

**GENRES FOR THE EMOTIONS**  
**Gentle Reads, Horror, Romance,**  
**Women's Lives and Relationships**

1. These are books that appeal to the emotions. Each generates a specific mood, from the satisfaction of Romance and Women's Lives and Relationships to the comfortable feeling engendered by Gentle Reads and the pure terror evoked by Horror.

2. Sympathetic characters pull readers in to participate in their lives. Readers feel connected to them and experience their pain, their fear, and their joy.

3. Details often focus on the everyday—women with work and family relationships in Women's Lives and Relationships, romantic relationships in Romance, domestic pleasures in Gentle Reads, and the transformation of the routine by the sudden appearance of dangerous supernatural forces in Horror. Settings may be urban or rural, familiar or exotic, historic or contemporary.

4. Language is rich in adjectives and description. While it may be witty and smart, it is certainly passionate and often unrestrained, extravagant, and profane.

5. Action plays a secondary role to characters and readers' relationships with them. Issues may be raised in these novels but tone and characters dominate.

6. Pacing contrasts dramatically across these genres. Ranging from meandering in Gentle Reads to erratic and moving in unexpected fits and starts in Horror, pacing runs the gamut. However, readers agree that all these are compelling stories.