

## Mean Season Red Dress Ink Novels

Plus-size Maggie O'Leary is America's Anti-Diet Sweetheart. Her informed column about the pitfalls of dieting is the one sane voice crying out against the dietocracy. She is perfectly happy with who she is and the life she leads. Until she gets the chance to spend some quality time with Hollywood's hottest star. Maggie knows she can't exactly show up looking like...well, herself. So she swallows her words and vows to become the skinniest fat advocate Tinseltown has ever seen. Swearing her trusted assistant to silence, Maggie embarks on a "secret" makeover. From showdowns with her boss, who is convinced his star columnist is losing her edge—er, girth—to run-ins with her closest male friend, the trip through the famed red door of beauty is anything but graceful. But despite her doubts about abandoning the comfortable life she's known—not to mention deceiving legions of loyal readers who still think of her as their champion, L.A.-bound Maggie is hell-bent on getting her just "desserts"! Bursting with wit, insight and humor, Deborah Blumenthal's *Fat Chance* is a guilt-free pleasure that is good to the last page!

Top Two Don'ts for the Office Party Don't dress in a revealing manner. (Translation: Don't wear the sexy scarlet, size-eight dress you couldn't fit into three months ago. The one that flaunts your firmed-up cleavage and newly discovered collarbones.) Don't make a spectacle of yourself. (Translation: Don't get drunk and make out with a really cute stranger for the whole company to see; he could turn out to be your boss's roommate.) I didn't follow those tips, and here I am with a hot new man in my life, Jack. But my friends are asking if I really want to bump into my boss in his boxers in the hallway of their apartment. After all, I am aiming for a promotion. And now, not only does my ex want me back, but the guy I used to think was Mr. Right just kissed me! Three months ago I couldn't hold on to one guy. Now three want me. When did my life become so complicated?

Originally a euphemism for Princeton University's Female Literary Tradition course in the 1980s, "chick lit" mutated from a movement in American women's avant-garde fiction in the 1990s to become, by the turn of the century, a humorous subset of women's literature, journalism, and advice manuals. Stephanie Harzewski examines such best sellers as *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, and *Sex and the City* as urban appropriations of and departures from the narrative traditions of the novel of manners, the popular romance, and the bildungsroman. Further, Harzewski uses chick lit as a lens through which to view gender relations in U.S. and British society in the 1990s. *Chick Lit and Postfeminism* is the first sustained historicization of this major pop-cultural phenomenon, and Harzewski successfully demonstrates how chick lit and the critical study of it yield social observations on upheavals in Anglo-American marriage and education patterns, heterosexual rituals, feminism, and postmodern values.

Doris Gig: newly minted lit prof transplanted to Atlanta. Currently: butting heads with Southern-fried brownshirts, resisting the faculty's sonnet-writing Mick Jagger figure and—God help her—braving the shark-infested waters of online dating. Ronnie Gig: aspiring novelist returned to L.A. Currently: back home, but not at home; tutoring an obnoxious Beverly Hills "homeboy" and hating the bartending bimbo hitting on her good-ol'-boy boyfriend (who's fitting in better than she is). Turns out that coasting through life

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after grad school can feel a lot like just spinning your wheels—but Doris and Ronnie are determined to find their true paths. It's going to take heavy doses of IM, Chardonnay and one mantra: true friends can head in opposite directions and still see eye to eye. Romance novels have attracted considerable attention since their mass market debut in 1939, yet seldom has the industry itself been analyzed. Founded in 1949, Harlequin quickly gained market domination with their contemporary romances. Other publishers countered with historical romances, leading to the rise of “bodice-ripper” romances in the 1970s. The liberation of the romance novel's content during the 1980s brought a vitality to the market that was dubbed a revolution, but the real romance revolution began in the 1990s with developments in the mainstream publishing industry and continues today. This book traces the history and evolution of the romance industry, covering successful (and not so successful) trends and describing changes in romance publishing that paved the way for the many popular subgenres flooding the market in the 21st century.

Between the reality of being six weeks pregnant by a guy she's dated for two months and the fantasy of pushing a baby stroller down Columbus Avenue with a wedding ring on her finger were a lot of possibilities for twenty-nine-year-old Manhattan publishing peon Sarah Solomon. Will the baby's father run screaming for the nearest subway...or pop the question? "He's going to deny they ever had sex!" bets cynical sister Ally, an uptown lawyer who catches her "perfect" husband cheating...and happily retaliates on FindAMate.com. "He might surprise everyone and propose," offers half sister Zoe, a celebrated relationship guru who critiques dates for a living but would have to rate her own love life a big fat zero. "Huh?" asks their clueless father, too busy planning his society wedding to trophy wife #3 to notice what's up with his daughters. Until Sarah, Ally and Zoe find themselves suddenly sharing a bedroom in his Park Avenue penthouse.... And thanks to a little help from each other and some unexpected allies, the Solomon sisters are about to wise up in this heartwarming and hilarious novel by Melissa Senate, author of *See Jane Date*.

Q: How does a thirty-five-year-old newspaper reporter with a vanilla-sounding name like Jenny George know so much about men?

A: She doesn't. When her live-in boyfriend made a relationship trade-in (for the lingerie model starring in the ad campaign Jenny created) she realized she knew nothing about men. But Jenny is about to be clued in. Assigned to the Caribbean to write an exposé on a womanizing Hollywood movie tycoon, she's pitted against the tough-talking journalist and bane of her existence, Slaid Warren. Slaid takes issue with Jenny's quest to be the best and sets out to show her 1) There's more to life than just work; 2) They're stronger when they work as a team and not at cross-purposes and 3) He really does live up to all his hype. Armed with these new insights—and a killer tan—Jenny suddenly couldn't care less about what men want. Instead, she's launching her own plan that's guaranteed to give her exactly what she needs....

This book provides detailed synopses for more than 1,200 works of fiction significantly set in Chicago and published between 1852 and 1980. The synopses include plot summaries, names of major characters, and an indication of physical settings. An appendix provides bibliographical information for works dating from 1981 well into the 21st century, while a biographical section provides basic information about the authors.

When one ex-boyfriend gets married, a girl can laugh it off. With two, she begins to get nervous. But three? Three? Angie DiFranco is starting

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to take it personally. What is it about her that doesn't incite men to plunk down large sums of money in the name of eternal love? According to her one successfully married friend, men are like tight lids. One woman comes along, loosens him up, leaving him for the next woman to pop off the lid, no problem. After all, would Jennifer have landed Brad so easily without the Gwyneth factor? Suddenly Angie looks at Kirk, her current boyfriend, with new eyes. Kirk, whose last girlfriend loosened his lid by giving him *The Ultimatum*. Kirk, who suddenly seems primed to be popped right open. If the tight-lid theory is true, Angie could be married within a year—with a little effort. And a little help from her friends....

P.J. is faced with the loss of her simple, carefree, peripatetic lifestyle crashing on the couches of friends as she saves her money to create a music demo, when a reporter threatens to infiltrate and then take over her life. Original. 60,000 first printing.

Q: What turns thirty-five-year-old graduate student Shari Diamond on? A: Anything British. Forget tall, dark and handsome. For Shari there's only tall, pasty and from *Across the Pond* (despite her aunt's advice to find a nice Jewish boy). Ever since Shari first happened upon Christopher Robin in her childhood reading, she's had a passion for all things Anglo-Saxon. First it was books, then it was blokes, now...well, it's still blokes. Unbeknownst to her, Kit, Shari's latest British conquest (and decidedly not a Jew), also happens to be her biggest competition in her search to find the last-known speaker of a language close to extinction. Shari's spent four years trying to find this guy so she can complete her Ph.D. and now Kit has beaten her to the punch? When she learns that there might be more (and less) to Kit than meets the eye, will this Anglophile turn her back on the land of tea and crumpets once and for all?

Presents a comprehensive guide for librarians and readers' advisors, provides a brief history of the romance novel, and offers reading lists and subgenre definitions.

Lynn Blanchett's *Steps to Happiness*: Step 1: Find a job. (Done! I'm doing PR for hotshot young designer Muriel B.—which I'm totally unqualified for.) Step 2: Find a man. (Check! There's a rich, gorgeous man chasing me...so what if I find him infinitely less appealing than my charming, possibly gay, French coworker?) Step 3: Find a translator. (Hmm? I do have that French-English dictionary...but it so doesn't help with the language of love.) Step 4: Find a shower. (I did just fly in from New York.... I can't be fabulous all the time!) Dropped into a ridiculously cushy job in Paris by her distant fashion-icon mother, all Lynn has to do to prove she's not a fraud (which she is!) is figure out what exactly her job entails, how she got involved in something that can only be described as fashion treason and how to untangle her love life in time to make Muriel B.'s next runway show the event of the season. With time running short and expertise running low, Lynn has little to guide her but a self-help manual that promises twenty steps to happiness.

A trio of absolutely fabulous stories of holiday madness and mayhem includes Laurie Graff's "The Eight Dates of Hannukkah," in which singles-event planner Nicki Heller, after a blow to the head, is forced to endure a hellish round of dating during Hannukkah. Original. 60,000 first printing.

All is fair in fashion and war—but who knew controversy and scheming would be all the rage this season when a fashion writer schemes to take down the editor-in-chief of "Fashionista."

Unhappily married, Sidney Stein finds herself drifting into an illicit affair with Geoffrey Fahl, an older man, and then leaving Geoffrey to plunge into the dating scene, until a series of disastrous dates and unexpected romance turn her life upside down. A first novel. Original. 100,000 first printing.

He proposed. She had her doubts. She said yes. Now what? Everyone tells Sarah Giles how lucky she is to be engaged to Paul O'Brian—a

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handsome hotshot who's financially secure, knows how to throw the perfect dinner party...and taught Sarah how to, uh, take care of herself. Everyone thinks he's great. Except for Sarah. But she has too much on her plate trying to become career woman of the year and hiding the fact that her seemingly blissful relationship is all but celibate (those lessons he gave her should come in handy) to figure out what's wrong with Mr. Right, let alone qualify for the role of perfect fiancée. Meanwhile, what started as an innocent office flirtation with a man named John Wayne (really), has now moved beyond illicit lunches and harmless text messaging, and is fast turning into erotic obsession. Sarah can't get John out of her head and she's plunging deeper into a double life. But which life is the lie? Torn between two men, and trying not to lose sight of her own dreams, Sarah writes a scandalously honest diary of one life-changing year, and faces the challenge of writing her own happy ending....

Three very different couples--wedding planner Jessica James and her live-in lover, society wild child Jack Carlisle and his new bride Emma Hunter, and Jess's younger sister Sarah, who has eloped with her soulmate--confront the realities of love, marriage, and living together. Original. 60,000 first printing.

Is her chance to have it all shrinking along with her waistline? All Evelyn Mays wants is to be the perfect bride in a size 8 Vera Wang wedding dress. Call her superficial, but when your boyfriend has turned up at your office and dramatically proposed—your green-withenvy colleagues watching in astonishment—there's a certain image to live up to! Evie senses that her supposedly fast-track career is spiraling away from her, but at least there's something she can control: her Big Day. She just has to transform herself from a cuddly brunette into a svelte blonde.... But changing her appearance proves addictive; Evie develops a taste for experimenting: new friends...new men? Her best friend, convinced that Mr. Right is just an urban legend anyway, eggs her on to have one last fling. Only, is Evie discovering her true self, or playing a game of chance that will end in trouble?

A heat wave in Manhattan is enough to drive a girl crazy, and for Tracey Spadolini, a 24-year-old New York transplant who's been "left behind" for the summer, there's even more to sweat about. Her Slightly Significant Other, Will, will be returning from summer stock in September, to pick up where they left off. (Or will he?) But, in the days after Will's departure, Tracey decides it's time for a reality check. Her un-air-conditioned East Village apartment is a dump, her entry-level ad job sucks, her thighs don't seem to be getting any thinner, and Will seems to have dropped off the face of the earth. So, Tracey, with the help of her friends and one very attentive guy, decides to spend her summer reinventing herself...and taking a chance on liking the new woman she becomes.

A Fancy Affair Bridal Salon Forest Hills, Queens "Did you know that one of your hips is higher than the other?"the seamstress asked me in a totally conversational tone. "I didn't," I said. "I never knew that. But I'm glad you told me." The seamstress had the decency to look embarrassed. She ducked her head back down and continued pinning. Perhaps that had been the reason why Blind Dates One, Two and Three hadn't been interested. It wasn't the smoking, after all. It was my Hip Issue. And just my luck that Blind Date #4 was with a doctor, whose business it was to notice such deformities. See Jane Date will speak to singles everywhere. At once warm and witty, this look into the life of twenty-eight-year-old assistant editor Jane Gregg, screams, "You are not alone!" Case in point: See Jane... — Endure two months of bridesmaid hell for her younger cousin's wedding — Brilliantly dodge being fixed up with Grammy's next-door neighbor by fibbing that she, um, already has a boyfriend — Date...like crazy to find one suitable guy to bring to said wedding Okay, find one suitable guy to love. Was that so much to ask?

A Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue meets Miss Fisher's Murder Mystery in this rollicking romp of truth, lies, and troubled pasts. New

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Year's Eve, 1929. Millie is running the show at the Cloak & Dagger, a swinging speakeasy in the French Quarter, while her aunt is out of town. The new year is just around the corner, and all of New Orleans is out to celebrate, but even wealthy partiers' diamond earrings can't outshine the real star of the night: the boy in the red dress. Marion is the club's star performer and his fans are legion--if mostly underground. When a young socialite wielding a photograph of Marion starts asking questions, Millie wonders if she's just another fan. But then her body is found crumpled in the courtyard, dead from an apparent fall off the club's balcony, and all signs point to Marion as the murderer. Millie knows he's innocent, but local detectives aren't so easily convinced. As she chases clues that lead to cemeteries and dead ends, Millie's attention is divided between the wry and beautiful Olive, a waitress at the Cloak & Dagger, and Bennie, the charming bootlegger who's offered to help her solve the case. The clock is ticking for the fugitive Marion, but the truth of who the killer is might be closer than Millie thinks.

Life at Fashionista magazine can be a real bitch. Especially when you work for one. Vig Morgan finally worked her way out of the assistant-for-the-bitch-from-hell trenches only to get stuck in a sea of editors. But Vig isn't like the other associate editors at the aggressively hip and overwhelmingly current Fashionista magazine. For one thing, she couldn't care less which star wore which designer to which party. Sure, she's clever and witty—and just as ambitious as the next overqualified underpaid underling, but she would never get drawn into a plot to depose the evil editor-in-chief. Or would she? Jump with Vig into the choppy waters of scheming, backstabbing, free speech, flirtation and fashion, as the lackeys at the bottom of the masthead band together to take down the queen at the top, with some unexpected—but not necessarily unpleasant—results.

As a junior associate at the most-sought-after marital mediation and divorce boutique in Beverly Hills, Monica is part mediator, part lawyer, part marriage therapist and all celebrity babysitter. She's so good at her job that she's handling the firm's superstar clients Cameron and Lydia Johnson Hollywood It couple Camydia. Although things would be easier if the only other female associate would stop sabotaging her career, and if the drama queen she refers to as mother wasn't moving back home! When the latest Camydia scandal breaks wide open, it's time for Monica to save the day, to don her Prada cape and matching bag, then wreak havoc on her office rival and run circles around the paparazzi. Everyone's watching to see what Monica will do hey, are those claws on that French

Dinah Nichols, PR chick for Green World International, knows how to spin a story. She has to, otherwise how else would rescuing loons get the media attention it deserves? But a visit from Higher Management guru Ian Trutch means she'll have to put some spin on the "fabulous work" she and the staff have been doing. Sure, her latest hobby of haranguing a cocky colleague is worthwhile, but it isn't part of GWI's mission statement or anything. So, how to convince the higher-ups she and the others are working hard for their higher purpose? Hmm. Dating Trutch seemed the obvious move, but now she's not so sure he is what he says he is, and the office is turned upside down as acts of local ecoterrorism are suddenly on the rise, and Dinah's famed mother—a bona fide well-known Jacques Cousteau type—makes an unforgettable appearance, putting Dinah's entire career in jeopardy. Will Dinah navigate her eclectic crew to safety, or will they have to swim for it?

With meticulous career planning and a couple of dirty martinis, there is very little that New York City investment banker Vina Chopra can't do. And now that she's decided to get serious about finding her mate, there is very little that Vina won't try even if it means letting her parents get involved. After all, what does she have to lose? Her longest-term relationship thus far has been with the ulcer she ultimately named Fred (unless you count the ex-boyfriend who won't go away). Amid a series of dates with 'the nice Indian doctor' and an office scandal that could permanently end her career, Vina starts to question everything she's been working for. Who has she been trying to please all these years? Is

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this the life that she really wants? Can she finally learn to put aside her family's expectations long enough and become the girl most likely to find happiness all her own?

What would you do if a movie star was living under your roof? Prepping for his new movie in the tiny town of Pinecob, West Virginia, up-and-coming actor Joshua Reed lands himself another drunk-driving conviction, this time involving a stolen limo, a dark country road and a cow. Rather than let him rot in jail for the summer, twenty-five-year-old Leanne Gitlin, his fan club president, agrees to vouch for him so he can serve out his sentence under house arrest. In her home. But playing the gracious guest isn't in Joshua Reed's repertoire. And while everyone in town is thinking up excuses to drop by the Gitlin house, Leanne quickly finds herself counting the days until her famous visitor leaves. Leanne, the youngest of five, watched her family fall apart and dutifully stayed put to help her mother pick up the pieces. Stuck in Pinecob, she was itching for something new, but Joshua Reed's media circus isn't quite what she had in mind. In a debut novel as endearing as it is wise, Heather Cochran has whipped up one season the town of Pinecob won't soon forget.

In the space of a few hours, thirty-year-old Ginger Petrocelli had gone from bride-to-be to bride-who-never-was. So here she sat, alone in her cramped apartment, wedding crinolines askew, drowning her sorrows in a hundred-dollar bottle of Veuve Cliquot, when her doorbell rang. And her trip to hell in a handbasket was about to escalate. At the door: Nick, Ginger's "first." Only, he's a police officer now, and he wants to find out what she knows about her M.I.A. congressman fiancé. When was the last time she'd seen him? She'd better not leave town.... And the spiral continues: her cozy little subplot (really, she liked having her shower in the kitchen) is about to be yanked away, and the prestigious little design firm where she works is about to go belly-up. So what's a girl to do? Her answer, born of desperation: move in with her crazy, widowed mother—who Ginger claims sucks the life force out of every creature within one city block of her—and her grandmother, who spends much of her day engaged in heated arguments with her dead husband. Well, it's a plan. But bizarrely, as the summer progresses, her eccentric but lovable relatives give her the courage to make choices based on what she wants, not what she wants to avoid.

After an argument with her boyfriend, Eve Crenshaw abandons Manhattan for life on an island off the coast of Maine, where she, along with her friends, Natasha and Kim, desperate for some type of entertainment, form a club called the Wednesday Night Witches, but when all of their wishes begin to come true, life on the island gets worse and worse. Original. 100,000 first printing.

### Mean SeasonHarlequin

Holly Klein is an A-list celebrity with an army of assistants. Leo Monroe is a smart-talking DJ from the streets. She lives on Mulholland Drive; he lives on...someone else's sofa. But when Leo rescues Holly from a mugger, their two worlds collide, literally. Such a heroic act deserves a reward, and Holly's producer comes up with a brilliant suggestion: feature Leo on Holly's hit makeover show. New image, new life—in just a few weeks! Leo accepts only so he can stay in Holly's pool house. Meanwhile, Holly is stunned to realize she prefers rough-and-ready Leo to her usual slick, Armani-clad companions. Sleeping with him once is an accident; soon, however, it becomes a secret habit she can't seem to break. Great sex is one thing, but could a Hollywood star and a busking Brit ever seriously work as a couple? Holly starts to question whether the meaning of life really is a Hermès Birkin handbag and an invite to the hottest showbiz parties. Leo might be having the makeover, but is it Holly who really needs to change?

With chick lit novels popping up on every bestseller list, millions of readers are all thinking the same thing: I could write this stuff. I could write a bestseller and never go back to the office again! And here's the guide that will show you how. Bestselling novelist Sarah Mlynowski and veteran chick lit editor Farrin Jacobs cover every stage of developing and selling your soon-to-be bestselling novel, with information on •

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developing an idea • learning the basics of plotting • deciding on a point of view • pacing, and conflict • making your characters likable • finding an agent —and much more, including humorous tips and advice from scores of established writers (from Meg Cabot and Marian Keyes to Emily Giffin and Sophie Kinsella). If you've got stories to tell, See Jane Write will take care of the rest!

My Life Uncovered by Lynn Isenberg released on Nov 24, 2003 is available now for purchase.

Lena Sharpe, determined to become a star, always pretends to be someone she is not in order to impress members of the opposite sex, until she meets her ideal mate in Colin who encourages her to follow her dreams and to be herself.

Original. 60,000 first printing.

Determined to have one last adventure before getting married, Rachel Buckley and her two best friends, Carrie Ann and Yaslyn, journey to Turkey where, while staying in an all-inclusive luxury hotel, they find their friendship sorely tested by anger, insecurities, and dark secrets. Original.

When opportunity knocks--twice--cinematographer/aspiring director Roxanne Hastings, while dealing with a wayward romance and neglected friendships, is plunged into a world of Hollywood madness as she tries to juggle two projects that could make or break her career. Original. 30,000 first printing.

Looking for love in all the highend places... After writing her own obituary as an experiment, Holly Hastings realizes that her life isn't exactly blazing a trail of glory. The twenty-eight-year-old is broke, bored at work and perpetually single. But after watching an old Marilyn Monroe movie she realizes what she can do about it: Marry a millionaire—and write about how to do it! This had to be the answer to the prayers of an obituary writer who's spent more time lauding other people's lives than living her own.... Taking leave from her job (if not her senses), Holly decides to better her chances of mingling with the moneyed by getting the heck out of Dodge (aka, Buffalo, New York) and heading to millionaire-rich towns on both coasts. Her honesty and common decency make it hard to fully embrace the shallow life, but Holly finally lands herself an eligible millionaire in San Francisco and an all-expenses-paid trip to Easy Street. Too bad about that inconvenient crush she's developed on her neighbor. Will Holly stick to her plan for marrying up or will she choose marrying right?

NOW STREAMING ON NETFLIX! “Hilarious” — New York Times Teen Genius (and Hermit) Carrie Pilby’s To-Do List: 1. List 10 things you love (and do them!) 2. Join a club (and talk to people!) 3. Go on a date (with someone you actually like!) 4. Tell someone you care (your therapist doesn’t count!) 5. Celebrate New Year’s (with other people!) Seriously? Carrie would rather stay in bed than deal with the immoral, sex-obsessed hypocrites who seem to overrun her hometown, New York City. She’s sick of trying to be like everybody else. She isn’t! But when her own therapist gives her a five-point plan to change her social-outcast status, Carrie takes a hard look at herself—and agrees to try. Suddenly the world

doesn't seem so bad. But is prodigy Carrie willing to dumb things down just to fit in? Goombah to Gucci As the only granddaughter among seventeen grandsons of one of New York's reputed Mafia dons, Teddi Gallo has been surrounded by overprotective men all her life...not to mention those FBI agents tailing her family. But now, determined to live her own life, she has decamped to Manhattan with dreams of making it in the brutal restaurant business. Soon, however, she is finding her dinner plate is more than full as she juggles an old-money, news-anchor boyfriend, a devastatingly handsome FBI agent trailing her 24/7, a nervous accountant concerned her business is failing and her cousin Tony acting as her bodyguard. Toss in bringing her new beau home for Sunday dinner and trying to explain the hundred pairs of stolen Jimmy Choos in her Uncle Vito's living room...and Teddi Gallo's already-chaotic life is made all the more messy. Maybe a few well-hatched plans, a bit of matchmaking and a dose of Mafia Chic will get her out of this jam.

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