

Love Story

Lorraine Heller-Nicholas

Of all popular narrative forms, the romance is perhaps the one we experience most poignantly and personally. Regardless of whether we have or have not felt intense feelings of romantic love, we live in a culture where we are encouraged to yearn for it, through everything from chocolate commercials to music videos. Yet despite the emphasis upon the individual's experience of romance, the tropes themselves are familiar to a point that verges on the hackneyed, resulting in a constant retelling of the clichéd binaries that fling figures together – and, just as often, that tear them apart. Lorraine Heller-Nicholas' work engages explicitly with the faceless anonymity of popular romantic narrative forms and figures, reminding us that while love stories appear to cover a rainbow of emotions – anger, joy, pain, passion and many more – the reality of how these stories are told more often than not relies on a monochromatic understanding of fictional representations of contemporary romance.