



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 in a suspenseful plotline. We're looking for original stories featuring classic romance themes.
- **Updated 7/10/17:** 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. Romance Writers of America (RWA) defines romantic suspense as "Romance novels in which suspense, mystery, or thriller elements constitute an integral part of the plot."
- 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.
- **Updated 7/10/17:** We want to feel the emotions, but go easy on the angst! We're looking for surmountable obstacles, not tragedies and painful backgrounds. We reserve the right to request edits to violent or explicit material in order to preserve the tone of the line.
- 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 grouped series must focus on a new set of lead characters.
- **Updated 7/10/17:** Sexual content should be restricted to two to three significant events of any heat level up to explicit. Please note that sex

for sex's sake, kink, BDSM, etc. are not appropriate. We reserve the right to request sex scenes be scaled back or removed to preserve the tone of the line.

- 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.
- **Updated 7/10/17:** Point of view and overall tense must be *third person, simple past tense*. POV may switch from section to section or chapter to chapter; the book should be primarily written in simple past tense.

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 GET YOUR TITLE IN THE PUBLICATION QUEUE

Updated 7/10/17: Dreamspinner Press is calling for completed manuscripts as we push our publication schedule forward. Completed works will receive priority review and qualify for earlier calendar placement, as well as the opportunity to move up the calendar and be considered for targeted marketing.

Keep these dates in mind if you want to maximize your opportunity for the earliest publication slot possible:

Submit no later than 3/1 for 1st Quarter of the following year.

Submit no later than 6/1 for 2nd Quarter of the following year.

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

Submit no later than 9/1 for 3rd Quarter of the following year.
Submit no later than 12/1 for 4th Quarter of the following year.

- Authors may send completed manuscripts to submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com at any time.
- In lieu of a complete manuscript, the first step toward receiving a spot in the publication queue is submitting a strong summary outline of 800-1,000 words to Editor in Chief Lynn West at lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com. That will give us a better feel for your planned tone and storyline.
- Lynn (or her designate) will reply to discuss your proposal and set a possible submission deadline.
- We require a draft of at least 5,000 words three months prior to the agreed-upon submission deadline to judge story themes, tone, and appropriateness for the line. Depending on how quickly you want to write and submit, that three-month evaluation mark may be shorter. From those three chapters, we may give you a thumbs up, we might provide feedback, or we might decline the idea.

TO SUBMIT

Mail to: 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 acknowledge all submissions by e-mail within 5-7 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.

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.

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

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.