

Ann Aguirre's Timeline of Cross-Genre Fiction

StarDance by Spider and Jeanne Robinson

(1979) Early fusion of SF and romance with a female protagonist and an interesting love story.

Beauty by Robin McKinley

(1978) A true fantasy-romance, retelling the Beauty and the Beast legend.

The FireDancer series by Ann Maxwell

(1982) Sci-fi with touches of romance, the precursor to the true mesh of sf-romance.

Tea with the Black Dragon: by R.A. MacAvoy

(1983) A quirky and charming fantasy romance with very unusual protagonists.

Sweet Starfire by Jayne Ann Krentz

(1986) Futuristic, first complete blend of sci-fi and romance.

Arrows of the Queen by Mercedes Lackey

(1987) A light fantasy with touches of romance. Foreshadowing Luna?

A Knight in Shining Armor by Jude Deveraux

(1989) A time-travel book that redefined what that kind of story could be. Her research on Elizabethan society astounded me with its meticulous care.

The Rowan and Damia by Anne McCaffrey

(1991 & 1993) Featuring strong women with telepathic gifts. Called a “a superb sci-fi romance” by School Library Journal.

Charmed series, packaged in one volume as The Donovan Legacy by Nora Roberts

(1992) Full of psychics and witches before this was common.

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon

(1992) Literary romance / time-travel. What an interesting combination!

The Untamed/Enchanted series by Elizabeth Lowell

(1993) Witches, seers and psychics, set in a historical setting. Very groundbreaking.

Naked in Death by J.D. Robb

(1995) Futuristic police procedural romance. Who would've imagined this would work? But she's been writing these books for twelve years now! And opened the way for a lot of interesting combinations that might not have been possible before.

Archangel by Sharon Shinn
(1997)

Fantasy romance. The hero is an “angel” destined to rule over what was once a utopian society. His destined bride wants no part of him.

Gentle from the Night by Meagan McKinney

(1997) Gothic style historical romance with a ghost and a truly dark hero.

Bride Finder by Susan Carroll

(1998) Historical with paranormal elements. Hero is from a sorcerous bloodline and he has many powers. Book also features a ghost, balanced by a heroine who does not believe.

The Rival by Brenda Joyce

(1998) Heroine has psychic powers

Touch of the Wolf by Susan Krinard

(1999) Here, she revolutionizes the way we look at werewolves / shifters.

The Shadows Trilogy by Kay Hooper

(2000, 2000, 2003) She’s been writing about psychics for a while now. And she combines paranormal romance with suspense. Romantic paranormal suspense? Sounds good to me!

Fantasy Lover by Sherrilyn Kenyon

(2002) The hero is half a god. Need I say more? Her Dark-Hunter books revolutionized the genre, pushing the boundaries further.

Ill Wind by Rachel Caine

(2003) Urban fantasy with a touch of romance.

Dark Prince by Christine Feehan

(2005) The hero is a Carpathian and the heroine is a psychic.

Moon Called by Patricia Briggs

(2006) Shifters are given a new spin.