



# REAMSPUN UNDERCOVER



*Love's a  
Dangerous  
Thrill*

# DREAMSPUN UNDERCOVER

## *Love's a Dangerous Thrill*

These are contemporary novels of romantic suspense, in which danger and mystery play a large part in advancing the heroes' happily ever after.

### CATEGORY RECIPE

In romantic suspense, suspense, mystery, or thriller elements provide an intriguing background to the main romantic plot.

In the **Dreamspun Undercover** line, those suspense elements should provide the roadblocks and challenges to the heroes' happily ever after without dipping too far into angst or graphic themes that could darken the tone. Happy endings are required!



## COMPOSITION RULES

- Romance, romance, *romance*! The primary plot line must feature your heroes falling in love and working for that happy ending. We're looking for original stories featuring classic romance themes.
- Mystery, suspense, and thriller-style elements should run a close second to the romance plotline, generally providing plot points to advance the heroes' efforts to find love.
- Heroes must be likeable and/or compelling, featuring only fixable flaws and appealing characterizations: the rough-and-tumble cop, the strong and silent bodyguard, the snappy and suave businessman, or rugged private investigators, for instance. These are the mysterious men of fantasy.
- Tone can range from light and sweet to humorous to dramatic.
- We want to feel the emotions, but go easy on the angst! We're looking for surmountable obstacles, not tragedies and painful backgrounds. Love does conquer all!
- Focus on your heroes' internal emotional conflicts and the sensual tension between them. Let readers feel the thrill of finding love and working for that happily ever after.
- **Dreamspun Undercover** will feature a variety of reader-pleasing themes and tropes to bring our heroes together: blackmail, disguise, kidnappings, law enforcement, protector, redeemed hero, and more! Add a fresh twist to your favorite classic romance element and feel free to swirl together more than one!
- Choose a setting and make it sing! Your story can take place anywhere in the world and should connect logically to the heroes and plotlines.
- Each volume should contain a complete love story arc. No cliffhangers, please.
- Each volume within a themed series should focus on a new set of lead characters.
- Sexual content should be restricted to no more than two to three significant events of any heat level up to explicit, as appropriate for the storyline. Please note that sex for sex's sake, kink, BDSM, etc. are not appropriate.
- Word count of 50,000-60,000.

- All **Dreamspun Undercover** novels will feature a specific cover format that is not negotiable, including the House Line design, color elements, and use of photorealistic images.
- Dedications, acknowledgments, and/or author’s notes are restricted to a single page for all desired elements combined.

## ADVANCES AND CONTRACT TERMS

- All **Dreamspun Undercover** novels are contracted in print and digital formats, which are released simultaneously. A \$500-\$1,000 advance is paid in a single payment upon receipt of the signed contract. Once the advance is satisfied, novel digital royalty rates are 40% to 60% (based on copies sold). Novel paperback royalty rates are 30%.
- Copyright remains with the author.  
Electronic contracts are exchanged via e-mail.

## TO RESERVE A PUBLICATION SLOT

Mail Editor in Chief Lynn West at [lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com](mailto:lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com) to discuss your idea and reserve a calendar slot. *This is very important*—slots may be scheduled years in advance. Authors who plan with Lynn in advance will be given priority consideration in submissions review. Once you’ve talked with Lynn, if the idea is approved, you will be given a submission deadline.

## TO SUBMIT

Mail to: [submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com](mailto:submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com). Please include “**Submission: Dreamspun Undercover**” in the subject line.

- Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted; however, see “To Reserve a Publication Slot” above.
- We will acknowledge all submissions by e-mail within five to seven days.
- Submissions will be read by multiple reviewers and an editor, and you will have a response within eight weeks.
- All accepted works must be provided to us as an electronic file.

<https://www.dreamspinnerpress.com/submissions>

In the body of the e-mail:

- Your legal name, pseudonym if applicable, and contact e-mail address.
- Working title, series name if applicable.
- Genre and manuscript length.
- General story description in two paragraphs.
- Writing credentials.

Attach to the e-mail:

- A short but complete story summary and/or synopsis.
- The complete manuscript. Dreamspinner Press does not accept partial manuscripts, previously published material, or simultaneous submissions.

## FORMATTING YOUR SUBMISSION

Please follow these simple formatting guidelines.

- Submissions will be accepted in .docx, .doc, .rtf, .odt, and .txt formats. Please note that the Apple Pages program and WordPerfect are both incompatible with our editorial systems; .doc and .docx files exported from these programs exhibit critical compatibility errors. Authors will need to make program accommodations.
- Standard 12 pt Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, .5 indent for the first line of each paragraph. 1.5 line spaces between lines. No tabs or spacing to indent, please! Page numbers in the upper right corner, author name in the upper left corner with the title of the work following. Example: Jane Smith / The Apple of His Eye
- All submissions must be spellchecked and edited for American English grammar and spelling. Regional words and slang are acceptable when appropriate.
- Dreamspinner Press edits works using *The Chicago Manual of Style* as its primary reference. Editing your work to these standards prior to publication will greatly facilitate the publication process.

SEE OUR OTHER DREAMSPUN LINES



*Love Always  
Finds a Way*

These are contemporary category romance novels, complete with your favorite heartwarming heroes, crazy clichés, and terrific tropes. It's all about the feel-good loving that will leave you grinning.



*Love Sees  
No Difference*

These contemporary category romance novels feature paranormal themes, settings, and characters to create compelling otherworldly romance that's a step beyond reality and far too appealing and romantic to miss.

<https://www.dreamspinnerpress.com/submissions>