

THE RIPPED BODICE PRESENTS
THE STATE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY IN
ROMANCE PUBLISHING

2018

The Ripped Bodice is the only exclusively romance bookstore in The United States. It is owned by sisters Bea and Leah Koch.



The State of Racial Diversity in Romance Publishing Report tracks the publication of books written by authors of color and indigenous peoples in the romance genre.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the study can be found on our website, www.therippedbodice.com

The romance genre prides itself on being a feminist haven where women writers have finally found a place to express positive stories that center female experiences. We continue to be stunned by the blatant hypocrisy of a community that insists upon uplifting only a certain kind of woman, both between the pages and in real life.



When beginning this project three years ago, we believed that as soon as the numbers were collected and publicly released, publishers would immediately make strides toward correcting this imbalance.



We hoped that providing clear data would contribute to the work that authors of color had been doing for decades to prove that there is widespread systemic racism within romance publishing.

Clearly, the publishers were not moved by this data given that **there has been zero progress in the last 3 years.**

Every solution we have come up with has a fundamental problem: it puts the onus on fixing this injustice on people who are not responsible for it.



Agents, booksellers, and other authors can and should do their best.

But ultimately, unless acquiring editors purchase more manuscripts for publication by authors of color, these numbers will remain the same.

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Are we missing something?
PLEASE, TELL US WHAT WE ARE MISSING.

Every defense of the status quo is so deeply rooted in systemic, institutional racism and inaccuracy.

This conversation simply cannot continue as it has. We need significant improvement. We continue to demand it. Join us.

♥ Ripped Bodice Bestsellers 2018 ♥

A Princess in Theory by Alyssa Cole
The Kiss Quotient by Helen Hoang
The Wedding Date by Jasmine Guillory
A Study in Scarlet Women by Sherry Thomas
An Extraordinary Union by Alyssa Cole
The Hating Game by Sally Thorne
Heroine's Journey by Sarah Kuhn
Heroine Complex by Sarah Kuhn
The Duchess Deal by Tessa Dare
Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton

80% OF THESE BOOKS ARE WRITTEN BY AUTHORS OF COLOR
The most common refrain from publishers remains:
These books don't sell.
Yet they seem to fly off our shelves...

We are deeply grateful for the participation of the following publishers:



All publishers are asked to assist in the study by providing a list of the titles they published in the previous year. This year's study includes 2,867 books, which is why we appreciate publishers who contribute a little bit of their time to this important research.

- Bella Books
- Berkley Books
- Bethany House
- Bold Strokes Books
- Dreamspinner Press
- Entangled Publishing
- Forever
- Kensington
- Montlake Romance
- Riptide Publishing
- St. Martin's Press
- Sourcebooks

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2018 WERE WRITTEN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR?

	Avon Romance	4.8%
	Bella Books 	7.7%
	Berkley 	10%
	Bethany House 	0%
	Bold Strokes Books 	1.1%
	Carina Press	2.5%
	Dreamspinner Press 	7.4%
	Entangled Publishing 	13.3%
	Forever & Forever Yours 	5%
	Gallery <small>includes Pocket & Pocket Star</small>	8.9%
	Harlequin Series	7.8%
	HQN	3.3%
	Kensington 	22.8%
	Mira Books	7.5%
	Montlake Romance 	2%
	Random House <small>includes Ballantine, Bantam, Loveswept & Flirt</small>	1.6%
	Riptide Publishing 	1.9%
	St. Martin's Press 	5%
	Sourcebooks 	9.9%
	Tule Publishing	1.9%

