



Tips For Writing Great Love Scenes



By Joyce Scarbrough

1.) Make the scene about something more than sex. Does it symbolize a deeper commitment for the characters or a new level of trust? Even love scenes should advance the plot.

2.) Be selective in your word choice for actions and body parts. Word connotation is more important than ever in love scenes. You're creating a mood, so don't spoil it with clumsy words. **No clucking or hammering! Groan and moan are not the same things, neither are murmur, mutter and mumble.**

3.) People can "get" what you mean without going into too much detail if you're not comfortable writing it, but **NO PURPLE PROSE OR HOKEY EUPHEMISMS. You're not Lady Gaga writing a Bad Romance!**

"his manhood bobbed like a flagpole"

**"rod of pleasure"
stand it"**

"her honey pot"

"their passion carried them away and they soared on the wings of love into infinity"

"she felt him against her"

"he stroked her until she couldn't

4.) Foreplay is important in life and in books, so don't shortchange your readers when it comes to flirtation and buildup. Anticipation makes everything hotter. Sometimes foreplay can even make the whole scene. You don't always have to leave that door open if it makes you uncomfortable. Take your characters as far as you want to go, then close the door and let them have their privacy. **YOUR CHARACTERS WILL HELP YOU DECIDE THIS!**

5.) It's okay to include humor, but timing is everything. No jokes when it's time to get down to business.

6.) Don't forget that sex changes everything. Once your characters cross the line of physical intimacy with each other, things get complicated. So don't make it happen too soon, but also don't wait too long or you could lose the chance to add a lot of great conflict.

7.) The most important thing is to **KNOW YOUR CHARACTERS**. If they're real people to you, they'll help you write the scene.