

University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Arts

Introduction to Film Studies

## “The Concept of Love Through the Years”

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Love is a psychological, sociological, bio-chemical and philosophical phenomenon. This virtue comprises various feelings, states and attitudes and explains one’s need to display loving actions towards other fellow creatures. For ages men and women have had different concepts of what this emotion is. In its essence, it has got cognitive and social features. According to the famous American psychologist Erich Fromm love is: “..... the most powerful striving in man. It is the most fundamental passion; it is the force which keeps the human race together... Without love humanity could not exist for a day”. He also wrote: “Love is not something natural. Rather it requires discipline, concentration, patience, faith, and the overcoming of narcissism. It is not a feeling, it is a practice.” Further, he stated that the nature of love had the common elements of care, respect, responsibility and knowledge. [www.allthingsif.org/archives/481](http://www.allthingsif.org/archives/481)  
<https://archive.org/details/TheArtOfLoving>

The sociologist Lenz suggests four definitions of love: love as a socially founded emotion; love as a means for communication; love as an active willingness for comprehension; love as a conduct. /Lenz “Romantic Love” (Romantische Liebe), Opladen, 1998, p. 65-85/. The mankind has been agitated by this feeling since the antiquity. Since it has got a multi- complex and abstract essence there is no single definition of love. This is the reason why love can be explained just by an inter-disciplinary approach. Many sages have tried to define love. Among them, there are: philosophers (Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius, Leibniz); theologians (St. Thomas Aquinas, Teresa from Calcutta); sociologists (Luhmann, Corsten, Gerhards); psychologists (Sternberg, Fromm, Rubin); artists (Sappho, Omir, Virgil, Boccaccio, Shakespeare, Bizet) etc. The concepts of love and good are inseparable. They lead to an “unconditional selflessness” and refer to one’s eagerness to act in favour of the others. Love is a state stronger than togetherness and friendship. The human civilization distinguishes various kinds of love: to God, to the fellow being, to the parents, to the children, to a lover etc. Every religion and epoch has interpreted this feeling in a unique way and the evidence for its impact over the culture lies in the multitude of artefacts that have remained until

nowadays. Love is present in almost every single aspect of our contemporary life. It is maintained in all humanities and arts, basically in modern ones. For example, we could hardly imagine any book, song or film that does not refer to the theme of love.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1895 the first public film projection took place in New York. It was carried out by the family of Lathams. That is how the so-called “seventh art” appeared. The movies are a kind of an art that interprets the reality by image, sound and motion. According to the type, target, gist and means of expression, there are different types of genres: comedy, romance, science-fiction, pulp-fiction, horror and so on. Furthermore, the film industry is one of the most powerful constructors of the public opinion. It shapes the mass and high social culture and that is why love is its essential component both on the big screen and on television.

The purpose of our study is to examine the development of the concept of love during the last fifty years. To this end, we have chosen four romantic comedies from the US film industry as the world’s leading one. Using these comedies as a stepping stone we will try to analyze the motives behind their creation and to find out the reason why some people prefer to have “friends with benefits” instead of romantic love and serious relationships.

The readers must draw their conclusions on this topic and to this purpose we want to present the movies to you in brief. They are the following ones:

- “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” – 1961
- “Pretty Woman” – 1990
- “He Is Just Not That Into You” – 2009
- “Friends with Benefits” – 2011

We shall stick to this order, then scrutinize every single movie and end up with a generalization to enable you, the readers, estimate our exactness.

#### “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”

This modern fairytale, from the 60s of the last century, is one of the world’s greatest love stories. It combines the love and trust that grow within the highlife in New York at that time. Directed by Blake Edwards, the metropolitan romantic affair that takes place after the World War II is based on the novel written by Truman Capote, who also wrote the script for the movie. Ever since its premiere in 1961, “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” has been one of the most rated Hollywood movies and there is no doubt about the brilliant acting of Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. Though initially Capote wanted Marilyn Monroe to be the leading lady, the film cemented Audrey Hepburn’s reputation of an all-time diva.

The actress plays the role of Holly Golightly, a young gold-digging-girl that is looking for a rich man to marry. In the novel, Holly is actually a prostitute, but the moral and social background of the 60s does not allow to call things with their real names.

She meets Paul Varjak (Peppard), who is a very handsome and polite writer, but he is also a so called “kept-man”. Contrary to the common public opinion that such characters are rather unpleasant, they turn to be actually charming. Both of them disguise under masks and pretend in order to survive. However, there is a difference between them. Unlike Holly, Paul is ready to go after his targets and is not afraid to reveal his feelings to her. Holly on the other hand is like her nameless cat – she does not want to belong to anyone – least of all to allow herself to be put in a “cage”. This is her description of love – a “cage” where she will not have

her freedom. However, the movie is a very romantic love story, a realistic one, about two people trying to find happiness in a crazy, strange and hostile world. This means that there is still a lot to happen before Holly and Paul can see the end of all their emotional torment.

In the opening scene we find Holly, actually having a breakfast in front of the famous New York store from the Fifth Avenue – “Tiffany” – drinking coffee and nibbling on pastry, looking through the window. She is wearing a beautiful black gown that has been designed especially for Audrey Hepburn by Givenchy, and pearls around her neck. This outfit starts the tradition of “the little black dress” which is so common among the women nowadays. Anyway, we have to admit that she looks amazing no matter what she wears, even in the simple white shirt in the scene when Holly meets Paul Varjak. Throughout the whole movie, one must not miss to notice and appreciate the marvelous piece of acting, very natural and sophisticated at the same time.

The plot reveals a story about a woman, that considers herself as a “wild thing” – incapable of giving love and trying to be independent. But instead of working to make a living, she uses men to pay her bills. She even brags about how she is taking fifty dollars just for change to go to the lady’s room at the expensive restaurants, where her companions bring her. Whether she is sharing intimacy with these gentlemen remains unclear, but she definitely uses them the way she wants.

The other main character, Paul, is in a similar situation. He takes money from a rich, married woman for a living. And when he moves in Holly’s building they start something special. At first they are just neighbours then they become friends and eventually fall in love. When Holly realizes that, she gets scared and runs off – after all, she is just a lonely girl, looking for safety and despite her optimistic nature and cheery attitude – she considers herself an incapable of loving creature. Holly manages to flirt with all men that match her standards, profiting by them, but she never gets too emotional or involves her feelings. She sees love as a “cage”, like something that will tie her up – take her freedom – which is the only thing she owns. Her fear of the “cage” reveals her fear of being imprisoned by others. However, the more she struggles with love, the more she pushes away Paul, who is eager to make her happy and prove her that she is mistaken, considering all men rats or super-rats. Paul even breaks off with his mistress, ready to change his life in order to make Holly realize that they belong together.

“We belong to nobody, and nobody belongs to us. We don’t even belong to each other.”

This is the answer he gets for revealing to Holly his real feelings. Though she turns a cold shoulder to his bravery, Paul does not give up and grants Holly the opportunity to make her own decisions. He lets the wild thing to do as she wants – like in the old saying: “let what you love most fly free – if it gets back then it is truly yours, but if it does not – then it has never been really yours”.

When Holly is about to marry another man for his money, Paul tells her that the “cage” she is so afraid of, is already a fact and that no matter how far away she runs she would end up only facing it again. She realizes that he is right. And that is when the battle is won and she decides to go after what she wants – after him.

In the end the poor nameless cat that she has recently left in the rain is like a symbol of Holly herself – the wild thing with no name that does not belong to anyone. She has all her freedom and lives the way she wants. But is it enough? Can the homeless cat and the woman taking care for it survive in the life they had led until then, or would they need the support of a poor writer and the “happily ever after” he offers them?

This dramatic fight of love against all material and the wrong conception that the satisfaction of our needs is more important than being happy and following our dreams, are

actual even in the present. The concept of Truman Capote's novel and Blake Edwards's adaptation at the end can be summarized in the simple question – Will love conquer it all?

And both the book and the movie prove that the answer is – Yes, it will. They suggest that Holly's frail manners are meant to decrease her vulnerability to others and help her avoid the "cage" of an authentic relationship. However, she finally admits that she is willing to have the life Paul promises to her and to be with him no matter what it costs. At the end she surrenders and enters the real world – with real problems, real people and real happiness. Perhaps, after all, the nameless cat would get a real name. It is hard to believe that the movie would be that successful nowadays but according to Marvin Paige, the film's casting director,"A lot of people want to be Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"."

And here are some pictures that provided us with inspiration:

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### "Pretty Woman"

"Pretty Woman" naturally comes to be our next stop. There could hardly be a discussion on romantic comedies without mentioning this famous "Cinderella" of the 90s. We all admire Julia Roberts for the way she gave life to Vivian and made her story one of the best in the film industry. The actress won a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Oscar for her performance.

Probably a few people know that originally the movie was supposed to have the title "3000" in accordance with the amount of money Edward pays Vivian to stay with him for a week. But the charisma and enchantment of Julia Roberts turned the originally cynical production into an all time favorite romantic story to all the women in the world.

It is not common for a girl to find her prince on a white horse. And yet every girl dreams of that. When Edward Lewis (Richard Gere) asks the prostitute Vivian Ward (Julia Roberts) to show him the way to his destination, he could not expect that the witty woman would be the love of his life. For, even though Vivian is a prostitute, she has got an incredible self-respect and confidence and the fact that she sells her body for a living is just a means to survive. However, she has got the dignity of any other business woman – because in a way she is exactly that – only her trademark is a bit more provocative.

One of the morals of this movie is that people and women in particular need to respect themselves and not to pretend to be something they are not. Edward accepts Vivian for what she is – no more or less – and asks her to stay with him for a whole week and be his companion for the social events he needs to attend. The way he trusts her is amazing. He confides in her and entrusts her with his money by giving his credit card to Vivian. All the romantic gestures he does to her are evidence that the corporate shark and the prostitute are actually the same. They are just people looking for love and acceptance in a world where everything is possible.

The way Vivian reacts to the "La Traviata" shows how even initially heartless people, whose primary thought is money, can be touched by simple things like opera, or sad stories, or in her case both.

Remarkable is the choice of "La Traviata" the opera that has a story almost identical to the one we are discussing at the moment. The scenarist has shown a great sense of humor and a little bit of drama choosing the piece. No wonder that Julia Roberts plays the role of Vivian so well, because it looks as if it has been written especially for her. Julia's companion Richard Gere also deserves a high appraisal for his acting. We have to mention that in his real life he is a very gifted piano-player and he proves that in the movie. Edward is the perfect gentleman and he treats Vivian with respect. He lifts her spirits after she has been rejected by the clerks

on Rodeo Drive. The way he makes sure she feels like a celebrity and then the way he pours his soul to her, helps him raise his self-esteem.

He realizes that money is not everything. And this change makes him want more from life. That is when he decides he wants Vivian for more than just a week. The fact that we can get so involved just by watching the actors' play is an evidence how great they are.

And in the end when Edward saves Vivian from being raped by his attorney and then lets her go, in spite of his feelings, we can see their big screen love. It is there pure and simple – two people that have a lot in common and equally good hearts fall in love with each other. At the last scenes when Vivian leaves Edward and his money to follow her dreams and to get her GED we can only admire her courage, strength and determination to finish her education after so many years. Few women dare to do that.

And that is what Vivian gets from Edward - a great romantic gesture. After he decides that he wants everything and he wants it with Vivian, he even goes against his fear of heights to show his affection to her. That is why he climbs the fire escape in his haste to tell her about his real feelings after emerging from a white limo and all of this is amid the melody of "La Traviata". Because in order to prove his feelings Edward tries to make Vivian's dream of the knight on a white horse come true. And after everything they went through they finally get their winning kiss.

Although Gere's up-to-date appraisal of the film is as "a distasteful and silly romantic comedy", the galaxy of stars in it guarantee an everlasting success at the box offices. The movie has been nominated and won many awards. The amazing sense of humor of scriptwriters and directors and the great team's work make this masterpiece stay forever in our hearts as one of the most romantic stories of all times.

We have added some pictures to our study in order to clear your notion of the film.

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The chosen by now movies represent the somewhat sweet part of Hollywood's film industry. It was hard for our characters to emerge from their own hard times and continue with their love. But it is time for us to take out the metaphorical "big guns" and talk about some serious complications that are in question. Our last two movies represent some of the most complicated romantic comedies in Hollywood.

Beware of the famous romantic comedy from 2009...

"He Is Just Not That Into You"

He is into you...or he is not. This is something we can never be sure of nowadays. More and more people are starting to look for mutual agreements that do not involve commitments of any kind. And the few people left that are still waiting for a serious relationship and real commitment to happen to them, have to look really hard to find the love of their life.

Our next movie proves that.

Today's relationships are very complicated. Our study aims to help you find the right path in this jungle of emotions. The embarrassment becomes more and more common for everyone. We would like not only to mention the romantic comedies with a happy end but to point the alienation of people from one another and the complex things that relationships among them have turned into. It really sounds unnatural for people to be like this and yet they cannot help it. In today's fast way of living no one has the time or patience to share romance with other people and to try again and again to find the prince/princess among all the frogs –

just like in the saying “You must kiss a lot of frogs before you find the right one”. And there are a lot of cases that prove the accuracy of this sentence.

Now let us scrutinize the film itself. This is maybe one of the most complicated things we had to talk about recently, because of its many characters and the relationships among them. The story is about nine people and all the things that could go right or wrong in their lovelife. There are four main groups and couples whose complicated love affairs we shall try to interpret for you.

First we have Gigi and Alex. Since most of the story is about them we start with it. Well...Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin) is one of the girls you just cannot forget...mostly because she will not let you to. She is constantly looking for her charming prince and of course constantly misunderstanding her companions' actions and words. She always frets over men not calling her after a date and wonders what is happening.

Yet after another failed date when her guy did not call her she stumbles into a bar and meets, the bar's owner and her last date's friend, Alex (Justin Long). He takes pity over her and decides to tell her some of the strategies that men use to help them elude women. And that is how their strange friendship begins. Gigi takes a new turn in her life and decides that from now on she will only interpret guys' actions and words as nothing more than what they are. However, nothing can be perfect and soon it occurs to her that Alex is actually interested in her. She once again imagines “signs” and obsesses over him, because of his eagerness to help her even when he is on a date. Finally Gigi makes a move on Alex. As a result he just reproaches her for not taking his advices seriously.

The angry Gigi responses to Alex that at least she tries and is not that bitter and cynical like him, and then she moves on with her life. And as usual now it is time for a change of the roles in the movie. The tough Alex becomes a “Gigi” himself. He cannot stop waiting for her to call or thinking about her. Eventually he decides to reveal his soul to her. Alex defines Gigi as an exception to the rule.

The story continues with the other unfortunate characters of this fiasco. Next in line are Janine, Ben and Anna.

Janine (Jennifer Connelly) is Gigi's friend and a colleague of hers. She and Ben (Bradley Cooper) are married, but have problems with their relationship. But while she turns all her attention to the renovations of their home Ben meets the beautiful yoga instructor Anna (Scarlett Johansson) and immediately feels attracted to her. Anna is also an aspiring singer and under the pretext that Ben is “helping” her they start an affair. Ben lies to Anna about his relationship with Janine. He tells her that she has literally pushed him to marry her. That is when Janine starts to find things like the packet of cigarettes in the back yard and starts asking questions. She is strictly against smoking because her father has died from lung cancer and that is why she begins to torment Ben with her stalking, and when he tells her they are not his, she starts asking their contractor Javier.

Janine decides to quit asking awkward questions. And then, out of the blue, Ben tells her about his unfaithfulness. She decides to be rational about everything and instead of leaving him she wants to fix things and save her marriage.

Ben continues to see Anna, and in an unfortunate accident in his office involving Anna hiding in a closet and Janine pleading for him to try and work on their relationship, things escalate. After Janine leaves Anna runs out of his office claiming she doesn't want to have anything to do with him. Then Janine finds a packet of cigarettes in his gym bag while making unpacking after the renovations and decides to throw him out and asks for a divorce.

In the end the three of them end up alone, but it might be a blessing in disguise.

The next three characters have an interesting and short story. One that is less dramatic and painful to watch than the previous ones, though you might see some familiar faces here.

Anna, Conor and Mary are our third story for today and for this movie. Like we said a familiar face – Anna (Scarlett Johansson) has had a close friendship with Conor (Kevin Connolly) for a long time that he, like Gigi, misinterpreted as something more than it is. He is also Alex's friend who dates Gigi without calling her afterwards, because he thought he is in love with Anna. That is why he does not give chances to other women, and when Anna comes to him after breaking up with Ben, he offers her to start a relationship with him. She accepts even if she does not exactly want a serious commitment after what had just happened to her. Meanwhile Anna's friend Mary (Drew Barrymore) is trying her best to find a man in the more and more common way – through the internet. She uses phones, pagers, My Space, e-mails and whatever you can think of, but a date never comes despite her best efforts. She also works in the ad sales for a Baltimore newspaper, and is contacting with Conor, only on the phone, in order to help him with his real estate business. As time passes, Conor decides that his relationship with Anna is strong enough and asks her to move in with him. However, Anna having pain in her chest, decides it is time to put an end to this relationship before something worse happened. She tells Conor she can't stay with him anymore and continues with her musical career. After some really unpleasant romantic experiences Mary also decides that she cannot go on living like that and is determined to date the old-fashioned way. Then she accidentally meets Conor and recognizes him from the ads she made for him and introduces herself. They find a real connection and finally start a relationship.

Our next step is to introduce to you the characters of Beth and Neil from the last but not the least story in the film.

Beth (Jennifer Aniston) is another colleague of Gigi's. She lives with her boyfriend Neil (Ben Affleck). They have a sound relationship and Beth wants to marry him, Neil does not believe in marriage and this is the only apple of contention between them. Neil is also Ben's friend and they like to hang out. After Gigi's new point of view over men, Beth decides to confront Neil about their relationship, and breaks up with him after his enduring refusal to believe in marriage.

Then Beth's younger sister is getting married and everything around the wedding reminds Beth of Neil and her problems with him. On the wedding day her father suffers a heart attack, but survives. In the weeks after that, when Beth's sisters sit around all they mopping and their husbands play video games in front of the TV, she is the only one keeping together everything and looking after her father. One day she finds Neil in the kitchen helping with the household when no one else bothers to do that, and just quits arguing with him. They get together and soon after that Neil proposes Beth and then they get married on his boat in a small and romantic ceremony.

In our opinion, the tips and the recorded comments that the director and the crew decided to put in between the scenes are a very happy method to attract the attention of the audience. Those notes are made by real ordinary people, who deal with these problems on a daily basis. Some of them are extremely funny, because every person's thinking is different and most points of view just do not match. We think that this was a brilliant move, because it provided the film with a touch of reality and made it even more unique.

This is a pretty thorough review of the loving intrigue in the movie, only in a lot more complicated and confused way. On screen these actors were brilliant and we could almost believe that everything was indeed a real story. This constellation of Hollywood stars, as well as the comedy itself, was nominated for a lot of awards and won the audience's hearts immediately. The pure nature of complex human relations and the contemporary style of relationships is one of the most interesting things of this movie as well as the captivating way all actors here interact with one another. All of this makes "He is just NOT that into you" authentic and realistic. Because in the end we all had had the same embarrassing and elating

experiences as the ones caught by the camera. We hope you enjoyed the summary we had prepared for you and you must be sure we had been pleased to.

For a more precise notion of the film we suggest to you the following photos.

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Now it is time for the last but not the least movie. By revealing it to you, we want to bring our point of view closer to the audience.

#### “Friends with Benefits”

At our disposal here is probably the most “romantic” thing modern people do with their relationships. They get something that is supposed to be nice and sound and twist it into convenience, because that is exactly what is happening nowadays.

At first maybe we should start with a little explanation of the term “friends with benefits” – by definition it means “people in a casual sexual relationship”. This means that people in such relationship want only the physical benefits of a relationship and not the emotional involvement. And what is the good of that? Well, it is a reasonable question but we still cannot find the exact answer for it. But let us try and present to you all the facts we can gather starting with the next summary..

And it is about two people in New York that have such a relationship just as the aforementioned ones. This last romantic comedy is about two young persons, unable to resist their love for each other, even though they try really hard to preserve from that. Jamie Rellis (Mila Kunis) and Dylan Harper (Justin Timberlake) are hired to do their job for GQ in New York. In fact, Jamie is employed there and tries to recruit Dylan who is not willing to work in a small magazine in Los Angeles. It is not easy but she succeeds and her big commission is on its way. But as a newcomer Dylan does not know anyone in NY and that is how he and Jamie start to hang out and then become good friends. One night, after watching a romantic comedy, they start a discussion on how much easier it could have been if relationships were not so complicated that ends with them starting to be friends with benefits.

This act does not promise a happy end, does it?

So after Jamie and Dylan start having sex, their relationship changes whether they realize it or not. But then Jamie decides that she wants more and wants to start dating again. And the “benefiting” part of their friendship ends. Then she meets a nice at first sight oncologist and thinks that he might be the one. We repeat “at first sight” because when, finally after a few dates, they “consume” their relationship he tells Jamie that he cannot be her Prince Charming and breaks up with her. And naturally the always good friend Dylan tries to help Jamie get over the break up and convinces her to go with him to LA for a family celebration of the 4th of July. She agrees and they meet his sister, nephew and father, who immediately love her. Everyone has a great time and Jamie and Dylan share some very intimate moments by getting even more familiar than before. Later Jamie overhears a conversation between Dylan and his sister, where he says that he does not have feelings for her at all, and that is just when Jamie decides to tell Dylan she has feelings for him. She decides to go back to New York and when a few days later Dylan comes back he finds that Jamie is ignoring him completely.

He tries to talk to her, but she refuses and continues to avoid him. Eventually Dylan succeeds in trying to talk to her and she tells him what she overheard and that she does not want any kind of friendship with him.

They continue with their lives and when Jamie hears that Dylan plans on switching to another agency before the end of his contract, which would affect her commission, she confronts him about it. All of this leads to another big argument after which they both begin a



journey to find themselves. After a talk with her mother Jamie makes some decisions. Dylan talks to his sister on the phone only to hear that he has to pick his father, who suffers from early stages of the Alzheimer's disease, from the airport. While they have lunch there and talk his father sees a woman, and in a moment of his confusion, thinks that she is a woman he saw years ago in the army. He tells Dylan that he regretted letting her go, because she has been the love of his life, and then tells Dylan that if he meets such a woman he has to do whatever it takes and be with her. And this is how he takes his own decision.

With some help from Jamie's mother Dylan arranges a big flash mob (the one thing that has tipped the scales for him to stay in NY) at the airport, where she is supposed to "pick" her mother up from. He meets her there and tells her about his true feelings.

After a passionate kiss they decide to go to their first date and after that they have their perfect happy ending.

This is how unexpectedly our last romantic comedy ends. It is high time for us to show you the pictures that have inspired us to choose this movie.

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#### Conclusion:

The four movies that our study examines belong to the so-called "romantic comedies". The subject of this genre is the romantic love. According to the German sociologist Günter Burkart the romantic love is a specific kind of love. This concept is comparatively new and originates from the epoch of the European Romanticism (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century). Its principle is to juxtapose one's interior background to the impersonal relations in the material world.

(Burkart 1997/1998; Corsten, 1993, Lenz 2003,a ) etc. [Romantische Liebe - Gender. So What?!](#)

The up-to-date ideal of the romantic love has got the following features:

- The inner emotion of an immense affection determined by an intimate or even sexual communication between two people
- The hope that the partner is willing to share the same loving feelings in a certain long lasting matrimony
- The romantic love is considered a unique kind of relationship between two people
- The main feature of the romantic love is the stipulation for maximum individualization of the loving and the being loved ones

These features prove that the romantic love does not necessarily mean partnerships. Such relations require mutual share and equal interchange of loving values by both partners. This interchange is not indispensable in the romantic love. Its lack does not always cause the end of the love affair. That is the reason why the romantic love is not liable to any definitions and rational perceptions. The evidence for this could be the characters in the four abovementioned movies. Despite the distance in time and the different social statutes their loving experiences prove our theory.

According to the movies the subject of one's pursuit in love and intimate relationships is above all a validation of oneself. The romantic love in the contemporary western society is a means to achieve the so much hunted uniqueness.

The chosen by us films reveal not just some moving love stories but also the social ideal for romantic love. For example, the characters in the movie "He Is Just Not That Into You" grant priority of love over the marriage. That is why the relationship between Janine and Ben ends with a divorce, and the one between Beth and Neil with a matrimony.

For most of the people the romantic love means something unprecedented and beyond common imagination. Such is the case of Holly Golightly in the movie “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”. She could not guess what test she would face on her way to confirm selfness through the love with Paul Verjack. The romantic love presumes a free choice of a loving object. Only the qualities of the beloved ones determine this choice. That is how the characters Vivian and Edward from the movie “Pretty Woman” and Jamie and Dylan from the movie “Friends with Benefits” make up their mind about the future of their love-affairs. And maybe this would turn their relationship into a happy one.

The ideal of the romantic love endures in the socio-cultural model of the modern western world despite the dynamic and the rationalism of this society. Even nowadays most of the people long to make their choice in love free, without any exterior interference. They attach importance to the lover’s unique characteristics. The marriage as an opportunity for emotional experiences and for reproduction is of great significance but not necessary for them. We believe that namely due to everything already mentioned on this topic the romantic love cannot extinct. In spite of the generations alternate there is a hope that it will remain a basic feature of the socio-cultural model of our society, for even modern people need a romance.

Sources of information and inspiration:

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