

What Makes the Perfect Hero?

When Romance Junkies invited me to blog about anything I fancy, I brainstormed a few ideas about being a new writer, the return of the western romance, etc... But not one of these ideas was what I, as a romance fan myself, would chat about with my friends over coffee. So what would intrigue me? And hopefully entertain a few Romance Junkie fans? I decided on a long-standing, but always fun debate, that I fondly recall first doing with my best pal Angela in junior high. My tastes have surely changed, but the conversation with older and wiser girlfriends – not so much! It started out as the perfect man, but add in that older and wiser part, and it must now be the perfect romance novel hero. Here are a few of my favorites.

Hero with the Best Job: A Duke seems to be a popular choice. But all I see is a long line of broken-hearted parlor maids serving our heroine duchess her morning tea for the next twenty years? Trouble waiting to happen. We need a self-made man. One who has hit bottom, crawled up painfully, and now can appreciate our glorious self (I mean heroine). J.D. Robb's Roarke.

Best Dressed: Should he be a fine dresser? That's a tough one. I appreciate a turned-out man as much as the next set of eyes. But too fine, and a worldly woman just has to be suspicious. I'm okay with a valet doing the work. I can even swallow the poufy-sleeved pirate (hey, he needs room to swing that sword). But the hero who must accompany our heroine to the modiste's to spend nine hours straight selecting bows, ribbons, and approving the tilt of her hat? Doesn't work for me. (and when he uses the same establishment as his last mistress? Ewww. Now, he's a lazy bastard to boot. Couldn't he have taken a day to find a new dress designer? Or thirty seconds to send his valet on the errand?

Note to self – for all my heroes. Just assume boots, pants, shirt. Done. At most, I'll spend half a sentence describing his hat.

Toughest Hero: The hero I'd most want at my back with the barbarian hordes at the gate? Can I have a combo pack just for this category? I think we need a prime choice for modern times (Linda Howard's John Medina in *All the Queen's Men*) and a different one for days of olde (Johanna Lindsey's Viking, Royce, from *Hearts Aflame*).

Best Silver-tongued Devil: Alex from Iris Johansen's *Reap the Wind* – he was never shy about what he wanted. Why he wanted it. Or what he was willing to give our heroine in exchange. It made it so easy for our heroine to succumb with grace and class, all within the first twenty pages.

Most Creative (you know what I mean): Jordan from Iris Johansen's *the Beloved Scoundrel*. Book me a stay at the hunting lodge!

Most Loyal: Elizabeth Lowell's Dominic. I admired his loyalty to his brother. Then fell in love when that loyalty becomes our heroine's.

Best Looking: It's one of the true joys of a book. You fill in the blanks.

Best Sense of Humor: Rachel Gibson's Luc from See Jane Score. He made you laugh and do other things all at the same time.

Most Charming: Christine Monson's Hero in Golden Nights (he has more than one alias). I've never seen anyone else come close to the perfect wastrel, gambler, lover of one too many, and I still just adore this man!

'Presence': Hard to do through the pages of a book, but Sandra Brown proves it is not impossible. Cash from Slow Heat in Heaven. The things he can do with a look and few words.

My hope as a new writer is that my stories come together to form just such a hero. Stop by my website (<http://www.edencarson.com>) for a sneak peak at my latest hero, Liam Griffin, from Widow, Spy, & Lover, my upcoming release (out Nov 5th on all online retailers, including in paperback format on Amazon). I've included a few excerpts from the book. Happy reading!