

ENTERTAINMENT

Satyajit Ray's real-life love story was nothing short of a typical Bollywood drama!

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It culminated in a happy ending but only after some unexpected twists and turns. Satyajit Ray's real-life love story was nothing less than a typical Bollywood drama! Manik (Satyajit Ray) and Bijoya (Ray's wife) dated for eight long years, married secretly and then made a clever plan to convince the two families for the match.

Bijoya Ray was friends with the Oscar-winning director since her teenage days but it was only in 1940 that they started to develop romantic feelings for each other while listening to music together almost every day. Madly in love, the couple first was not so convinced whether they would be able to marry as their families wouldn't agree to their relationship.



Interestingly, Ray was younger than Bijoya and a close relative. Marriage was therefore out of the question. So, they initially decided to never marry. The iconic couple wanted their lives to continue the way they were. But, fate had something else in mind. When she shifted to Mumbai for better opportunities in films, Ray, who then used to work in an advertising agency, would often write love letters and would often travel all the way from Kolkata to meet his girlfriend.

As Satyajit Ray and Bijoya Ray kept going out on dates, their bonding deepened as time flew and then came the realization that marriage was inevitable. When they opted for a registry marriage in Mumbai without the knowledge of Satyajit Ray's family, Bijoya's mother disapproved the idea. But without paying heed to her views, the pair tied the knot at the house of Bijoya's sister on October 20, 1949.

At a small reception, even legendary theatre and film actor Prithviraj Kapoor and his wife graced the occasion to bless the newly-weds.

Later in an interview, Bijoya, who passed away in 2015, had admitted never imagined she would actually get married to Manik. And when it did happen, they were torn between happiness and pain, as the couple had to keep their marriage a secret. They couldn't even live together.

In the meantime, Ray became famous for his Apu Trilogy, revealed everything to their family friend and physician Nosho Babu, who came up with a clever plan to convince Ray's mother for accepting the marriage.



Without revealing that they have already married, Satyajit Ray made it clear that he wouldn't marry anyone but Bijoya. Reluctantly and after much persuasion, Ray's mother finally agreed and the couple got married for the second time on March 3, 1949, but this time all in Bengali rituals.

They say 'behind every successful man, there's a woman.' It was very true even in Satyajit ray's case. From 'Pather Panchali' till he breathed his last, Bijoya Ray was involved with him in every possible way.

Even before becoming a writer, Ray would make Bijoya read all his scripts. He would give her a pencil to make changes if there were any and she would give suggestions. He would either take them or discuss them at great length. In fact, 90% of her suggestions were taken by her husband.

It was nothing short of a typical Bollywood love story!

Reference:

<https://m.timesofindia.com/entertainment/bengali/movies/news/satyajit-rays-real-life-love-story-was-nothing-short-of-a-typical-bollywood-drama/articleshow/80786935.cms>