

Mastering the Meet Cute

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The first encounter between the romantic leads of your story sets the tone for the rest of the book. This encounter either pulls the reader deeper into the story or makes them decide the book isn't for them. The meet cute—the quirky, funny, sexy, and/or memorable way two people meet for the first time—has been used for decades in film, television, and novels as a way to get the audience immediately sucked into the romantic storyline.

Definition of meet cute: A scene in which future romantic partners first meet in unusual and often comic circumstances.

Why they are needed and why they work:

1. They set the tone for your novel
2. Shows the nature of the relationship between your characters

An Effective Meet Cute is:

- ♥ Humorous ♥ Outrageous ♥ Sexy ♥ Memorable

Common Meet Cute Tropes:

1. Mistaken Identity
2. Adverse Circumstances
3. Full-Body Contact/Starts with a Crash
4. Bad Mission Statement
5. The Good Samaritan
6. Unequals Don't Attract
7. Forced Proximity

Twisting the Meet Cute Tropes:

1. The more unique your meet cute, the more memorable it will be for your reader. The key is to be true to yourself and add in the spice that only you can provide.
2. To keep the meet cute from becoming clichéd or stale: take the trope, but instead of the expected action, follow through with something unexpected