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PAPERBACK ROMANCE SERIES ROUNDUP

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Reeboks

CAPRON, Jean F. *Days of Loving*.
157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette.
1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06218-4. LC
number unavailable.
When a soap opera is filmed in a small
town, various love affairs mix and
match. The bright lights temporarily

dazzle local kids Jimmy, Suzy, and Molly until the teens come to their senses, and the former high-school nerd turned self-assured TV producer hooks up with the unapproachable girl of his youthful dreams. There's enough going on to keep things moving, and the characters are more vivid than usual.

COOPER, M. E. *Be Mine*. 268p. (Couples Series). Scholastic. 1987. \$2.95. ISBN 0-590-40423-7. LC number unavailable.

Misunderstanding, jealousy, and competition keep three sets of couples apart temporarily, but Valentine's Day sees all their troubles resolved. The cures for their problems are a bit stage-managed, but overall, the plot, characterization, and romance mesh smoothly and will satisfy regular series readers, even though others might have trouble keeping track of the faces.

EBISCH, Glen. *Behind the Mask*. 157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06219-2. LC number unavailable.

There is almost no romance in *Behind the Mask*, and family life consists of Katie's crazy Aunt Hope, "half con-artist and half do-gooder." Katie's job at the museum turns into sleuthing when one janitor has a heart attack and the other is squashed by a plaster Aphrodite. Mixed in with the mystery is Katie's coming of age and her growing independence. Throwaway plot, but fun and a few ideas to kick around.

LEWIS, Carrie. *Up in the Air*. 156p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06227-3. LC number unavailable.

Unusually vivid characters, realistic family strife, and the inclusion of hot-air ballooning make this better than average. Mason literally drops in on the Estig family when his balloon crashes. Amnesia, his injuries, and eventually love bind him to the Estigs, a family trying to deal with the death of their only son. Funny in places, and the mystery angle is tantalizing even if the solution is highly contrived.

McGILL, Joyce. *Diamond in the Rough*. 157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06223-0. LC number unavailable.

Homeless street people are the heroes of this mystery-romance. Blair stumbles onto a jewelry theft ring when Tim, who works at the local shelter, asks her uncle to investigate the disappearance of a neighborhood bag lady. The climax is a chase through abolitionist tunnels and a fiery warehouse. Satisfying suspense with some unusual characters.

SOMMERS, Beverly. *Take a Walk*. 156p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06222-2. LC number unavailable.

This is a bizarre mix of boarding school story and déjà vu, but it works. Blythe has been walking out of classrooms since kindergarten, and she is finally sent to a school for problem children.

Her walks there lead her to the exact house she drew as an eight year old and to Darwin, the boy who lives there. Her walks and dreams continue to lead her in his direction, as love blossoms. Secondary characters are refreshingly different, and there's suspense, although the action is minimal.

Keds

COLE, Brenda. *Spoiled Rotten*. 157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06226-5. LC number unavailable.

No surprises here, only a nice predictable story of a close-knit family and a feisty heroine. Spoiled Brittany surprises her extended family by going off to be camp counselor for a week. She manages to live without her hair dryer, takes good care of her charges, and wins Dave's love. Very much the usual thing in teen romances, but there is good camp background and an interesting family situation.

COOPER, M. E. *Show Some Emotion*. 172p. (Couples Series). Scholastic. 1987. \$2.50. ISBN 0-590-40424-5. LC number unavailable.

Pamela, a gifted artist, falls in love with Matt, a fellow volunteer at an adolescent treatment center. Conniving Gloria manages to come between them until they finally clear up the misunderstandings that kept them apart. Subplots concern an art show and a nasty budding rock star. The pace is steady, the characters pleasant, and the wish-fulfillment satisfying.

GABHART, Ann. *The Look of Eagles*. 155p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06217-6. LC number unavailable.

Horse-crazy Gillian is deeply attached to the black colt Dancer. Her long-absent father appears and leaves again, and Dancer has to be put down, but Gillie takes comfort from her friendship with the stable owner's son. Far more horse lore than romance in this one, but there are plenty of horse lovers who will identify with Gillie.

GREENE, Yvonne. *Headliners*. 164p. (Kelly Blake: Teen Model Series). Bantam. 1986. \$2.50. ISBN 0-553-26112-6. LC number unavailable.

A dream come true turns out to be more than Kelly can handle. Mickey Pines, a charming and dangerous young movie star, pours on his charm, and she believes it all. She is rescued from the consequences of her naivete and ends up with the correct boy(s). Plenty of real-life modeling atmosphere, clothes, and wish-fulfillment, although Kelly is far from an admirable character.

HARRELL, Janice. *Castles in Spain*. 156p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06224-9. LC number unavailable.

This starts off with a bang, literally, as Cassie photographs a terrorist attack in a Madrid department store. Unfortu-

nately, the action slows down after that, with the bus rides and cathedral tours that make up the tourist experience. However, the book is funny, the characters are lively, and Cassie is charming.

LYONS, Pam. *Love Around the Corner*. 137p. (Heartlines Series). Dell. 1987. \$2.50. ISBN 0-440-94726-X. LC number unavailable.

An odd little romance in which family troubles take center stage and the hero doesn't really appear until page 110. When Grandma becomes ill and has to live with the family, pressures mount. Ronnie runs away and spends the night in the park, which turns out to be the home of the handsome Ted. He encourages her to go home, she does, and he disappears. Highly unusual plot but believable characters, except for Ted.

MINER, Jane Claypool. *Corey*. 184p. (Sunfire Bks.). Scholastic. 1987. \$2.50. ISBN 0-590-40395-8. LC number unavailable.

Simplistic, and a bit didactic, but there's plenty of action and historical drama. Corey has truly extraordinary good fortune and drive, which carry her out of slavery to a Quaker school in Philadelphia. Heavy on coincidence for plot, with characters thinly drawn and the message firmly stated every few pages, this still involves readers because of the heroic struggle and admirable characters.

MORTON, Miriam. *Shadows on the Mountain*. 155p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1986. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-05207-9. LC number unavailable.

A dead Cherokee warrior joins the cast of characters in this summer love story. Attraction to a tanned and muscular young construction worker is mixed with dream visitations from Foxfire, the long-dead warrior, who wants Keni to reunite him with his love. Following this? Actually, it's not quite as dumb as it sounds, although the plot does not bear close inspection.

RANSOM, Candice. *Cat's Cradle*. 157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06225-7. LC number unavailable.

Romney returns to a summer vacation spot to unlock her frozen memories of the fire that destroyed their house. She moves in with a neighbor who has 54 cats (they blow cat hairs off their food before eating), and she takes several rides back in time on a carousel horse. Thoroughly dumb, but the Chesapeake Bay local color, the 1932-era touches, and the details of living with all those cats make it out of the ordinary.

Flip-Flops

GORDON, Jeffie Ross. *A Touch of Magic*. 155p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. \$1.95. 1987. ISBN 0-373-06221-4. LC number unavailable.

Apparently intended to be humorous, this succeeds only in being confused

and interminable. Cass, her grandma, and a friend visit New York City, where they snare parts in a soap opera. The girls fight over a handsome go-fer, a magician-taxi driver-waiter wanders in an out of the plot, and there's a "magic" coin rolling around. Different, but not a success.

GREGORY, Diana. *Promises Broken.* 200p. (Caitlin Series). Bantam. 1986. \$2.95. ISBN 0-553-26156-8. LC number unavailable.

This follows the beautiful, rich Caitlin to college, where she is separated from Jed, a Montana cowboy. The course of true love does not run smooth, as might be expected, and there is absolutely nothing to recommend this book along the lines of sensible plot, real characters, or dialogue.

JOYCE, Rosemary. *Up To No Good.* 148p. (Dream Girls Series). Archway. 1987. \$2.50. ISBN 0-671-62115-7. LC number unavailable.

Young lust runs rampant in this R-rated "Sweet Valley High" clone. The climax is the voting for Harvest Queen, won by frosh Cindy Isis Howel, "the one who's been giving half the guys in school some seriously erotic dreams." People throw punch on each other, lie, flash naked thighs, and are just generally nasty and selfish. The plot just hops over its improbabilities into another subplot just as preposterous. Awful.

LANTZ, Fran. *Star Struck.* 202p. (Swept Away Series). Avon. 1987. \$2.50. ISBN 0-380-75131-3. LC 86-91019.

A time-travel computer sweeps Kiki back to glamorous 1939 Hollywood, where she snares a leading movie role within an hour and falls for her leading man. Eventually, she comes to her senses and returns to the dependable hometown boyfriend. Utterly stupid, with not even the smallest nod in the direction of character development or plausibility.

MORTON, Miriam. *Kiss of the Cobra.* 157p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06228-1. LC number unavailable.

Antha's cousin goes for a simple ear piercing and comes back with the tattoo of a cobra on her ear lobe, and the evil mark sucks her into an ancient snake cult. Antha exorcises the snake-god Uptenika in a thrilling climax. Laughable and inept.

MORTON, Miriam. *Mind Over Matter.* 156p. (First Love Series). Silhouette. 1987. \$1.95. ISBN 0-373-06220-6. LC number unavailable.

Tyne is psychically connected to her favorite teacher, and it's a good thing, since he's been kidnapped by a drug ring who plans to use his psychic abilities in order to avoid customs agents. Credit is due for an attempt at variety and some realistic high-school romancing, but boy, is it dumb!

SARASIN, Jennifer. *Taking Over.* 172p. ISBN 0-590-40447-4.

STEINKE, Ann E. *Stealing Secrets.* 170p. ISBN 0-590-40446-6. ea. vol: (Cheerleaders Series). Scholastic. 1987. \$2.50. LC number unavailable.

Tarenton's longtime cheerleading coach is temporarily replaced by "Slammer" Akins, who nearly ruins the squad with his rigid, negative ways. Several love interests and updates from past characters will please series fans, but Slammer is totally unbelievable. In the second title, playboy Sean falls hard for a rival school's cheerleader, who quietly steals Tarenton's great new routines. The revelation makes head cheerleader Olivia so sick that she might just "haul off and throw up right here on the maple flooring." Suspense, motivation, and character development are below average even for this series.