell's surprise, it became one of the biggest shows of the summer. The show grew into a phenomenon largely due to its personal engagement of the contestants, thereby prompting viewers to vote, and the presence of the acid-tongued Cowell as a judge. By 2004, it had become the most-watched show on U.S. television, a position it then held for seven consecutive seasons. However, after a few years of sharp declining ratings, the network announced that the fifteenth season would be its last, ending its run in April 2016.

It became a recognized springboard for launching the career of many artists as bona fide stars. According to *Billboard* magazine, in its first ten years, "Idol has spawned 345 *Billboard* chart-toppers and a platoon of pop idols, including Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Chris Daughtry, Fantasia, Ruben Studdard, Jennifer Hudson, Clay Aiken, Adam Lambert and Jordin Sparks while remaining a TV ratings juggernaut." The first-place winners chosen by viewers in its fifteen seasons were Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard, Fantasia Barrino, Carrie Underwood, Taylor Hicks, Jordin Sparks, David Cook, Kris Allen, Lee DeWyze, Scotty McCreery, Phillip Phillips, Candice Glover, Caleb Johnson, Nick Fradiani, and Trent Harmon.

Winning the competition was no guarantee of future success, however, and some contestants who were voted off have careers that outshine the winners. Jennifer Hudson, who came in seventh in the third season in 2004 and was a target of judge Simon Cowell's acid tongue for the clothes she wore, won Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and Screen Actors Guild awards for her screen debut, a supporting role in *Dreamgirls*. Her first album, released in 2008, immediately climbed to second place on the *Billboard* 200 and sold more than a million copies worldwide. She has appeared in roles on Broadway, film and television.

Chris Daughtry, after finishing fourth in 2006, the fifth season of the show, signed a record deal with RCA records. His first album became the fastest selling debut rock album in Nielsen Soundscan history.

Clay Aiken placed second on the second season of *American Idol* in 2003. His multi-platinum debut album, *Measure of a Man*, was released in October 2003. Aiken again placed second, this time to Arsenio Hall in the finals of the fifth season of *The Celebrity Apprentice* in 2012. Aiken was the 2014 Democratic nominee in the North Carolina 2nd congressional district election. Once more the bridesmaid and not the bride, he lost to Republican incumbent Renee Ellmers in the general election on November 4, 2014.

Beyoncé: Queen Bey to her fans, Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter (born September 4, 1981) is an American singer, songwriter and actress. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, she performed in various singing and dancing competitions as a child and rose to fame in the late 1990s as lead singer of R&B girl-group Destiny's Child. Managed by her father, Mathew Knowles--her mother Tina Knowles, styles her and designs her performance wardrobe--the group became one of the world's best-selling girl groups of all time. Their hiatus saw the release of Beyoncé's debut album,

Dangerously in Love (2003), which established her as a solo artist worldwide, earned five Grammy Awards and featured the Billboard Hot 100 number-one singles "Crazy in Love" and "Baby Boy".



Beyoncé performing in London during The Formation World Tour, 2016

Following the disbandment of Destiny's Child in 2006, she released her second solo album, *B'Day* (2006), and also ventured into acting, with a Golden Globe-nominated performance in *Dreamgirls* (2006) and starring roles in *The Pink Panther* (2006) and *Obsessed* (2009). Her marriage to rapper Jay Z and portrayal of Etta James in *Cadillac Records* (2008) influenced her third album, *I Am... Sasha Fierce* (2008), which saw the birth of her alter-ego Sasha Fierce and earned a record-setting six Grammy Awards in 2010, including Song of the Year for "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)". Beyoncé took a break from music in 2010 and took over management of her career; her fourth album *4* (2011) was subsequently mellower in tone, exploring 1970s funk, 1980s pop, and 1990s soul. Her critically acclaimed fifth album, *Beyoncé* (2013), was distinguished from previous releases by its experimental production and exploration of darker themes. With the release of *Lemonade* (2016), Beyoncé became the first artist to have their first six studio albums debut at number one on the Billboard 200 chart.

Throughout a career spanning 19 years, she has sold over 100 million records as a solo artist, and a further 60 million with Destiny's Child, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time. She has won 20 Grammy Awards and is the most nominated woman in the award's history. She is the most awarded artist at the MTV Video Music Awards, with 24 wins. The Recording Industry Association of America

recognized her as the Top Certified Artist in America during the decade of the 2000s. In 2009, Billboard named her the Top Radio Songs Artist of the Decade, the Top Female Artist of the 2000s (decade) and handed her their Millennium Award in 2011. *Time* listed her among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2013 and 2014, and in 2016 she occupied the sixth place for Person of the Year. Forbes also listed her as the most powerful female in entertainment of 2015.

Beyoncé started a relationship with Shawn "Jay Z" Carter after their collaboration on the song "'03 Bonnie & Clyde", which appeared on his seventh album *The Blueprint 2: The Gift & The Curse* (2002). Beyoncé appeared as Jay Z's girlfriend in the music video for the song, fuelling speculation about their relationship. On April 4, 2008, Beyoncé and Jay Z married without publicity. As of April 2014, the couple had sold a combined 300 million records together. After suffering a miscarriage in 2010 or 2011, which Queen Bey described the documentary, *Life is But a Dream*, as "the saddest thing" she had ever endured, she became pregnant during a trip to Paris in 2011. On January 7, 2012, Beyoncé gave birth to a daughter, Blue Ivy Carter, at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

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Ketchup is a vegetable: Ana is referring to the "ketchup as a vegetable" controversy that occurred early in the presidency of Ronald Reagan. The controversy revolves around the proposed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regulations that intended to provide more flexibility in meal planning to local school lunch administrators coping with National School Lunch Plan subsidy cuts enacted by the Omnibus Regulation Acts of 1980 and 1981. The regulations allowed administrators the opportunity to credit items not explicitly listed that met nutritional requirements. While ketchup was not mentioned in the original regulations, pickle relish was used as an example of an item that could count as a vegetable. (You can't make this stuff up.) A similar controversy arose in 2011, when Congress passed a bill prohibiting the USDA from increasing the amount of tomato paste required to constitute a vegetable; the bill allowed pizza with two tablespoons of tomato paste to qualify as a vegetable.

Team Jacob/Team Edward: Ostensibly, the two opposing teams were formed among Twi-Hards, diehard *Twilight* fans like Alex's student Ming Woo, who root for, as Alex explains, "the virtues of Jacob the werewolf vs. Edward Cullen the Vampire" to win the heart of Bella, the heroine of the story, who is generally disliked.

Gwynne Watkins of *Vulture* discussed the rivalry of the suitors in her 2012 article for *Vulture*: "It was pretty obvious from the start that Bella was going to end up with Edward; in fact, the love triangle between the tortured vampire, the passionate werewolf and the preternaturally bland teenager didn't even develop until New Moon (Book two), and was moot by the end of Eclipse (Book three). Nonetheless, Summit Entertainment got a lot of mileage out the film franchise's rival "teams," which their marketing team boiled down to its essence: a preference for abs (Taylor Lautner) or eyes (Robert Pattinson)."



Edward (left) and Jacob showing off their respective virtues

In an interview with Meriah Doty for MovieTalk, Robert Pattinson, who played Edward Cullen in the *Twilight* movies, confirmed that the Team Jacob/Team Edward rivalry was invented purely by business strategists. "That was not from the fans [either]. That was kind of, uh, marketing. We're both on the same team".

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McDonald's Happy Meals: A "Happy Meal" is a form of kids' meal that has sold at the fast-food chain, McDonald's, since June 1979. A toy is included with the food, and both are packaged in a box or paper bag with the McDonald's logo. The packaging and toy are frequently part of a marketing tie-in to an existing television show, film, or toy brand. From 1997-2000, my brother-in-law Larry Zwain, then McDonald's senior VP of marketing, helmed campaigns of the most popular giveaway to date, Beanie Babies beanbag plush toys. The beanie babies from that time have since become collector's items.



Beanie Babies in Happy Meals from 1997

Consumers of the Happy Meal opt for one main item: a hamburger, cheeseburger, or small serving of Chicken McNuggets; a side item: French fries, apple slices, or, in some

areas, a salad; and a drink: milk, juice, or a soft drink. The choice of items changes from country to country, and may depend on the size of the restaurant.

In some countries, the choices have been expanded to include main items like a grilled cheese sandwich (known as a "Fry Kid") or a mini snack wrap, and other side options such as pasta.

In most countries, McDonald's has introduced a "healthy option" to the Happy Meal in response to backlash against the high caloric, fat and sodium content of the meals. Children have always been able to choose milk with their Happy Meal and the chain added fruit juice drink instead of a soft drink, and bags of dried fruit (or a whole piece of fruit such as an apple or carrot sticks) in place of fries.

Lady Gaga: Here's Gaga's bio by Stephen Thomas Erlewine, cut and pasted from *Billboard*:

Glamorously gaudy, a self-made post-modern diva stitched together from elements of Madonna, David Bowie, and Freddie Mercury, Lady Gaga was the first true millennial superstar.

Mastering the constant connection of the Internet era, Gaga generated countless mini-sensations through her style, her videos, and her music, cultivating a devoted audience she dubbed "Little Monsters."

But it wasn't just a cult that turned her 2008 manifesto *The Fame* into a self-fulfilling prophecy: Gaga crossed over into the mainstream, ushering out one pop epoch and kick-starting a new one, quickly making such turn-of-the-century stars as Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears seem old-fashioned, quite a trick for any artist to pull off, but especially impressive for an artist who specialized in repurposing the past -- particularly the '80s -- for present use, creating sustainable pop for a digital world.

Perhaps unsurprisingly given her flair for grand gestures, Lady Gaga has deep roots in drama. Born Stefani Germanotta on March 28, 1986, the future Gaga played piano as a child and pursued musical theater in high school, regularly auditioning for New York-based television shows, notably landing a background role for a 2001 episode of *The Sopranos*. At the age of 17 she enrolled at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in their Collaborative Arts Project 21. As she studied, she continued to eke her way into show biz, winding up with an appearance on MTV's short-lived post-*Punk'd* reality show *Boiling Points* in 2005.

Not long afterward, she left school so she could concentrate on her music, fronting a band called SGBand, which released two EPs prior to splitting. Germanotta then teamed with producer Rob Fusari, a collaboration that produced not only her stage name Lady Gaga, but recordings that led to her signing with Def Jam in the fall of 2006. Her association with Def Jam was short-lived: the label dropped her early in 2007. Gaga rebounded by working with performance artist Lady Starlight, the two developing the Lady Gaga & the Starlight Revue, a tongue-in-cheek neo-burlesque act that gained positive press and proved to be her last stop before signing with Interscope later in 2007.

While at Interscope she created a bond with Akon, who convinced Interscope head Jimmy Iovine to have her co-sign with his Kon Live imprint, and Gaga began working with producer/songwriter RedOne, a union that led to the songs that would bring her fame: "Just Dance," "LoveGame," and "Poker Face." These songs formed the foundation of *The Fame*, the debut album that appeared in August 2008.



Lady Gaga, 2016

Initially, Lady Gaga had greater success in Europe, thanks in large part to the "Just Dance" single, which earned club play in the U.S. and chart placement in other territories. Gaga's march toward the top of the American chart was slow but "Just Dance" reached the peak position in January 2009, followed swiftly by "Poker Face," the single that firmly pushed her into the mainstream, its popularity growing so large it often functioned as a punch line on TV in addition to winning a Grammy for Best Dance Recording.

"LoveGame" and "Paparazzi" also appeared as singles before Gaga released *The Fame Monster* in time for the holiday season of 2009. The mini-LP, available separately and as a package with *The Fame*, contained the single "Bad Romance," whose popularity soon rivaled "Poker Face" and helped kickstart a stellar year for Gaga in 2010.

That year, the hit singles "Bad Romance," "Alejandro," and the Beyoncé duet "Telephone," along with the successful Monster Ball Tour, put Lady Gaga front and center with the public as she worked on her sophomore album, announcing its May release on New Year's Day 2011.

The steady march to the summer unveiling of *Born This Way* was preceded by the release of three singles: "Born This Way," "Judas," and "The Edge of Glory." All of them reached the Top Ten, and the empowerment anthem "Born This Way" hit number one soon after its release in February 2011. The accompanying album arrived to mixed reviews, but it eventually reached double-platinum status and produced subsequent hits with the Top Ten "You and I" as well as a Top 40 entry for "Marry the Night."

A full remix of the album, naturally called *Born This Way: The Remix*, appeared at the end of the year, as did a holiday television special called *A Very Gaga Thanksgiving* and an accompanying EP, *A Very Gaga Holiday*.

Gaga continued to promote *Born This Way* throughout 2012, appearing at various star-studded events and on television programs while continuing her international tour. The tour came to a halt in February of 2013, when she announced that she needed hip surgery to repair a labral tear. As she was healing, she worked on her third album, *Artpop*. Preceded by the Top Ten single "Applause" and the Top 15 follow-up "Do What U Want" (the latter a duet with R. Kelly), *Artpop* was released in early November 2013. The album explored familiar themes of fame, love, and empowerment. It became a number one hit in several countries, including the U.S., although sales lagged behind *Born This Way* and *The Fame*.

The release of *Artpop* coincided with an announcement that Gaga had parted company with Troy Carter, her manager of five years. Then, shortly after she embarked on the ArtRave tour in May 2014, it was revealed that Bobby Campbell -- her new manager -- had signed them both up to Artist Nation, the artist management division of Live Nation Entertainment. That same year, Gaga worked in collaboration with fellow New Yorker Tony Bennett on an album of jazz standards titled *Cheek to Cheek*, which was issued in September. *Cheek to Cheek* provided a jolt to Gaga's career. The album debuted at number one on Billboard's Top 200 and earned the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Album, its success opening the door to other snazzy show biz gigs. First, she sang a tribute to *The Sound of Music* at the 2015 Academy Awards and, a year later, she was nominated for Best Original Song Oscar for "Until It Happens to You," the tune she co-wrote with Diane Warren for the documentary *The Hunting Ground*. Gaga was also cast as a lead in the 2015-2016 season of *American Horror Story*, winning a Golden Globe for her portrayal of Elizabeth. She returned with new music in 2016 with *Joanne*, which was inspired by her late aunt of the same name. Drawing on glam rock, disco, and folk, as well as dance-pop, the album featured an impressive list of collaborators, including Giorgio Moroder, Mark Ronson, Nile Rodgers, Father John Misty, Josh Homme, Florence Welch, Tame Impala's Kevin Parker, and Beck.

Carly Rae Jepsen: The actual spelling of the artist's name is Carly *Rae* Jepsen. Here's her bio by James Christopher Monger, cut and pasted from *Billboard*:
Earning global success with "Call Me Maybe," Canadian pop star Carly Rae Jepsen spent her formative years absorbing pop culture in her hometown of Mission, British Columbia. After attending the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria, British

Columbia, in 2007 Jepsen competed in the fifth season of *Canadian Idol*, ultimately winning third place and performing in the show's nationwide tour.

By 2008, she had moved to Vancouver and released her debut LP, *Tug of War*, which featured a cover of John Denver's 1974 hit ballad "Sunshine on My Shoulders."

Three years later, Jepsen's single "Call Me Maybe," which drew from dance-pop and disco, attained worldwide commercial success: it topped the Canadian, U.S., and U.K. charts as well as those of 18 other countries, racked up over 700 million views on YouTube, and won a Grammy Award nomination for Song of the Year. The *Curiosity* EP, which featured "Call Me Maybe," followed in early 2012.

That June, the Owl City duet "Good Time" arrived and peaked at number eight on the Billboard charts. Jepsen's second album, *Kiss*, appeared in September 2012. It debuted in the Top Ten in Canada and the U.S. and won Album of the Year and Pop Album of the Year Juno Awards a year later.



A 2014 portrait of Carly Rae Jepsen

Jepsen began work on her third album in early 2013, collaborating with producers Josh Ramsay, Ryan Stewart, and Max Martin on songs inspired by '80s pop and folk.

In early 2014, she began a 12-week run as the lead role in the Broadway production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*.

She returned with new music in March 2015 with "I Really Like You," which became another Top 40 hit. Featuring collaborations with songwriters including Sia, Devonté

Hynes and Ariel Rechtshaid and producers such as Mattman & Robin and Greg Kurstin, her third full-length album *E-MO-TION* arrived that August.

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The list of 100 best novels of the 20th century: Ana is referring here to Modern Library's 100 Best Novels is a list of the best English-language novels of the 20th century as selected by the Modern Library, an American publishing company owned by Random House. *Ulysses* by James Joyce topped the list.

In early 1998, the Modern Library polled its editorial board to find the best 100 novels of the 20th century. The board consisted of Daniel J. Boorstin, A. S. Byatt, Christopher Cerf, Shelby Foote, Vartan Gregorian, Edmund Morris, John Richardson, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., William Styron and Gore Vidal. Byatt was the only woman on the board.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* followed *Ulysses*. The most recently published novel in the list is *Ironweed* (1983) by William Kennedy, and the oldest is *The Way of All Flesh* by Samuel Butler, which was written between 1873 and 1884, but not published until 1902. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, serialized in 1899, is the only novel published in the 19th century; it was later republished in book form during 1902. Conrad has four novels on the list, the most of any author. William Faulkner, E. M. Forster, Henry James, James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, and Evelyn Waugh each have three novels. There are ten other authors with two novels.

Some criticize the List's focus on North America and Europe. In addition, some contend it was a "sales gimmick," since most of the titles in the list are also sold by Modern Library. Others note that both Modern Library and Random House USA, the parent company, are US companies. Critics have argued that this is responsible for a very American view of the greatest novels. British, Canadian and Australian academics, and even Random House UK, have differing lists of "greatest novels."

The following table shows the top ten novels from the editors' list:

Rank	Year	Title	Author
1	1922	<i>Ulysses</i>	James Joyce
2	1925	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
3	1916	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	James Joyce
4	1955	<i>Lolita</i>	Vladimir Nabokov
5	1932	<i>Brave New World</i>	Aldous Huxley
6	1929	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>	William Faulkner
7	1961	<i>Catch-22</i>	Joseph Heller
8	1940	<i>Darkness at Noon</i>	Arthur Koestler
9	1913	<i>Sons and Lovers</i>	D. H. Lawrence
10	1939	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck

In 1999, Modern Library published separately a Reader's List of 100 Best Novels. This is not the list that Ana is citing, as its top vote getter is *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand.

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Gorillas in the mist: Rob's response, "Like gorillas in the mist" to Ana's statement, "We are supposed to be acting completely unaware" is rife with meaning. It could refer simply to the obscured visibility for any creatures that may find themselves caught in a heavy mist. But it goes deeper than that, as *Gorillas in the Mist* is the title of a 1988 US movie directed by Michael Apted and starring Sigourney Weaver as naturalist Dian Fossey. It tells the true story of Fossey's work in Rwanda with mountain gorillas. Rob would have been very familiar with the movie and with Dian Fossey because *Tarzan of the Apes* had inspired him as a youngster to "move to Africa and work with baby gorillas" when he grew up.

The phrase "gorillas in the mist" describes the obliviousness of the gorillas, living peacefully in the wild, to the threat of poaching for their skins, hands and heads and of destruction of their habitats. Dian Fossey fought the poaching, and it's thought that her efforts contributed to her murder, particularly when her frustration over the killing and beheading of a beloved gorilla, Digit, with whom she had formed a close attachment, lead her to extreme actions to save the gorillas from illegal poaching and likely extinction. She formed and lead numerous anti-poaching patrols, burning down the poachers' villages and even staging a mock execution of one of the offenders.

A possible interpretation of Rob's remark could be that he sees Lars Knudsen's filming as a disruption of the "natural habitat" of their gathering, and a kind of poaching, or exploitation, of the interactions of the members of the book club.

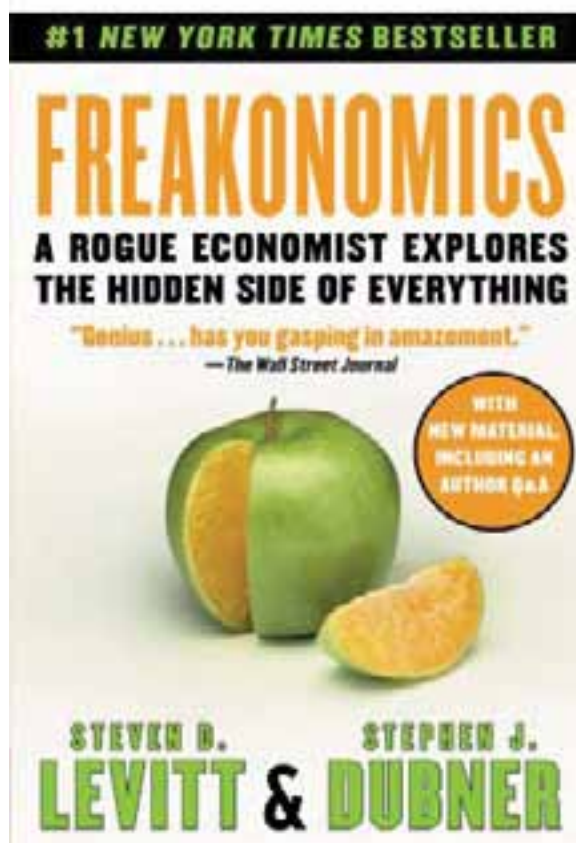
Another interpretation could be that he has remained oblivious to his desires as a person, allowing Ana to run the show, and that the "mist" of his fear of standing up for what he wants, and how it will shake up the worlds of the people he loves, is inhibiting his freedom to be himself.

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... it has made the issue of unions completely irrelevant in our organization: Sam W. Thompson is referring here to Wal-Mart's controversial stand on unions, to which Wal-mart is vigorously opposed. His use of the word "irrelevant" refers to the company's position that their benefits and job security are better than those offered by unions, a claim that is disputed by labor organizations. There are plenty of articles on the subject, and even a Wikipedia page, but the *Atlantic Monthly's* article from June 2015 seems the most balanced: <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/06/how-walmart-convinces-its-employees-not-to-unionize/395051/>

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Freakonomics: the word is actually freakonomics and refers to the study of economics based on the principle of incentives. It derives--ironically for Carl Banks, who claims not to read books--from the non-fiction book *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. *Freakonomics* is the debut book by University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt and New York Times journalist Stephen J. Dubner. It was published on April 12, 2005 by William Morrow.



The cover of the book's paperback version

The book's official website discusses the book and explains the theory of freakonomics:

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms?

How much do parents really matter? How did the legalization of abortion affect the rate of violent crime?

These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He is a much-heralded scholar who studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to sports and child-rearing—and whose conclusions turn the conventional wisdom on its head.

Freakonomics is a ground-breaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They usually begin with a mountain of data and a simple, unasked question. Some of these questions concern life-and-death issues; others have an admittedly freakish quality. Thus the new field of study contained in this book: *Freakonomics*.

Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, Levitt and Dubner show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want, or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing. In *Freakonomics*, they explore the hidden side of ... well, everything. The inner workings of a crack gang. The truth about real-estate agents. The myths of campaign finance. The telltale marks of a cheating schoolteacher. The secrets of the Ku Klux Klan.

What unites all these stories is a belief that the modern world, despite a great deal of complexity and downright deceit, is not impenetrable, is not unknowable, and—if the right questions are asked—is even more intriguing than we think. All it takes is a new way of looking at things.

Freakonomics establishes this unconventional premise: If morality represents how we would like the world to work, then economics represents how it actually does work. It is true that readers of this book will be armed with enough riddles and stories to last a thousand cocktail parties. But *Freakonomics* can provide more than that. It will literally redefine the way we view the modern world.

First published in the U.S. in 2005, *Freakonomics* went on to sell more than 4 million copies around the world, in 35 languages. It also inspired a follow-up book, *SuperFreakonomics*; a high-profile documentary film; a radio program, and an award-winning blog, which has been called ‘the most readable economics blog in the universe.’

As noted above, the book has spawned a blog, a sequel, *SuperFreakonomics*, which was released in Europe in early October 2009 and in the United States on October 20, 2009, a bi-weekly NPR podcast co-hosted by Dubner and Levitt, a documentary film adaptation that was released in 2010 and offered to viewers pay-what-you-can, and a consulting group co-founded in 2009 by Steven Levitt. Freakonomics Consulting Group, a business and philanthropy consulting company, was renamed The Greatest Good and is now known as TGG Group. Founding partners include Nobel laureates Daniel Kahneman and Gary Becker, as well as several other prominent economists.

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The Pleasure Chest: A retail and online source for sex toys and other erotic paraphernalia, as well as sexuality education, The Pleasure Chest currently operates stores in Chicago on Broadway and on Lincoln; Los Angeles; the Upper Eastside in New York City (NYC); and the West Village in NYC. It has been featured on *Sex and The City*, and the Greenwich Village store is where Charlotte bought "The Rabbit". More than 10,000 Rabbit vibrators have been sold since the episode was shot in their New York store.

According to their website, The Pleasure Chest:

... got its beginning in the gay community in NYC and quickly expanded into the gay communities of Los Angeles (1975) and Chicago (1977). As all-things-gay became popular in the mainstream community, so did The Pleasure Chest. They became a couples-focused store, regardless of sexuality. Throughout the seventies and eighties The Pleasure Chest was among the very few stores across the country that was promoting sexuality in a positive and open way. The unspoken motto of the store was that a healthy sex life was as much a part of health as nutrition, exercise and learning. A positive approach to sexual discovery and exploration became a key focus of the stores. In that light, customers throughout the last four decades have felt that going into The Pleasure Chest wasn't something degrading or dirty but a way of fulfilling one's own life. With its locations in the major metropolitan cities of the country, many people through the decades have gotten their first experience at a sex store with us. In fact, we're always meeting men and women in their 40s and 50s who come up to us and say they can remember trying to sneak into The Pleasure Chest before they were of age.

The Pleasure Chest has created a personal bond with the people that visit us when they have stumbled across hurdles in their sex life or relationship, and we've been able to help them figure out where to steer their exploration onto a healthier path. It creates a powerful experience and trust when individuals can be successful in finding out what works in their lives. All of the staff employed at The Pleasure Chest is trained to be sensitive to the needs of our guests, regardless of sexual orientation or gender.

As our culture has accepted sex much more in media, movies, magazines and pop culture, we're seeing everyone from grandparents coming into the stores to mothers with their daughters coming in to buy their first vibrator.

After the founder's death in the eighties, The Pleasure Chest locations split up from each other, but in the last 10 years the founder's nephew, Brian Robinson, has been reconnecting the stores back together, including adding the online store- ThePleasureChest.com. The Pleasure Chest is referred to as the "Saks 5th Avenue" of adult stores in the media and lives up to that moniker. With a well-trained sales staff and an attractive, bright store it certainly fits!

The mission and history of The Pleasure Chest attests to what was probably a very positive experience for Will to visit their store.



The Pleasure Chest original storefront, circa 1972

Their website lists many fun facts about the store here:

<http://thepleasurechest.com/pc/howto/40-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-pleasure-chest/>, including that Queen name-checked The Pleasure Chest in their song, "Let Me Entertain You" released in 1978. It includes these lyrics: "If you wanna see some action/We get nothing but the best/The S & M attraction/We got the Pleasure Chest."

Egor's Dungeon: Egor's Dungeon, located at 900 W Belmont Avenue in Chicago, doesn't have a website, though its sister shops, The Mistress, do. Egor's Dungeon is billed as an "adult entertainment service and accessories store". Its Facebook page calls it "a dirty little sex shop". Otherwise, I didn't find more information about it. I guess you have to go there.



Egor's Dungeon on West Belmont Avenue in Chicago

Good Vibrations: This is my favorite of all the purveyors of erotica mentioned, because I once met the owner, Joani Blank, and she was an incredibly cool person. She started the first Good Vibrations retail store in San Francisco's Mission District in 1977 with two goals: to support women's sexual desire and potential by providing resources for women seeking accurate sex information and good quality sex toys, and to support personal and professional development for women. Joani Blank wanted Good Vibrations to recognize the critical contribution women make as business leaders in industry, the workplace, and society. According to the website, she “strove to create a working environment in which the contribution of all genders is recognized and valued equally”.

Good Vibrations calls themselves “the premier retailer trusted for over three decades to provide high quality products, education, and information that promotes sexual health, pleasure, and empowerment”. They claim to have “invented the concept of the clean, well-lit vibrator store” and are “proud to provide a safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental environment where customers can shop for sex toys, books, and movies, and attend workshops”.



Good Vibrations' logo

Good Vibrations currently has eight stores altogether: three more in San Francisco besides the Mission store, one in Berkeley, one in Oakland, one in Palo Alto and another in Brookline, Massachusetts. They have a wholesale private label division, an ecommerce site, and a thriving social media channel including their online blog. They have launched a movie production line of sex education movies, developed dozens of exclusive products, and plan further retail expansion with new stores.

Their mission, as stated on their website is, “Good Vibrations is a woman friendly education based retailer providing high-quality, sex-positive products and non-judgmental, accurate and trusted sex information through our clean and comfortable stores, web site, wholesale private label division, in order to enhance our customers’ sex lives and promote healthy attitudes about sex overall. We want to help make the world more sex positive and shame free around sexual health and sexuality.”

Their vision statement is, “We recognize that sexuality touches on every aspect of our lives and that many people face challenges around positive sexual expression. Our goal is to help everyone we come into contact with to discover ways to experience sexual pleasure, health,

and well-being. Since sexual diversity is a core component of the human experience and each person's sexuality will change over the lifespan, we welcome all forms of consensual sexual expression, desire, and fantasy.

Good Vibrations strives to be an agent for social change, through the lenses of sexuality, diversity and ethical business practices. Both within our organization, and throughout the communities we serve, we are committed to fostering respect, promoting supportive communication, providing access to educational resources and strongly advocating for women in leadership roles."

So, yes, they would have made things comfortable and accepting for Will!

Rainbow necklace: The rainbow has become a symbol for of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) pride and diversity. It originated as a rainbow flag, sometimes called "the freedom flag", which was popularized as a symbol by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. When San Francisco gay activists marched that year to protest the assassination of city supervisor Harvey Milk, they marched with Baker's flags.



Gilbert Baker and his first Rainbow Flag in 1978

Baker combined eight stripes, each a different color, with its own symbolism: pink for sex (the Nazis required gays to wear pink triangles), red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for the human spirit. When Baker wanted to manufacture the flag for sale, he found that hot pink wasn't as available as the other colors, and so the flag dropped to seven colors. Baker later dropped indigo to maintain an even number, and the flag arrived at its contemporary six colors.

Each color also represents something important in the Gay Pride movement, and the derivatives and inspiration for the colors have significance in LGBTQ history.

These are two excellent articles about the history and origin of the rainbow as a symbol of gay pride:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/06/29/how-the-rainbow-became-the-symbol-of-gay-pride/?utm_term=.3ea4868f2996

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/explainer/2012/06/rainbows_and_gay_pride_how_the_rainbow_became_a_symbol_of_the_glbtc_movement.html

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Literary License: also known as artistic license, artistic licence, art licenselo, historical license, dramatic license, poetic license, narrative license, licentia poetica, or simply license) is a colloquial term, sometimes a euphemism, used to denote the distortion of fact, alteration of the conventions of grammar or language, or rewording of pre-existing text made by an artist in the name of art.

Pot Boiler: actually potboiler or pot-boiler, it was used as a term for a novel, play, opera, film, or other creative work of dubious literary or artistic merit, the main purpose of which was to pay for the creator's daily expenses—thus the imagery of "boil the pot", meaning "to provide one's livelihood". Authors who create potboiler novels or screenplays are sometimes called hack writers or hacks. Novels deemed to be potboilers may also be called pulp fiction, and potboiler films may be called "popcorn movies."

Worldwide Words adds: "In the more elevated arenas of artistry such a motive ... was considered deeply demeaning." If a serious playwright or novelist's creation is deemed a potboiler, this has a negative connotation that suggests that it is a mediocre or inferior-quality work.

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Tenure: the position of having a formal secure appointment until retirement, especially at an institution of higher learning after working there on a temporary or provisional basis