

Romance

POP CULTURE SUPERCouples - WHO MADE THE LIST?

ADVERTISEMENT

Tue, 09/11/2012 - 2:04pm — admin

As a fan of the much-missed *Gilmore Girls*, I must have been among the target audience for ABC Family's *Bunheads*. Stars Hollow reconfigured as the West Coast town of Paradise? A chance to hear some witty dialogue and see familiar faces, including the matriarch of *GG*, Kelly Bishop, playing the matriarch of *Bunheads*? It was like coming home.

Except for one thing. One major, jarring omission. One that had me scanning all ten episodes hopefully, like a sailor looking for sight of land after many weeks at sea. As much as it pains me to say it, there was no "Luke" in this so-called Paradise.

Sutton Foster, the actress who now plays the role-once-known-as Lorelai (minus the Rory), is Luke-less. And where's the fun in that? I tuned in year after year, not only to take in the fabulous mother-and-daughter duo of *Gilmore Girls*, but to finally see the guy get the girl. It's what I do. In fandom, I'm what they call a 'shipper.'

But as romance readers, we're all shippers here. I usually get asked this question all the time by the non-roms: What's the appeal of reading a book when you know how it'll end? My answer is always the same: It's not the destination, it's the journey. I know they'll get their happily-ever-after, but I don't exactly how they'll get there. And it's that interest in the steps they take towards love that gets me hooked every time. I become the champion for seemingly-impossible relationships, rooting them onto **supercouple** status.

It got me thinking about the top couples that I've shipped over the years. Here are the ones I've flipped over:

My road down shipping began innocently enough. Who didn't want to see Miss Piggy wear down her delectably green Kermie? This is the woman who taught my generation what it truly means to be determined!

Sweet Valley, otherwise known as the series I sneaked into class to read under my desk during math lessons. Besides interfering with my ability to completely memorize the multiplication tables (psh, who really needs that?), it also caused me to ship one of the only couples that I regret — Liz and Todd. One, because Todd turned out to be majorly boring, and two, because as revealed in the recently published *Sweet Valley Confidential*, he totally wasn't worth Liz. Can you tell she was my favorite Wakefield twin?



RECENT BOOK REVIEWS



BREATHLESS by Celeste Bradli Donovan



THE PRINCESS by Elizabeth Elli



FIND YOU IN THE DARK by Na



THE PRIVILEGE OF PEACE by T



CRIME AND PUNCTUATION by Dunnett

More

Before it became a hit CW show, the series set of *The Vampire Diaries* sat dogeared on my desk, many times re-read to answer the question that haunts me still: Stefan or Damon? Stefan was Elena's good-guy love interest (besides the fact that he's a vamp). But Damon? Now he was deliciously bad. Having been burned by the sweet guy (see: *Sweet Valley's* Todd), I now leaned a bit towards the dark side. But, considering that I was still in Junior High, it didn't cross my mind that in some scenarios Elena wouldn't have to choose. Not if the story were redone [Lora Leigh](#) style!

If you weren't a soap fan and you didn't watch *General Hospital*, you'll have no idea what I mean when I say Jax and Brenda. But for the fans that truly shipped this pairing of a golden god Aussie gazillionaire and the mobster's ex-girlfriend, your eyes just lit up, didn't they? I was so dedicated to the idea that I actually had cut-outs of Jasper Jax glued to my Traper Keeper. Now that was dedication! (Honorable soap mentions also go out to Lucky & Liz and Todd & Blair).

Whenever someone mentions *Felicity*, I have to stop and ask them the most important question in the world: "Ben or Noel?" After they get over their initial confusion, because I ask with all the seriousness of an FBI investigator, they usually blurt out 'Ben.' *Sigh*. But why? Noel was clearly the better choice. Those eyes! He played Boggle! Felicity should have snatched that man up.

While I can understand the appeal of Angel, as the seasons of *Buffy* went on, I was all about Spike. The bad poet turned bad-boy vamp was the underdog I couldn't help but cheer on. His love for Buffy and his anguish basically jumped right off the screen and latched onto my heart. And when they finally started hooking up, it was like the best gift ever from series creator Joss Whedon.

And, finally, the couple that started my journey down memory lane: Luke and Lorelai. He was the gruff diner owner with a heart of gold and she was the fast-talking, pop culture-loving single mom of a brainiac. In other words, they were totally meant to be. Watching them make their way slowly towards one another was exquisite agony, and oh-so-enjoyable. He was the kind of guy who made the woman of his dreams a hoopa for her marriage to another man — which, thankfully, didn't happen.

Stars Hollow just wouldn't have been the same without Luke, the hoopa-building hero, just as its twin city on the West Coast feels a bit off without a Luke-like presence. So, will I keep watching *Bunheads*? I'll give it another go when it returns. If the list above didn't tip you off, I am nothing if not a hopeless romantic with a lot of patience.

But I do need some new couples to 'ship'. Tell me — what shows are you watching these days, and which developing relationships are you keeping an eye on? Help me fill up my DVR, please!

GENRE: [Romance](#)

TAGS: [RT Daily Blog](#), [Romance](#)

RELATED POSTS

[How Do You Organize Your TBR List?](#)

[It's all Geek to Her! Mechele Armstrong on Science Fiction Conventions and Geek Culture](#)



[RT 2016 Convention: Your LGBTQ+ Reading List by the](#)

COMMENTS

Comments for this thread are now closed.



0 Comments RT Book Reviews

Login

Recommend Share

Sort by Best

This discussion has been closed.

ALSO ON RT BOOK REVIEWS

Emergency Contact Giveaway: A Book & a Backpack!

12 comments • a month ago

Kristy Petree — I've had a pretty good year (and I read tons of YA) so it's hard to choose, but I'll go with Obsidio by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. Thanks!

Elicia Hyder Rolls Over Adversity In Roller Derby and LIGHTS OUT LUCY

1 comment • 16 days ago

alr3 — If you've not read Elicia Hyder's works, you have missed exceptional writing. Lights Out Lucy will take you on a roller coaster ride of laughter and ...

Cover Breakdown: Nalini Singh's ARCHANGEL'S PROPHECY

1 comment • 16 days ago

Elizabeth H. — I absolutely cannot WAIT for October! Raphael and Elena are my favorite paranormal couple! I hope we get more page time with Elena's ...

RT18 Costume Post: Badass, Kickass, Feehan Party

1 comment • 8 days ago

Adaiah La Vonda — I can't wait to attend Thursday's event.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add Privacy

ROMANCE



AudioFile Picks: Audiobook Reviews 5/11/18

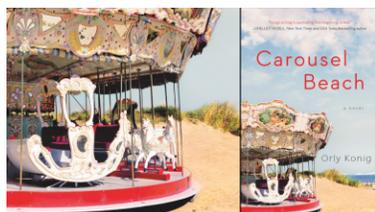
It's no secret that we at RT love reading romance! And if you happen to see us with headphones on, but no book in hand, it's likely that we...

Hump Day: Helena Hunting's I Flipping Love You

AudioFile Picks: Audiobook Reviews 5/4/18

Cover Reveal: Paige Tyler's WOLF RISING

MAINSTREAM



Orly Konig's Carousel Beach Sends Readers on a Magical Journey

While many of us are still feeling the

FIRST CHAPTER: Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell

Blind Date With a Book REVEALED: Mainstream Reviewers' Choice Award Nominee

EXCERPT: Love and Other Words by Christina Lauren

PARANORMAL



RT18 Costume Post: Badass, Kickass, Feehan Party

The RT Booklovers Convention is next week! We can't believe it either!

Cover Breakdown: Nalini Singh's ARCHANGEL'S PROPHECY

Cover Reveal + Giveaway: Chloe Neill's SLAYING IT

Cover Reveal: Jeffe Kennedy's THE ARROWS OF THE HEART

YOUNG ADULT



Debut Author Spotlight Adrienne Young

We at RT love discovering authors, and Adrienne Young fantasy debut, Sky in the D

Cover Trend: Millennial Pir

Emergency Contact Giveaway & a Backpack!

Jenn Bennett on Romancir

Advance Copy Giveaway: V Kristin Cast's LOST!

Hump Day: Erin McCarthy's THE HOOKUP

Royal Wedding Fever: Harry and Meghan Paper Dolls and Coloring Books

[More Romance »](#)

Tiffany Reisz On Her New Gothic Novel, The Lucky Ones

2017 RT Reviewers' Choice Award Nominees — Inspirational, Mainstream and Young Adult

[More Mainstream »](#)

MONDAY GIVEAWAY: Alpha Unleashed by Kathy Lyons

QUIZ: 14 Questions About Christine Feehan's GhostWalker Series!

[More Paranormal »](#)

[Seal of Excellence: Februar](#)

[More Y](#)

INSPIRATIONAL



MONDAY GIVEAWAY: Return to Whispering Pines by Scarlett Dunn

We have a huge s

Blind Date With a Book: Inspirational Romance Reviewers' Choice Award Nominee

EXCERPT: A Borrowed Dream by Amanda Cabot

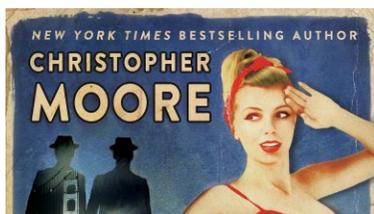
2017 RT Reviewers' Choice Award Nominees — Inspirational, Mainstream and Young Adult

Cover Breakdown: Beth Wiseman's AMISH CELEBRATIONS

Krista Phillips on THE ENGAGEMENT PLOT, THE BACHELOR and Keeping the Faith

[More Inspirational »](#)

MYSTERY



Christopher Moore Goes Noir

Christopher Moore has written about vampires and death, taken on King Lear, Van Gogh — even Jesus.

[Seal of Excellence: March 2018](#)

Lisa Scottoline On What Happens After Anna

Debut Author Spotlight: Clarissa Goenawan

Take a Trip to the Jersey Shore with Tina Kashian in Hummus and Homicide

This New Story From Simone St. James Will Haunt Your Nightmares In The Best Way

[More Mystery »](#)

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY



R.F. Kuang Stuns With Her Debut Fantasy Novel, The Poppy War

Fantasy fans looking for a refreshing and exciting story can find their newest obsession with military fantasy The Poppy War by R.F. Kuang.

2017 RT Reviewers' Choice Award Nominees — Science Fiction & Fantasy

Rati Mehrotra Dishes on her Debut Fantasy, Markswoman

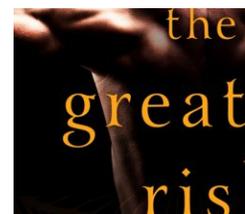
Go Down The Rabbit Hole With A Brand New Alice-Inspired Anthology

Us and Them: Alysia Constantine on Circus Freaks and "Normal" Folks

A Story Worth Telling: Ginn Hale on LGBTQ+ Characters in Sci-Fi and Fantasy

[More Science Fiction »](#)

EROTICA



Hump Day: Kristen Asl GREATEST RISK

Rebecca Grace Allen on the Importance of Positive Rep of Kink in Romance

Hump Day: Lynda Aicher's TRUST

Cover Breakdown: J. Kenn WITH ME

Hump Day: Tamsen Parker BRINK OF PASSION

Hump Day: Sara Brookes's UP

[N](#)