

# Romance Writers of America RITA Award of Excellence

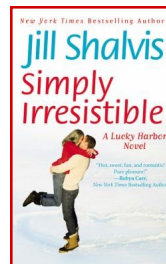
Founded in 1980, the Romance Writers of America (RWA) is the largest national non-profit genre writers' association in the world. The RITA awards have been announced every year since 1982. For more on RWA and the RITA Awards, including other winners, please visit [www.rwa.org](http://www.rwa.org)



## 2011 Winners:

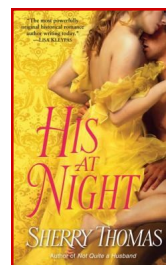
### BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Simply Irresistible by Jill Shalvis

Maddie Moore's whole life needs a makeover. In one fell swoop, Maddie loses her boyfriend (her decision) and her job (so not her decision). But rather than drowning her sorrows in bags of potato chips, Maddie leaves L.A. to claim the inheritance left by her free-spirited mother – a ramshackle inn nestled in the little coastal town of Lucky Harbor, Washington. Starting over won't be easy. Yet Maddie sees the potential for a new home and a new career – but the inn needs a big makeover too. The contractor Maddie hires is a tall, dark-haired hottie whose eyes-and mouth-are making it hard for her to remember that she's sworn off men.



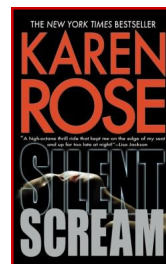
### BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: His at Night by Sherry Thomas

Elissande Edgerton is a desperate woman, a virtual prisoner in the home of her tyrannical uncle. Only through marriage can she claim the freedom she craves. But how to catch the perfect man? Lord Vere is used to baiting irresistible traps. As a secret agent for the government, he's tracked down some of the most devious criminals in London, all the while maintaining his cover as one of Society's most harmless-and idiotic-bachelors. But nothing can prepare him for the scandal of being ensnared by Elissande. Forced into a marriage of convenience, Elissande and Vere are each about to discover that they're not the only one with a hidden agenda.



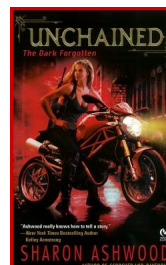
### BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Silent Scream by Karen Rose

When a teenage girl dies in a suspicious fire, Detective Olivia Sutherland is assigned to track down the arsonist. Then she discovers a vicious blackmailer who preys on young people. Making her work even harder is sexy firefighter David Hunter. He's not only sharing the case but sparking memories of their long-ago night of passion, when feelings were left unspoken and hearts were broken. But while he and Olivia try to face the wall of pain between them, a diabolical puppet master is pulling strings to make a others do his bidding. Soon Olivia and David are scouring the city for a calculating criminal who seems tantalizingly close – and is moving in for the kill.



### BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Unchained: The Dark Forgotten by Sharon Ashwood

Faced with a custody battle for her daughter, monster-killer Ashe Carver has hung up her stakes and taken a job at the public library. But then after centuries guarding a supernatural prison, the dashing Captain Reynard strides into her world. He has only weeks to live unless Ashe finds the thief who took his soul – and he's too drop-dead gorgeous to die...



### BEST FIRST BOOK: Pieces of Sky by Kaki Warner \*

On a stagecoach traveling through New Mexico Territory, Jessica Thornton is a long way from the cool mists and lush gardens of her native England. An authoress and milliner, she carries the weight of a scandalous secret-a horrible shame that has brought her to the West on a desperate search for the only family she can trust: her brother. No one prepared Jessica for the heat and the hardships. And no one prepared her for a man like Brady Wilkins. For, despite the rancher's rough-hewn appearance and her own misgivings, Jessica must put her life in his hands after their stagecoach crashes.



\* WCPL does not currently own this title, it may be available to order via [Inter-Library Loan](#).  
Updated by D. Brooks — 07/11 — Annotations courtesy of Library Catalog & Novelist

## 2010 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Too Good To Be True by Kristan Higgins

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: Not Quite A Husband by Sherry Thomas

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Whisper of Warning by Laura Griffin

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Kiss of a Demon King by Kresley Cole

BEST FIRST BOOK: One Scream Away by Kate Brady

## 2009 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Not Another Bad Date by Rachel Gibson

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: The Edge of Impropriety by Pam Rosenthal

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Take No Prisoners by Cindy Gerard

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Seducing Mr. Darcy by Gwyn Cready \*

BEST FIRST BOOK: Oh, My, Gods. by Tera Lynn Childs

## 2008 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Not Another Bad Day by Rachel Gibson \*

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: Lessons Of Desire by Madeline Hunter

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Ice Blue by Anne Stuart

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Lover Revealed by J.R. Ward

BEST FIRST BOOK: Dead Girls Are Easy by Terri Garey \*

## 2007 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Adios To My Old Life by Caridad Ferrer \*

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: On the Way To the Wedding by Julia Quinn

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Blackout by Annie Solomon

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: A Hunger Like No Other by Kresley Cole

BEST FIRST BOOK: The Husband Trap by Tracy Anne Warren \*

## 2006 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Lakeside Cottage by Susan Wiggs

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: The Devil to Pay by Liz Carlyle

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: Survivor in Death by J.D. Robb

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Gabriel's Ghost by Linnea Sinclair \*

BEST FIRST BOOK: Show Her The Money by Stephanie Feagan \*

## 2005 Winners:

BEST CONTEMPORARY SINGLE TITLE: Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie

BEST HISTORICAL ROMANCE: Shadowheart by Laura Kinsale

BEST ROMANTIC SUSPENSE: I'm Watching You by Karen Rose

BEST PARANORMAL ROMANCE: Blue Moon by Lori Handeland \*

BEST FIRST BOOK: Time Off For Good Behavior by Lani Diane Rich

