

## The Bodice Ripper

A 'Bodice Ripper' is a derogatory slang term for a cheap romance novel that throws together impossibly masculine men with excessively delicate females in a series of passionate embraces that have a strongly suggestive sexual nature. The term derives from the female character's bodice, something like a lace-up shirt, being ripped off in the heat of passion. Plot is optional.

Sarah's eyes brightened, but she stemmed the tears. "Tis beautiful, my lord. And how fitting I only hope you didn't have to sell all your possessions to afford it".  
"I've sufficient remaining. But when I arrived you called me 'Nicholas'..." He pulled her back against him. "Thank you ... Nicholas."

She whispered his name, he was the very model of a man. He lowered his mouth. This time, she leaned up, parting her lips and winding her fingers into his hair. He deepened the kiss and she met him willingly in the sensuous dance of tongue with tongue, all the while caressing his neck with her satin fingers.

Completely absorbed in demonstrating his approval of her efforts, Nicholas was startled when she suddenly pulled away. Muttering a protest, he tried to draw her back and noticed her eyes were fixed on the doorway. He turned to see Lady Beaumont standing stock-still on the threshold, jaw dropped shock and horror on her face. "Sarah- Ann- Wellingford," she gasped.

Taken from 'The Wedding Gamble' published by Mills & Boon

**Comment [K1]:** Emotions are often foregrounded and highly exaggerated

**Comment [K2]:** From the accent we are supposed to assume that this girl is some kind of peasant. Thus fulfilling the humble girl swept off her feet by dashing lord fantasy of many of the readers.

**Comment [K3]:** The heroine endears herself to the reader by showing that she is not greedy

**Comment [K4]:** Notice the man in a violently aggressive, masculine display of control over the female.

**Comment [K5]:** Whispering suggests love but also something dangerously forbidden

**Comment [K6]:** He is so masculine that he is the man that other men were based on

**Comment [K7]:** Which is a bit odd because it makes it sound like a crane or something

**Comment [K8]:** Clearly a heavily sexually suggestive scene. The author could have just said – 'They kissed.'

**Comment [K9]:** The comparison to gentle fabrics enhance her feminine qualities

**Comment [K10]:** Obviously, there has to be some kind of obstacle or problem for this to a love story worthy of the name

**Comment [K11]:** Rather than speaking, gasping suggests the shock, disdain and disapproval that Lady Beaumont has of this relationship. If the obstacle were not sufficiently serious the love story would not be interesting

**Comment [K12]:** Mills & Boon are a publishing company famous for producing a multitude of novels of the bodice-ripper variety. The name 'Mills & Boon' is, itself, often used to refer to this kind of writing.