

# ACTION ROMANCE OUTLINE

**Title:**

**Genre/Subgenre:**

(e.g., Romantic Suspense, Spy Romance, Military Romance)

**Tone:**

(e.g., gritty, cinematic, emotional, slow burn, etc.)

**Theme:**

(What the story is *really* about, e.g., trust, sacrifice, redemption)

**Romantic Arc Type:**

- Slow burn
- Enemies to lovers
- Forced proximity
- Second chance
- Protector dynamic

## MAIN CHARACTERS

**Protagonist A**

- Role:
- Goal:
- Internal Conflict:
- External Stakes:
- Emotional Wound:
- What they *need* (vs want):

**Protagonist B**

- Role:
- Goal:
- Internal Conflict:
- External Stakes:
- Emotional Wound:
- What they *need* (vs want):

## Relationship Dynamic

- Initial tension:
- Power balance:
- Why they clash:
- Why they're drawn to each other:

## ANTAGONIST / THREAT

- Main Villain:
- Motivation:
- Connection to protagonists:
- Stakes if they win:
- Hidden twist (optional):

## ACT 1 – SETUP (0–25%)

### Opening Image

- Show the protagonist's world  
(before disruption)

### Inciting Incident

- The action problem begins  
(attack, mission, crime, etc.)

### Meet Cute / First Encounter

- First interaction between leads  
(can be hostile or tense)

### First Impressions

- Attraction + resistance
- Misjudgments

### Lock-In

- They are forced together  
(mission, danger, or circumstance)

## **ACT 2A – BUILDING TENSION (25–50%)**

### **Rising Action Sequences**

- Action set piece #1:
- Investigation / mission progress:
- External obstacles escalate

### **Forced Proximity**

- Situations that keep them together

### **Bonding Moments**

- Small emotional openings
- Shared vulnerability hints

### **Midpoint (False Victory / Shift)**

- Big action or reveal
- Stakes increase or twist changes direction
- Romantic tension spikes

## **ACT 2B – ESCALATION (50–75%)**

### **Deeper Emotional Connection**

- Trust begins forming
- Attraction becomes undeniable

### **Action Set Piece #2**

- Bigger, more dangerous conflict

### **Internal Conflict Peaks**

- Fear of vulnerability
- Conflicting goals emerge

### **“Almost Together” Moment**

- Near kiss / emotional confession
- Interrupted or pulled back

### **Pinch Point**

- Antagonist gains ground

## **ACT 3 – BREAK & CRISIS (75–90%)**

### **All Is Lost Moment**

- Major failure, betrayal, or loss

### **Breakup / Separation**

- Emotional fallout between leads

### **Dark Night of the Soul**

- Each character confronts their flaw

### **Realization**

- What they truly need (love + trust + sacrifice)

## **ACT 4 – CLIMAX & RESOLUTION (90–100%)**

### **Reunion**

- They come back together (changed)

### **Final Plan / Heist / Assault**

- Often, an “it looks like it’s failing but isn’t” sequence

### **Climactic Action Sequence**

- Confront villain
- High stakes (life, love, mission)

### **Romantic Payoff**

- Declaration / kiss / commitment

### **Resolution**

- External conflict resolved
- New normal for relationship

### **Final Image**

- Mirror of opening, but transformed

## **ACTION SET PIECES (PLANNING SECTION)**

1. Opening hook:
2. Midpoint action:
3. Escalation sequence:
4. Final climax:

## **ROMANCE TRACKER**

- First attraction:
- First vulnerability:
- First touch:
- First kiss:
- Breakup:
- Reunion:
- Final commitment:

## **STAKES CHECK**

### **Personal Stakes:**

(What they lose emotionally)

### **Relational Stakes:**

(What happens to their relationship)

### **External Stakes:**

(What happens if the villain wins)

## **OPTIONAL TWISTS**

- Hidden identity:
- Betrayal:
- Misdirect villain:
- Secret agenda:
- Double-cross reveal: