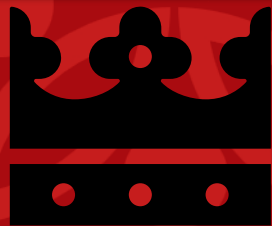




# TROPE-TASTIC

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TROPE-TASTIC

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# Trope-tastic



What is a  
Trope



Reader Wish  
Fulfilment



When to Use  
a Trope



How to Use a  
Trope



How to Flip a  
Trope



Plotting with  
Tropes

# What is a Trope?

- A trope is a noun – it's a 'thing'.
- This 'thing' is a literary **element** repeatedly used by many writers over time – a significant and recurrent theme, motif, symbol, setting, character, etc.
- Significant and recurrent = recognisable and familiar to the reader!
- A trope may be:
  - a figure of speech (Stop and smell the roses),
  - A theme (second chance romance),
  - A symbol (slipper/shoe),
  - A settings (small town),
  - A character (bad boy), or
  - A plot device (ticking clock).

**UNDERSTAND THE READER EXPECTATION -  
WISH FULFILLMENT!**

# Trope

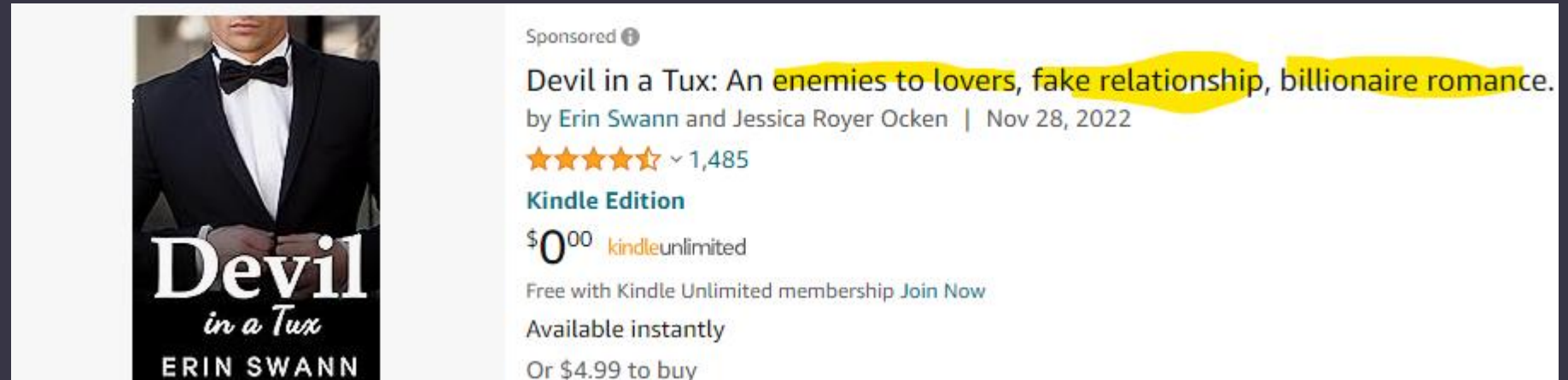
- A trope is an ELEMENT – a TOOL in your writer's toolkit.
- It's PART of your story, not the WHOLE story.

# Types of Tropes

- Character Tropes
  - E.g.: Bad Boy, Cowboy, Billionaire, Princess, Librarian, Damsel in Distress, Scarred Hero, etc.
- Situation Tropes
  - E.g.: Forced Proximity, Small Town, Fish out of Water, Hidden Identity/Disguise, Forbidden Love, etc.

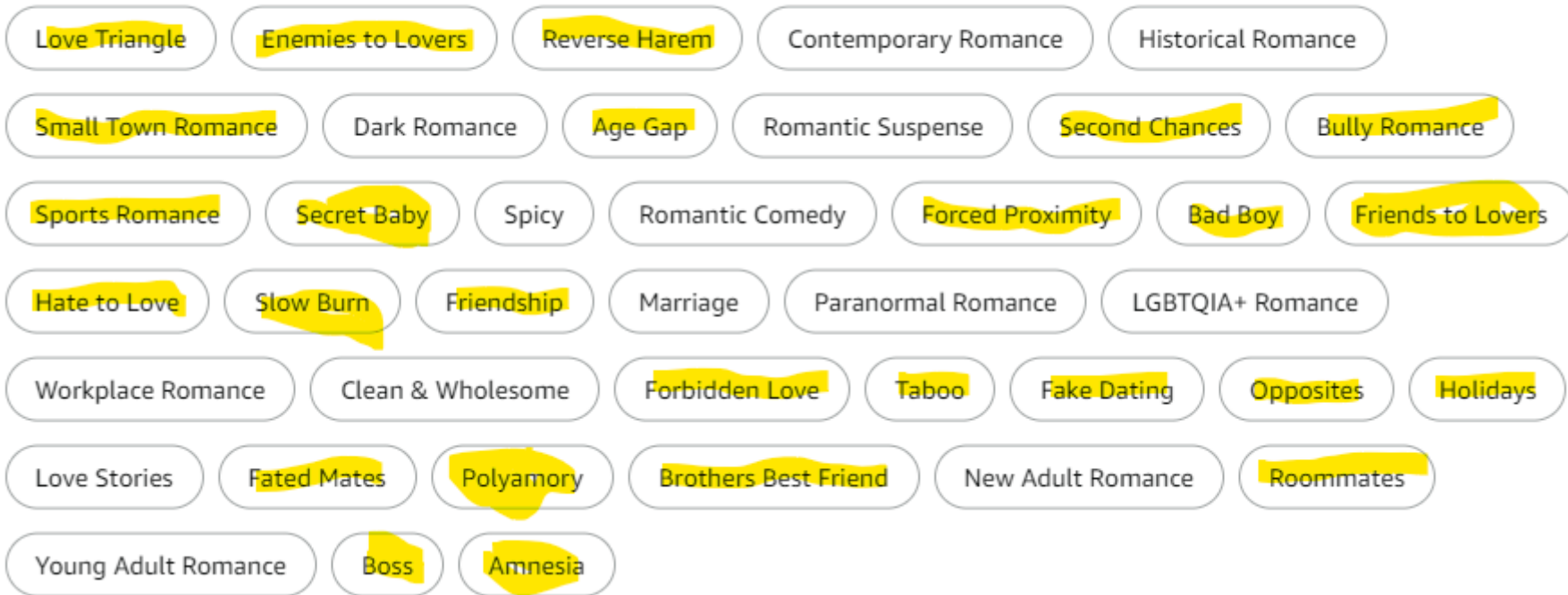
# When to Use a Trope

- Novel Concept Development
- Series Concept Development (Branding)
- Plotting Story
- Pitching Story
- Marketing
- External



# Amazon Filters

## Subgenres



## Department

< Books

### Romance

- Action & Adventure Romance
- Alpha Male Romance
- Amish Romance
- Billionaire Romance
- Billionaires & Millionaires Romance
- Black & African American Romance Fiction
- Clean & Wholesome Romance
- Romance Collections & Anthologies
- Contemporary Romance
- Enemies to Lovers Romance
- Erotic Literature & Fiction
- Fantasy Romance
- Firefighters Romance
- Gothic Romances
- Historical Romances
- Holiday Romance
- Christian Romance
- Later in Life Romance
- LGBTQ+ Romance
- Mafia Romance
- Medical Romance
- Military Romance
- Multicultural & Interracial Romance
- New Adult & College Romance
- Paranormal Romance
- Police Romance
- Polyamory Romance
- Rockstar Romance
- Romantic Comedy
- Romantic Suspense
- Science Fiction Romance
- Small Town Romance
- Sports Romance
- Vampire Romances
- Werewolf & Shifter Romance
- Western & Frontier Romance
- Workplace Romance
- Romance Fiction Writing Reference





Roll over image to zoom in



6 VIDEOS

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## Twisted Love (Twisted, 1) Paperback – September 27, 2022



by Ana Huang (Author)

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Alex Volkov is a devil blessed with the face of an angel and cursed with a past he can't escape.

Driven by a tragedy that has haunted him for most of his life, his ruthless pursuits for success and vengeance leave little room for matters of the heart.

But when he's forced to look after his **best friend's sister**, he starts to feel something in his chest:

A crack.

A melt.

A fire that could end his world as he knew it.

\*\*\*

Ava Chen is a **free spirit** trapped by nightmares of a childhood she can't remember.

But despite her broken past, she's never stopped seeing the beauty in the world...including the heart beneath the icy exterior of a man she shouldn't want.

**Her brother's best friend.**

**Her neighbor.**

Her savior and her downfall.

There is a love that was never supposed to happen-but when it does, it unleashes secrets that could destroy them both...and everything they hold dear.

*Twisted Love* is a contemporary **brother's best friend/grumpy sunshine romance**. It's book one in the Twisted series but can be read as a standalone.

^ Read less

# Reader Wish Fulfilment

- Like a genre convention, readers have an expectation when encountering a trope, or when a trope is advertised.
- Each trope has 'required' scenes. Required scenes are scenes that construct that trope.
  - Delivering those required scenes is a reader's wish fulfillment (**HOPE**).
  - **Not** delivering those required scenes runs the risk of disappointing and/or losing readers.
- You have an unwritten contract with your reader. You need to deliver on that promise.

**Do not over-promise and under-deliver!**

# How to Use a Trope

- Define the trope (example: Bad Boy)
- Determine the key elements of the trope.
- Determine the key scenes for the trope
- Determine what readers LOVE about the trope
- Bad Boy: breaks the rules, rebels against authority, isn't constrained by societal norms.
- Key elements: freedom, not caring what others think, does what he wants and damn the consequences, draws his own line in the sand, has confidence in spades, resists love, must overcome intense struggles, pushes his partner out of her comfort zone, and will be pushed out of his, and will eventually love wholeheartedly and ferociously.
- Readers love his swagger, his daring, his intensity, peeling back his layers to understand his behaviour, his healing and redemption, and his sexy-rexy factor.

# How to Use a Trope – Bad Boy

- Do this with the trope – incorporate scenes that SHOW those elements we love about this trope.
- Don't do this with the trope – misunderstand the trope and elements, misrepresent what you are delivering, don't go easy on the character and expect the trope to do the heavy lifting for your story.
- Do show him being bad—but for good reasons, even if those reasons are his alone.
- Do show how he sees the heroine as different.
- Do show how he challenges the heroine.
- Do show how he is challenged by the heroine.
- Do show his struggle with how he is, why he is who he is, and who he really wants to be, and how he overcomes.
- Don't make the heroine the solution to him changing. She can be the trigger, but he has to change FOR HIMSELF.
- Don't confuse Bad Boy elements with toxic relationships.
- Don't let him get what he wants by taking without consent.
- Don't give him a weak redemption – make him earn his HEA.

# How to Flip a Trope

- Make your trope:
  - **Universal**
  - **Unique**
- What elements are a must-have (deal-breakers) and **universally loved** in your story?
  - What are the usual scenes we'd expect to see? (E.g. Cinderella loses her slipper)
  - How can we tweak them to be a little different? (E.g. Cinderella is wearing combat boots, and she loses it kicking at/running away from Prince Charming)
- What elements can be 'flipped' to make it **unique** to your story?
  - Consider how can we take those elements, and flip them...
    - Would you pair this trope within a complimentary trope? E.g.; Bad Boy Billionaire, Bad Boy Doctor, Bad Boy Athlete...
    - Would you pair this with a contrasting trope? E.g. Bad Boy Scientist, Bad Boy Teacher, Bad Boy Personal Assistant... bad boy isn't a boy? (E.g. Bad Girl, Bad X)
    - Would you team this trope up with another? E.g. Bad Boy Enemies to Lovers, Bad Boy Forced Proximity, Bad Boy Fish Out of Water, Bad Boy Forbidden Love, Bad Boy

# How to Plot a Trope – the 6 D's.

- **Define** what the trope is.
- **Determine** – what elements do you want to keep
  - What is it about this trope that readers LOVE, what are the universal characteristics of the trope?
- **Do** list key elements/scenes of the trope, and plot them out for your story
- **Don't** fall into cliché traps, don't overpromise and underdeliver. Don't exclude key elements, don't misrepresent your story.
- **Differentiate** your story from all the others that use this trope. How can you make your story UNIQUE
- **Deliver** the story with the trope elements readers LOVE.

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