

Love and divorce on screen, and away from it



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Incredible as it may sound, some of the greatest love stories lead to some of the most tragic ends. We have seen this in real life and in the movies too.

The world rejoiced when Prince Charles and Diana, a commoner, fell in love and united in wedlock. The world viewed it as one of the most exciting unions that seemed like a 'forever fable'.

But that was not to be. The excitement and enthusiasm of the royal wedding dissipated and dunked into despair when the two bickered and parted in what was a bitter battle. The reason, as Diana had often said, was a "marriage which was crowded". There was a third person in it, Camilla Parker Bowles, who had always been there as Charles' girlfriend.

Now, nobody knows why the Prince wedded Diana and not Camilla in the first place! Diana remained a sad woman, and some years later she died in a deadly car crash in Paris. What a tragic end for a woman who was so vivacious and so full of life that twinkled.

And now we have another love story that has gone south. This time in the world of cinema. Also considered one of the most glamorous couples in the 21st century, the marital relationship between two of the biggest Hollywood stars, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, has ended in an acrimonious divorce with them wrangling over property. What is more, they have a large brood of children. Six, in fact, in 11 years of living together, plus two years of marriage.

The divorce proceedings were long and very unpleasant, with the actors

warring over visitation and custody rights of their children, who were minors then. Also, their dispute centred on a winery and an estate in France reportedly valued at \$162 million.

Pitt and Jolie met on the sets of *Mr and Mrs Smith* in 2004, and Cupid struck them. The cinematic work was about how a husband and wife hired contract killers to finish off each other. Although Pitt was married to Jennifer Aniston at the time, he said there had been no infidelity.

On the screen, I have seen an equally disastrous union in *The War of The Roses*. An American black comedy which opened in 1989, it was based on a 1981 novel by Warren Adler. In the movie, the marriage of the characters played by Michael Douglas and Katherine Turner falls apart with rancour and violence. The film's title, which is 'an allusion to the battles between the warring houses of York and Lancaster who were fighting for the English throne during the Middle Ages', became synonymous with high-profile divorces.

It is a passionate story that sinks into hatred and hostility, Oliver Rose (Douglas) is a law student at Harvard, where he meets Barbara (Turner), and they fall head-over-heels in love, get married, have two children and buy a palatial house in Washington. Oliver becomes a rich lawyer, while Barbara takes care of the house and the kids. Soon she gets dissatisfied over her life and also gets increasingly angry over her husband's temper and tendency to control her. We can easily guess how the film would have ended. In their death, but of course.

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