

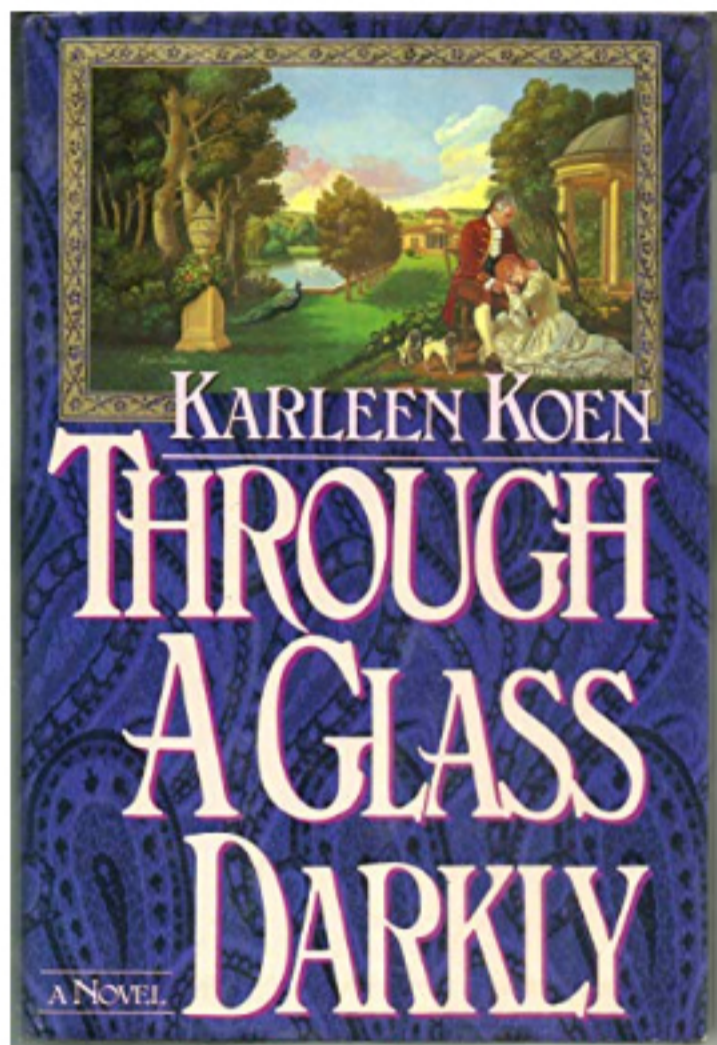
# Parade

## 125 Best Romance Books of All Time, With Picks From Bestselling Authors and Indie Booksellers

Jojo Moyes, Diana Gabaldon and Nicholas Sparks are just some of the authors who shared their favorite romance novels of all time.

MICHAEL GILTZ • DEC 30, 2023

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Through A Glass Darkly



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### *Through a Glass Darkly* by Karleen Koen

Every romance writer begins as a romance reader and Julie Anne Long (*The Perils Of Pleasure*, on this list) is no exception. “[Karleen Koen](#)’s wildly entertaining 1986 blockbuster enthralled me in those impressionable years before I became an author,” says [Julie Anne Long](#), whose latest is [How to Tame A Wild Rogue \(\\$9.99 Avon\)](#). “Set in 18th century England, Koen’s vast cast of charismatic, morally complex characters revolves around the star-crossed marriage of young noblewoman Barbara Adderley and the older Roger Montgeoffry, the Earl of Devane, and all of them are enmeshed in a beautifully written saga of love (requited and not), sex, power, obsession, political machinations and historical upheaval. It’s joyous and heartbreaking, sexy and absolutely compelling. When I read it, I instinctively knew I wanted to write these kinds of characters, the kind who embed themselves in the hearts and imaginations of readers and inspire compassion—even the dastardly ones. And part of what gives Koen’s story “sweep” is the way we witness the characters evolving throughout the book—for better and worse—and I knew I wanted to capture a bit of that feeling when I set out to write a connected romance series like *Pennyroyal Green*.”

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