

# Love on the Racks

## *A History of American Romance Comics*

MICHELLE NOLAN



McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers  
*Jefferson, North Carolina, and London*

# Table of Contents

<i>Preface</i>	1
<i>Introduction</i>	3
ONE • Pulp Love and True Confessions: What Came Before Romance Comics	7
TWO • Twixt Teens and Tears: How Teen Humor and Girls' Comics Provided a Bridge to Romance	14
THREE • Young Romance in Bloom: How Love Came to the Comic Books	29
FOUR • Love Conquers All: The Record Growth of Romance Comics in 1949	43
FIVE • The Love Glut: The Romance Boom and Bust of 1950	62
SIX • Writers of the Purple Page: A Short-Lived Flirtation with Western Romance	86
SEVEN • You Can't Keep a Good Girl (or Guy) Down: Before the Comics Code—How Romance Comics Rebounded in the 1950s	100
EIGHT • Minor-League Lovers: One-Shot Wonders and Other Short-Lived Flirtations	127
<i>Between pages 150 and 151 are 8 color plates containing 15 photographs</i>	
NINE • Cut That Cleavage! Before and After the Comics Code Authority	151
TEN • The Bland Leading the Bland: When Tears Began to Flow Freely	178

ELEVEN • Hippies, Harpies and Heroines: National Comics Takes Charge in the 1960s and '70s	193
TWELVE • Where Love Has Gone: The End of Young Romance and Young Love	206
<i>Appendix: Catalog of American Romance Comics</i> (BY DAN STEVENSON, MICHELLE NOLAN AND JIM VADEBONCOEUR, JR.)	211
<i>Bibliography</i>	221
<i>General Index</i>	223
<i>Title and Character Index</i>	226