

# THE RIPPED BODICE PRESENTS THE STATE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY IN ROMANCE PUBLISHING

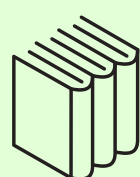
## 2019

The Ripped Bodice is the only exclusively romance bookstore in The United States. It is owned by sisters Bea and Leah Koch.

The State of Racial Diversity in Romance Publishing Report tracks the publication of books written by authors of color and indigenous peoples in the romance genre.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the study can be found on our website, [www.therippedbodice.com](http://www.therippedbodice.com)

After four years of data collection, the numbers speak for themselves. They provide a clear picture of who is and isn't being published, which publishers are showing tangible improvements and which publishers are putting out statements that are not backed up by their numbers.



### Ripped Bodice Bestsellers 2019

Red, White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston  
The Kiss Quotient by Helen Hoang  
Rafe by Rebekah Weatherspoon  
The Hating Game by Sally Thorne  
Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors by Sonali Dev  
A Study in Scarlet Women by Sherry Thomas  
I Love You So Mochi by Sarah Kuhn  
Beard with Me by Penny Reid  
The Bride Test by Helen Hoang  
Tell Me How You Really Feel by Aminah Mae Safi



We are deeply grateful for the participation of the following publishers:

*All publishers are asked to assist in the study by providing a list of the titles they published in the previous year. This year's study includes 2,421 books, which is why we appreciate publishers who contribute a little bit of their time to this important research.*













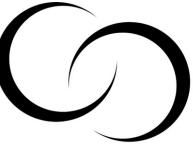

















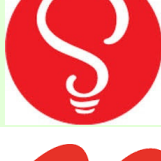





- Berkley Books
- Bethany House
- Bold Strokes Books
- Entangled Publishing
- Forever
- Kensington
- Montlake Romance
- NineStar Press
- St. Martin's Press
- Sourcebooks
- Tule

*This year's report contains the following changes to included publishers:*

- Bella Books and Riptide Books did not publish enough books this year to meet our threshold for inclusion.*
- Dreamspinner Books has been removed from the report due to their nonpayment of authors.*
- Ninestar Press is new to the study at their request.*

A note about participation: we do not see participation in this report as a value judgement on the diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts of any particular publisher. Over the years, publishers have politely declined to participate for a variety of reasons. However, not responding to communication about this report does not inspire confidence in a company's commitment to ending institutional racism.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2019 WERE WRITTEN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR?

	Avon Romance 	8.8%
	Berkley 	17%
	Bethany House 	0%
	Bold Strokes Books 	3.2%
	Carina Press 	20.7%
	Entangled Publishing 	14%
	Forever Romance 	8.3%
	Harlequin Series 	5.5%
	HQN 	2.9%
	Kensington 	27.5%
	Mira Books 	3.6%
	Montlake Romance 	3.8%
	NineStar Press 	2.2%
	Random House  <small>includes Ballantine, Bantam &amp; Loveswept</small>	3%
	Simon & Schuster  <small>includes Pocket &amp; Gallery</small>	2.3%
	Sourcebooks 	10.2%
	St. Martin's Press  <small>includes Griffin, SMP &amp; Swerve</small>	9.4%
	Tule Publishing 	0%



title data graciously provided by the publisher



declined to participate



ignored all communication attempts

# WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BOOKS PUBLISHED WERE WRITTEN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR?

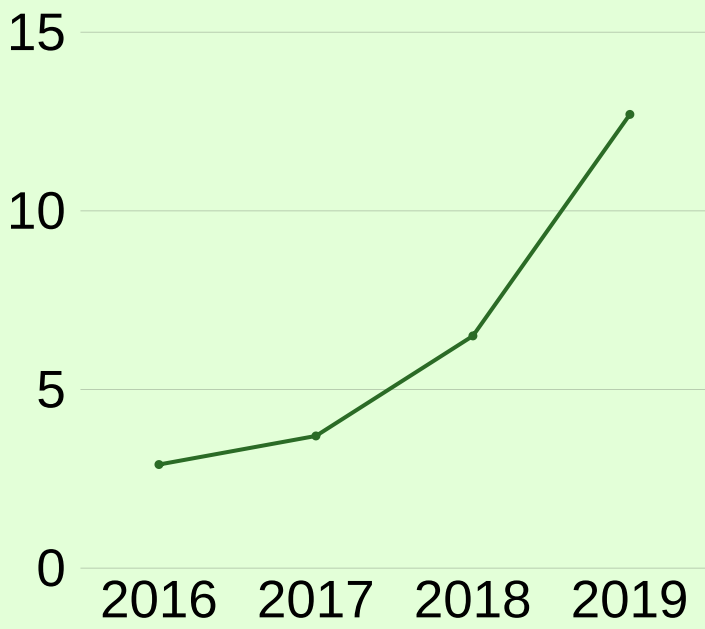
## TRACKING YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGES

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Avon Romance	2.8	4.7	4.8	8.8
Berkley	3.9	7	10	17
Bethany House	0	0	0	0
Bold Strokes Books	7	3.2	1.1	3.2
Carina Press	5.4	2.4	2.5	20.7
Entangled	8.9	4	13	14
Forever	17.5	5.3	5	8.3
Harlequin Series	8.3	6.6	7.8	5.5
HQN	0	4.2	3.3	2.9
Kensington	12.7	12.6	22.8	27.5
Mira Books	4.4	7.7	7.5	3.6
Montlake	1.9	3.1	2	3.8
NineStar Press	0	4.3	2.5	2.2
Random House	1.8	.9	1.6	3
Simon & Schuster	5.5	12.2	8.9	2.3
Sourcebooks	2.9	11.6	9.9	10.2
St. Martin's	6	6.3	5	9.4
Tule Publishing	0	0	2	0

# YEAR-OVER-YEAR ANALYSIS OF BIG FIVE PUBLISHERS

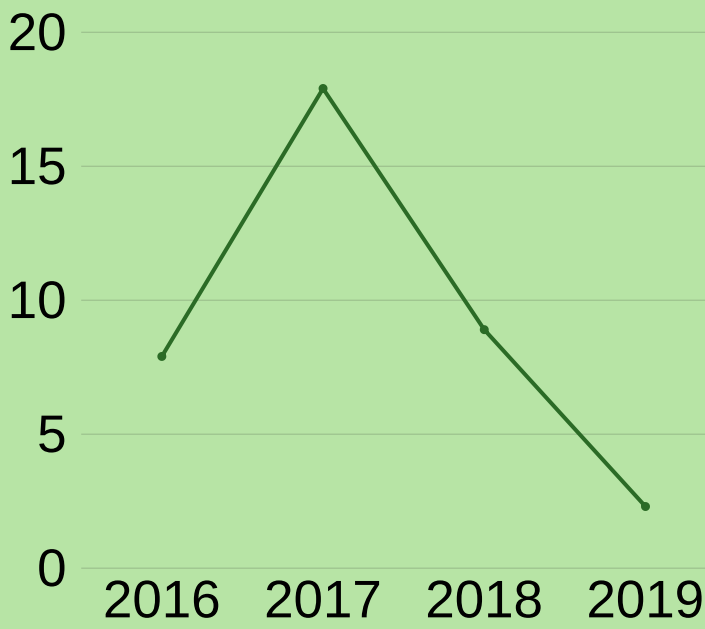
## Penguin Randomhouse:

*Berkley  
Ballantine  
Bantam  
Loveswept*



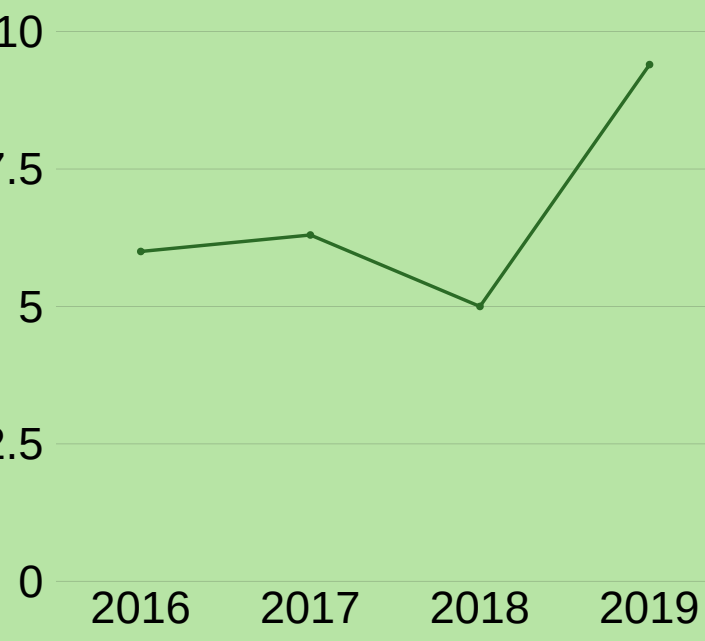
## Simon & Schuster:

*Pocket  
Gallery*



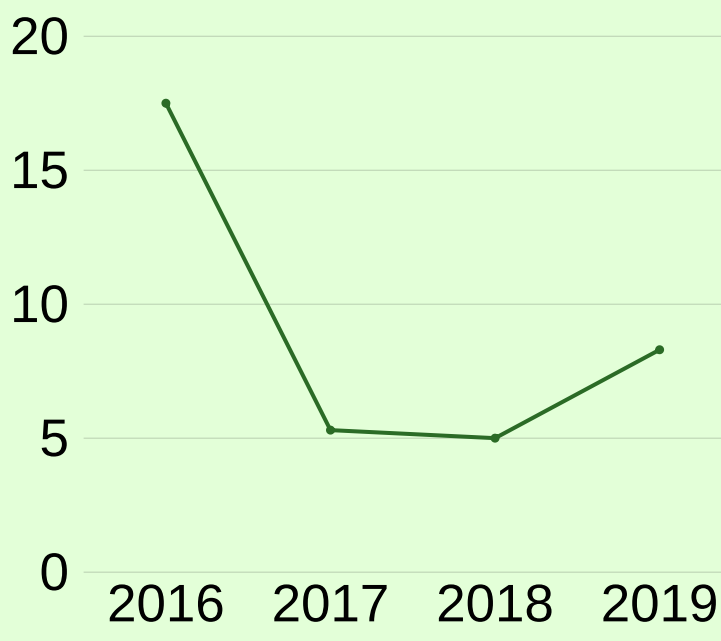
## Macmillan:

*SMP  
St. Martin's  
Griffin  
Swerve*



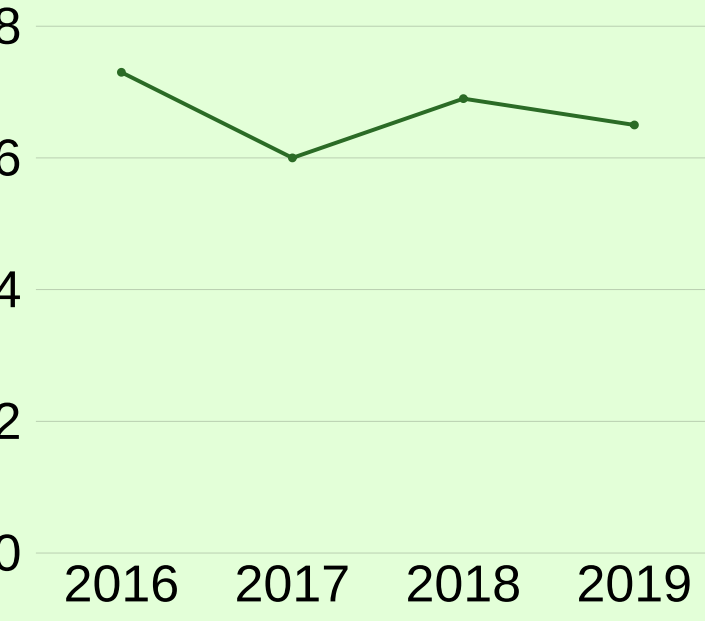
## Hachette:

*Forever*



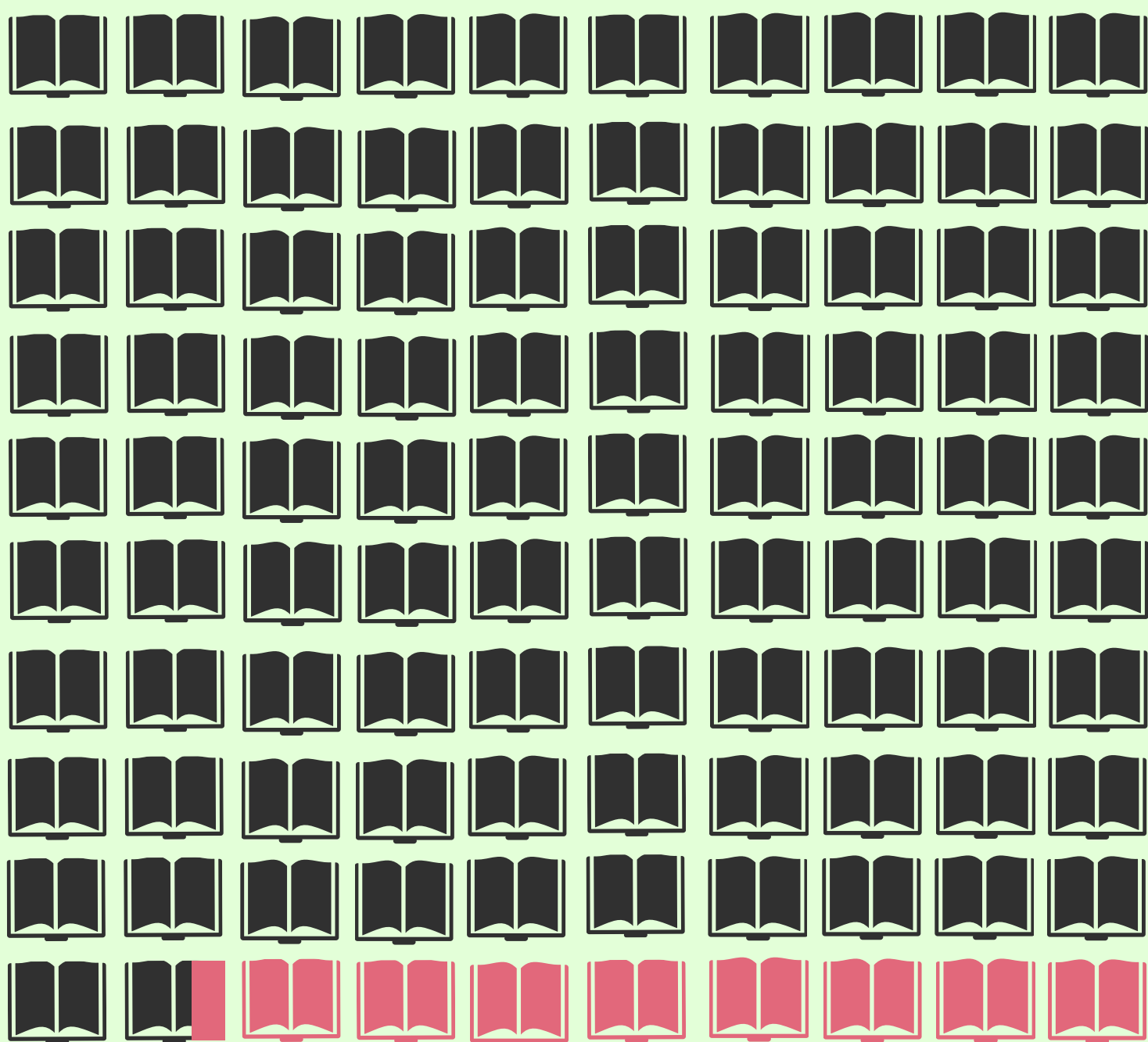
## HarperCollins:

*Avon  
Carina  
Harlequin Series  
HQN  
Mira*



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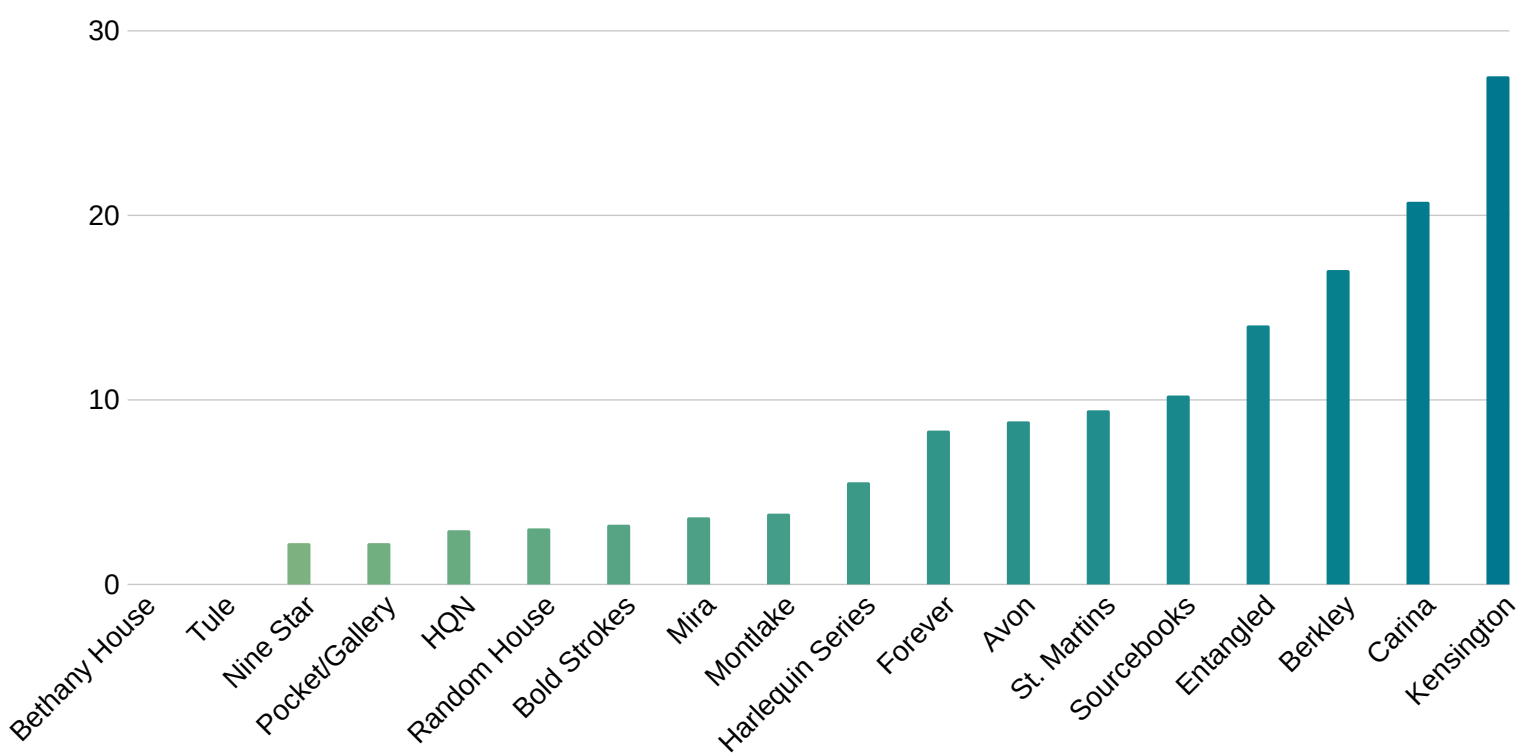
2019



*For every 100 books published by the leading romance publishers in 2019, only 8.3 were written by people of color.*

*That compares to 7.7% in 2018, 6.2% in 2017 and 7.8% in 2016. An increase of 0.4% industry-wide over four years.*

percentage of books released in 2019 written by people of color



78% of major romance publishers still had

# LESS THAN 10%

of the books they published in 2019 written by people of color.