

# *The Language of Love*

Dialogue, Narrative and Body Language  
that “Speaks” Romance

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# *Not All Romance Novels Are Created Equal*

What makes one romance novel croon like an Italian love song, while another puts the reader to sleep?

## **One zings.**

Noun: An enjoyably exciting or stimulating quality

Verb: To make or move with a humming sound

## **One zonks.**

Verb: Stupefy; cause to sleep; induce an unconscious state



# Which zings? Which zonks?

## Example 1:

“Goodnight.” He leaned in and touched his lips to her temple.

The zip of electricity down her spine rendered the contact unexpectedly intimate. Bella gasped.

Unphased, Beau trailed the kiss down her cheek to the corner of her lips, where he paused. For one heart-stopping moment, she could not breathe.

“I don’t give up easily.” Warm against her skin, his breath sent powerful shivers of something magical through her senses. “Not when I know what I want – and I do. I always have.” Pulling away, he captured her gaze with his relentless one. “I want you, *Bella Mia*. For always...forever.”

## Example 2:

“Goodnight.” He kissed her temple.

Bella didn’t expect that. She gasped.

Beau’s lips moved to the corner of hers and stopped there. For a moment, she couldn’t breathe.

“I don’t give up easily.” His warm breath brushed her skin. “I know what I want.” He pulled away and stared into her eyes. “I want you, Bella. Always.”

# Zinging words and phrases

## Example 1:

“Goodnight.” He **leaned in** and **touched** his **lips** to her temple.

The zip of **electricity** down her spine rendered the contact unexpectedly **intimate**. Bella **gasped**.

Unphased, Beau **trailed the kiss** down her cheek to the corner of her **lips**, where he paused. For one endless moment, she could not **breathe**.

“I don’t give up easily.” **Warm against her skin**, his **breath** sent powerful **shivers** of something magical through her **senses**. “Not when I know what I want – and I do. I always have.” Pulling away, he **captured** her gaze with his relentless one. “I want you, **Bella Mia**. For always...forever.”

## Example 2:

“Goodnight.” He **kissed** her temple.

Given the circumstances, Bella didn’t expect that. She **gasped**.

Beau’s **lips** moved to the corner of hers and stopped there. For a moment, she couldn’t **breathe**.

“I don’t give up easily.” His **warm breath brushed** her skin. “I know what I want.” He pulled away and stared into her eyes. “I want you, Bella. Always.”

# Which zings? Which zonks?

Even dressed in sackcloth, Karynn would outshine most women—but in red, she had always knocked him plumb silly. Tonight, in that crimson gown...wow. Just. Wow.

“Daniel?”

He struggled for composure. “Sorry, I know I’m staring. You look real pretty.”

She lowered her gaze, but she smiled.

He waited. *One...two...* and there it was. She blushed, just like she always had when she felt a little shy.

“You always did exaggerate.” She spoke so softly he strained to hear over the music.

Karynn in any color of the rainbow could make a blind man look twice. In red, her beauty hit him like a thunderbolt. How could he have forgotten? Tonight, the effect packed a double jolt. His breath took a brief vacation.

“Daniel? Are you all right?”

He made a herculean effort to regain his composure. “Yes, of course. Just...good, sweet Lord above, Karynn...you’re stunning!”

She lowered her eyelashes, but a smile tugged her lips upward. Daniel waited...and sure enough, soft pink bloomed in her cheeks exactly as it always had when she was pleased. Or embarrassed. Or just shy.

“You were always prone to exaggeration,” she murmured.

# Zing words and phrases

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“You always were prone to exaggeration,” she **murmured**.

# What makes words, phrases, and narrative “speak” romance?

Think *SOFT*

- hint
- suggest
- tease
- please

Candlelight/firelight  
Most effective in  
a dim background...  
which in turn **softens**  
hard edges



Soft-focus  
Soft colors  
Makes even a non-romantic “subject,”  
feel romantic



## “When you say nothing at all”

Understand the importance of perfecting non-verbal communication

- Gestures, body language, facial expressions

Forrest's highly expressive non-verbal “speech”:

furrowed brow  
lowered head  
looking away

lips curled tightly inward  
hands on hips  
stiff posture



Forrest Gump clip



# Ten behaviors that “speak” romance

**Positivity**

**Vulnerability**

**Affectionate**

**Complimentary**

**Interested**

**Listens**

**Trusts**

**Allows freedom/individuality**

**Makes partner feel special/treasured**

**Giving/selfless**

Don't discount the power of a sweet note or beautiful love letter.  
Some things simply never lose the ability to tug on the heartstrings –  
no matter how “out of style” they might be.

## YOUR Turn

YOU CAN write convincing, heartfelt, emotionally satisfying romance that ZINGS its way straight into your reader's heart.

10-15  
minutes



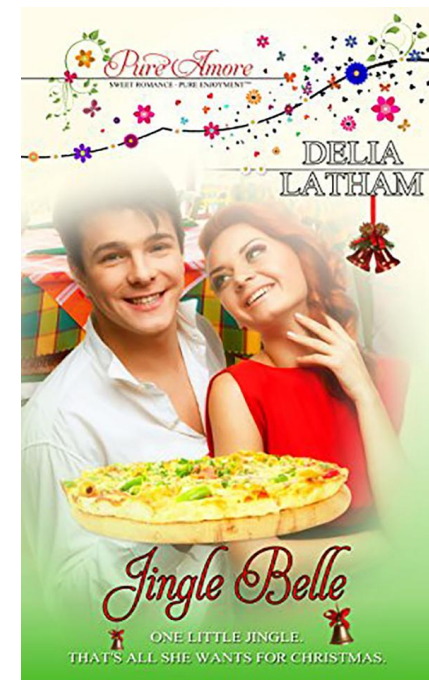
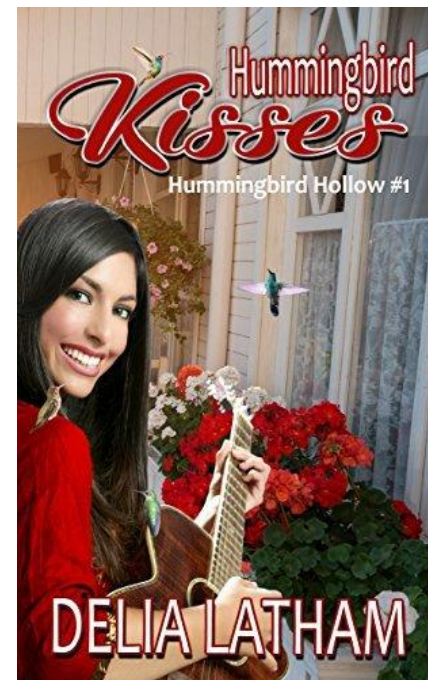
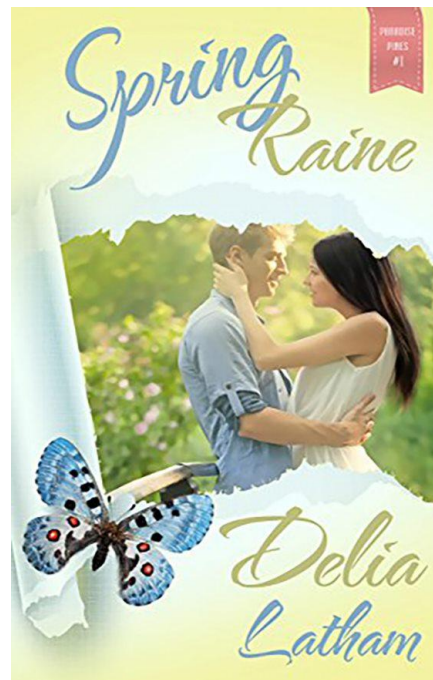
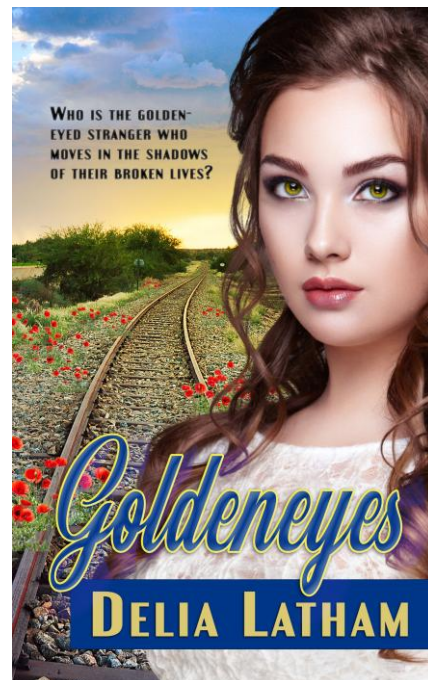
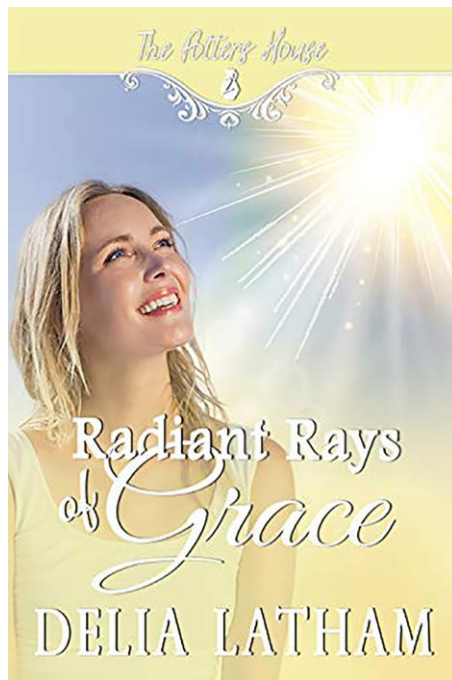
A world of sweet romance with a whisper of angels' wings. Readers can count on a touch of the divine in DELIA LATHAM'S sweet, inspirational novels and novellas. An award-winning, best-selling author, Delia is both traditionally and self-published, with over thirty novels, novellas, and short stories to her credit. When this author isn't spinning words into fictional worlds, she offers editing and proofreading services, as well as book cover and marketing material design.

After calling California home for half a century, she moved to East Texas with her husband a full decade ago. And there the old CaliTexan couple will live happily ever after...



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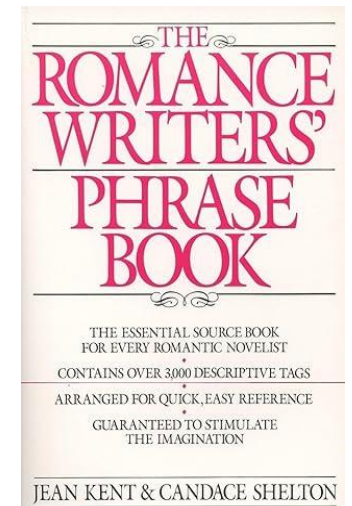
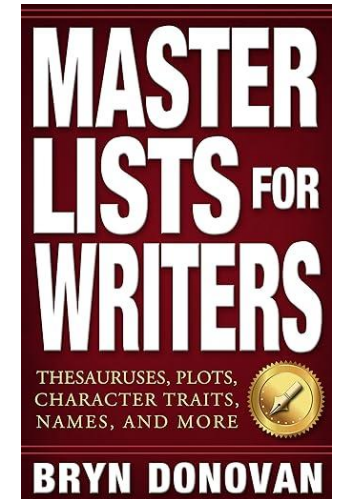
# Acknowledgments & Helpful Resources

<https://becomeawritertoday.com/>

[Master List of Facial Expressions](#)

[Master List of Gestures and Body Language](#)

[155 Romantic Love Messages](#)



## WORDS/PHRASES THAT SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE (NARRATIVE AND DIALOGUE) IN VARIOUS ROMANCE CATEGORIES:

### Examples of Romantic Descriptions in **Narrative**:

- **Heart-stopping** gaze/smile/touch
- **Lingering** glances/ fingertips **brushing** skin
- **Breathless** anticipation/ **whispered** promises
- **Undeniable** connection/ spark
- **Soft, reverent** caresses/ **gentle** sighs
- **Magnetic pull**

### Examples of Romantic Phrases in **Dialogue**:

- "I can't stop thinking about you."
- "You feel like home to me."
- "Being with you is the best part of my day."
- "You're my favorite what-if that came true"
- "Tell me you feel this, too."
- "I would cross oceans for you."
- "You're the only one I see."





***The following examples illustrate the **contrasting language** between sweet, tender romance and a more passionate physical attraction, where romance may not be involved at all.***

***The Language of Sweet, Tender Romance:***

*(**Narrative words/phrases** that can evoke warmth, devotion, and emotional intimacy.)*

- **Gentle** whispers / **soft** caresses / **lingering** touches
- **Devoted** gaze / eyes full of love
- **Heart swelling** with emotion / an overwhelming **sense of belonging**
- **Holding** the romantic partner **as if they're the most precious thing in the world**
- **Feeling seen, understood, cherished**
- Love steeped in quiet moments—**watching the sunrise together, brushing a stray curl from her face, resting her head on his shoulder**

*(**Dialogue** that evokes warmth, devotion and emotional intimacy)*

- "You're my safe place."
- "I love the way you make me feel—calm, whole, understood."
- "You are my greatest adventure."
- "I don't need anything else, just you."

**CONTRAST: Language of **Pure Sexual Attraction**:**

*(The focus is on physical chemistry, intensity, and urgency.)*

- **Heat pooling** in their belly / heart racing at the other's touch
- **Fingers gripping tightly** / breath hitching / tension crackling
- **Hunger in their eyes** / magnetic pull between them
- **Skin flushes, charged energy buzzing in the air**
- **Kisses that steal breath, that demand response**
- **Wanting, without needing to understand the person**

**Dialogue** (Pure sexual attraction):

- "I can't stop thinking about the way you feel."
- "You drive me crazy! I need you...now."
- "Every time you look at me like that, I lose control."
- "Do you have any idea what you do to me?"

***Sweet and tender romance** taps into emotional connection, devotion, and the feeling of safety and belonging.*

*In contrast, **pure sexual attraction** focuses on physical desire—sometimes urgent, sometimes teasing, but without the emotional depth of true love.*

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## Inspirational Romance

*Often balances **tender longing** with **spiritual fulfillment**, showing that love isn't just about finding someone, but becoming the person you were meant to be alongside them.*

*The following passages illustrate the depth of **inspirational romance**—love that uplifts, strengthens, and endures. Moments like these weave faith, commitment, and quiet strength into romance, making it about more than attraction. It's about finding **home** in someone's heart.*

### Passage 1 – A Love That Feels Like a Divine Gift

He reached for her hand, not to hold it, but to ground himself in the reality of her. The simple truth that in all the chaos, all the heartache, she had remained his quiet miracle.

"You are the most beautiful proof that God answers prayer," he murmured, emotion thick in his voice.

Gentle but sure, her fingers curled around his. "Then keep praying," she whispered. "And know that I'll always be here."

### Passage 2 – Love That Guides Them Home

He stood at the edge of the dock, eyes searching the heavens. The wind carried his silent thoughts like a prayer—one that somehow brought her to his side.

"I don't deserve you." Barely more than a murmur, his voice all but vanished beneath the quiet lap of the waves.

Annie stepped close, a familiar warmth against his side. "Love is never about deserving." She laid her head on his shoulder. "It's about choosing, every day, again and again. And I will always, always choose you."

### Passage 3 – A Love That Strengthens Through Trials

His arms wrapped around her, not in desperation, but in a quiet kind of devotion. The storm outside roared, but between them, peace reigned.

"I thought love was supposed to be easy," she confessed against his chest.

He tilted her chin until she met his gaze, steady as the sunrise. "Love isn't always easy, but it's always worth the effort. And there's nothing we can't weather—together."

