

Scottish Readers Remember Romances

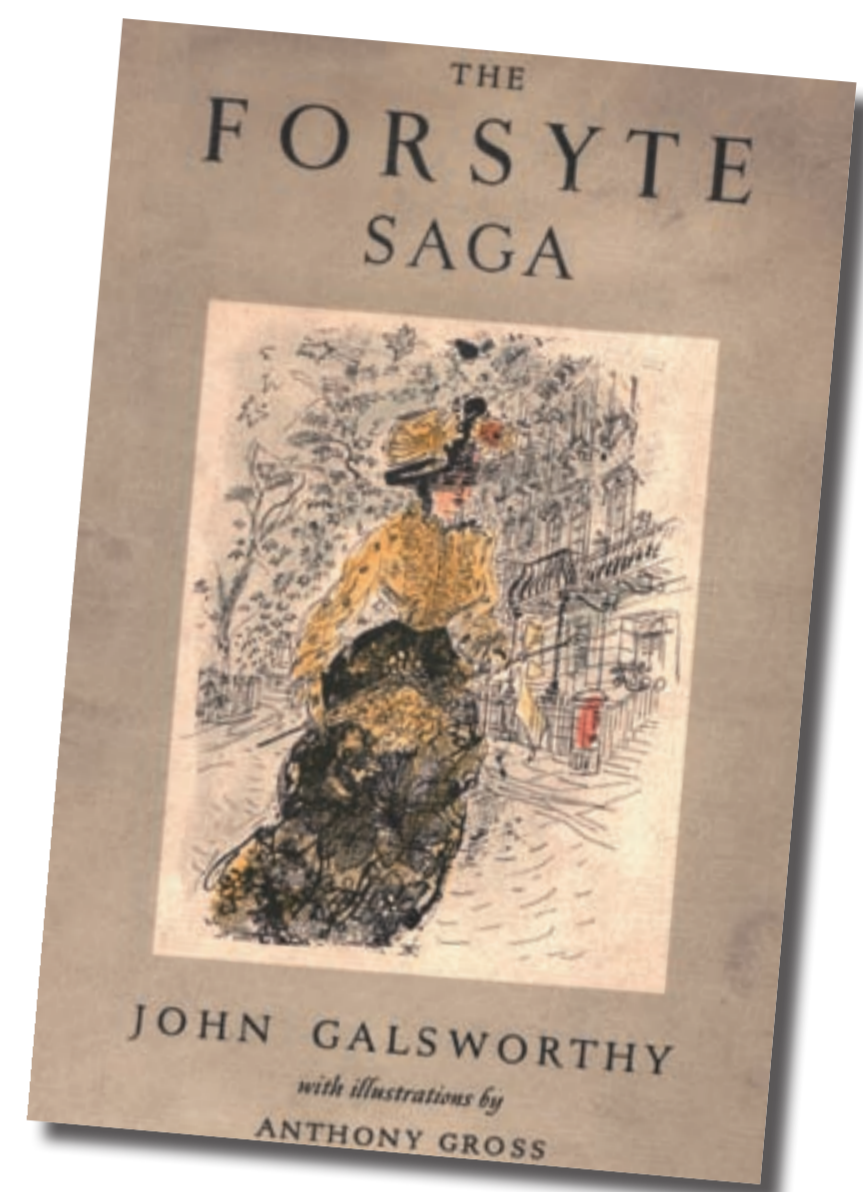


I go on holiday with a friend who says, 'Remember your Mills and Boon!'

Bunty

Love stories are amongst the most popular works of fiction, but since they are closely associated with feminine images thought of as out-of-step with modern ideals for women, they are not always looked upon admiringly. However, not all romances are light and fluffy; and although most consumers of romance are women, these readers usually don't conform to the stereotypes of pink-clad old ladies and dreamy young girls!

Romances have been produced in a variety of inexpensive formats aimed at providing a light read for busy women, including magazines like *Red Star* and branded paperbacks such as Mills and Boon. The stories have also diversified; in addition to traditional romance categories like Hospital and Historical, there is now a wide variety including Paranormal Romance!



Indeed, love stories are more various than is often supposed and some exceptionally memorable books of the last century are romances: *Gone With The Wind* is possibly the most famous title and Scottish readers of both sexes recall reading it. Moreover, many popular fictions that chiefly involve a love story are far from light reads; Daphne du Maurier's dark and gothic *Rebecca*, for example, is often recalled as a favourite romance classic in both book and film formats.

