

Introduction

Romance is like a queen—it is, by far, the best selling genre in all of fiction. One research shows that more than fifty percent of all fictional books sold in the Philippines every year are, in fact, romance novels. Because women, Filipinas in particular, are born romantics, we read stories like these which allow us to escape from reality and feed our dreams of happy ever after. It is like our grown-up fairy tales. It never fails to make us feel good. It inspires us and makes us believe in the power of love.

As an editor, I have seen hundreds of manuscripts submitted to our office every year. Only an average of 25% passes the evaluation process and, in due course, gets published.

I have met a lot of people telling me of their dreams of becoming a romance writer. Some of them have tried submitting manuscripts but unfortunately, those manuscripts did not pass the criteria of evaluation. Others find it difficult to finish the manuscripts they have started, while some do

not even know how to start one.

Given that you're reading this book, I'm assuming that, like a lot of women, you're also dreaming of putting your ideas on paper—or at the very least, you are wondering if you have what it takes to be a Tagalog romance novelist. Maybe you have plenty of ideas on *what* to write, but having a hard time with the *how*.

Writing romance is not something a person can learn overnight. But one thing is for sure, it *can* be learned.

In this book, I will try to explore every nook and cranny of writing a Tagalog romance and how to have it published. I pray that this book will help you become successful in this craft.

God bless and good luck!