

How to Write a Sassy Heroine
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Introduction

Have you ever wanted to write a sassy heroine? Or have you ever wanted to write a sassy heroine who, with just a few iconic details, will be remembered forever? By sassy, I mean, the kind of heroine who is strong and sure of herself. She wears what she wants and carries it off with style. In fact, she is probably an unapologetic high-heel wearer. She has her favorite girly-girl drinks and makes no apologies for it. If she wants to start dinner with a chocolate martini, that's exactly what she'll do.

Is it possible to write a sassy heroine with just a few remarkably memorable details? Sure, it is! Think of some female characters you love. What do you love about them? Is it the way they won't take no for an answer? Is it their snappy dialogue? Is it their hair-tossing attitude? Maybe it's just that you can relate to them in some way -- their struggles, wishes, hopes, and dreams. Or, is it that you just wish you could really *be* that character and take her attitude with you into the real-world?

Whatever the case, writing a sassy heroine is just a few details away. So, pour your favorite drink, light some candles, and get ready to invoke the spirit of sassiness!

What Does She Drink?

This question can be a really good starting point because all sassy characters have that one favorite drink. Is it a cosmo? Is it champagne? Is it Spanish wine? What about ordering her own special cocktail -- sparkling water, just a splash of vodka, and a spritz of cranberry juice?

In my book, *Dating in the Desert*, Justine drinks champagne whenever she's out, but when she's at home, she drinks cucumber water. Why? Well she lives in Arizona and it's the type of dry climate that can take the plumpness right out of your beautiful skin in just minutes if you're not hydrated enough.

On that note, if I were to create a drink for one of my other characters, I would give Josie, (the young rockabilly-inspired character), a Shirley Temple. Who orders a Shirley Temple nowadays, unless you're 5 years old? But that would be the charm of it!

Your turn!

Now it's your turn to practice! What's your favorite drink? It's okay to admit it's some fruity alcoholic beverage. (I won't tell anyone.) What about a shot of Irish Cream in your cup of coffee on a Saturday morning after a long week at work? Whatever the case, you can either give your sassy heroine your special drink, or you can imagine what it is you've always wanted to try.

Let's think for a moment. Have you ever wanted to try a drink mixed with Fireball Cinnamon Whisky and just been too nervous? Maybe you've wanted to try something like Soju from Korea.

You can also try researching restaurant menus and see what's new and upcoming. Then give it your own original twist. Or if you want your heroine to be on a health kick, you can keep it healthy by researching some popular juicing recipes. Yes? No? Or, okay, maybe just a teensy, tiny splash of melon vodka would do well in that drink. Remember, she's sassy!

What's Her Favorite Food?

In *Dating in the Desert*, Justine is a woman who definitely loves the good life. She's thrilled when she gets a lobster and steak dinner on one of her dates. She can tell this is a man who likes to eat and treat his companion. Here's a tidbit from one of her dates:

"The balloon chase team met them down below with champagne, and a lobster, steak, and caviar dinner. Steve was a gentleman the entire evening..."

This is very unlike her friend Joan who only seems to get water on dates. (Imagine a man who can only afford to take someone out for water at a restaurant!) Never mind that in real life this would be a huge red flag, but in a romantic comedy novella it shows the vast range of men that are out there.

Now I'll try to imagine Josie's favorite food. I think it would be a chocolate sundae as a main course. Yes, you read that right! Or any type of carnival food. While Josie has high standards when it comes to manners, she is the kind who really likes sweets and anything simple. Think milkshake and a hot dog. Or macaroni and cheese, maybe?

I like fine foods too, but I personally enjoy my fair share of comfort food, so it's easy for me to think of what my characters would like to eat.

Your turn!

Now, it's your turn. If your sassy heroine were asked out for dinner, what would it be like? What kind of date would she like to go on? Is it a fancy steak dinner? Is it a home-cooked meal? These may seem standard to any rom-com, but the old standbys still work. Now if you want to pull in sassiness, what would a sassy heroine do? Would she want to help the guy cook, or does she already see that as a red flag that the guy is just plain cheap? You see where I'm going.

To get started, think of at least two favorite foods your heroine may like. Ask yourself why those foods? Then ask yourself what setting it could be in. Could you be setting up your heroine for the date of her dreams, or the bad date she'll live to tell her friends about forever and ever!