

## #LIVE, LOVE & ROLL

### Old Hindi Movies for V-Day

Don't hesitate to take the old movie and dinner route, this *V-Day!*

The season of romance is upon us. If you are stuck for 'romantic things' to do with your partner/better half, don't hesitate to take the old movie and dinner route. Here are some *old-time romantic movies* that are back on the big screen.

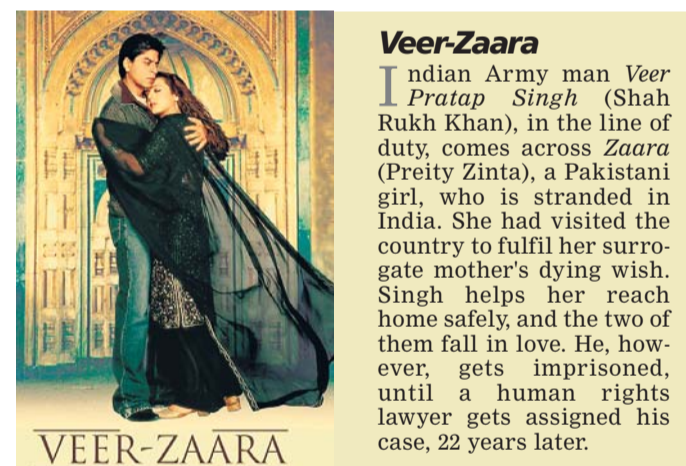
#### Jab We Met

A perky, chatty *Geet* (Kareena Kapoor) meets a solemn *Aditya* (Shahid Kapoor), who is on the run from his problems. The duo end up in Bhatinda, where Aditya meets Geet's family. Kapoor runs away from home to meet her boyfriend *Anshuman* and Aditya returns to Mumbai, where he takes a handle on things. Years later, when Aditya seeks out Geet, he realises that she's the heartbroken shell of the woman he had met.



#### Dil Toh Pagal Hai

This one's a love triangle. Dance director *Rahul* (Shah Rukh Khan), is in search of the right heroine for what will be his biggest production ever! A star dancer on his troupe, *Nisha* (Karisma Kapoor) gets jealous, when he discovers *Pooja* (Madhuri Dixit), a beautiful dancer. Who will the hero choose?



#### Veer-Zaara

Indian Army man *Veer Pratap Singh* (Shah Rukh Khan), in the line of duty, comes across *Zaara* (Preity Zinta), a Pakistani girl, who is stranded in India. She had visited the country to fulfil her surrogate mother's dying wish. Singh helps her reach home safely, and the two of them fall in love. He, however, gets imprisoned, until a human rights lawyer gets assigned his case, 22 years later.



#### Mohabbatein

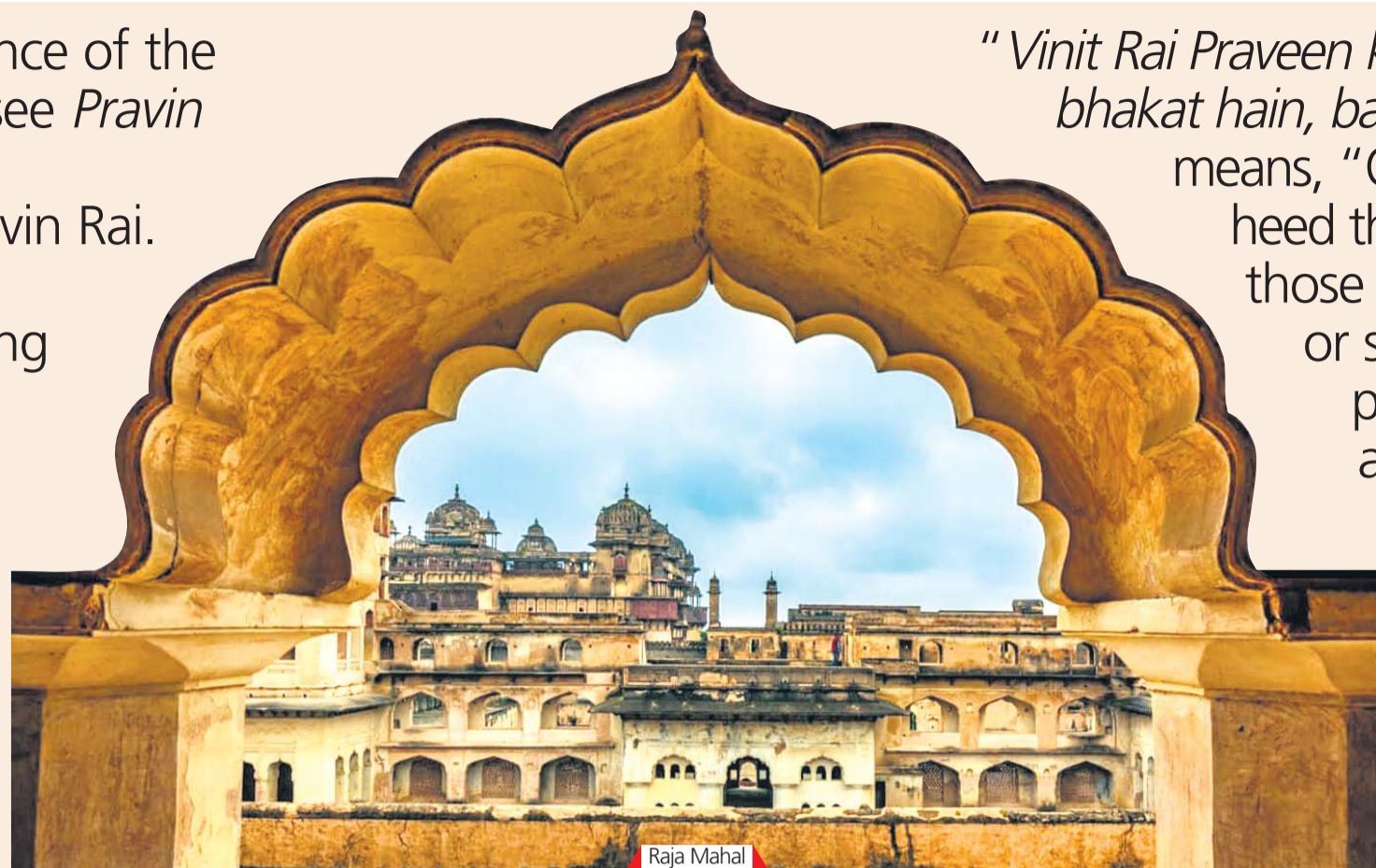
This movie is the story of three youngsters, who study in a boarding school, run by a very strict headmaster, *Narayan*. Then comes a music teacher, *Raj Aryan* (Shah Rukh Khan). He helps the students pursue their love interests against the wishes of the headmaster.

#### Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani



This movie starring Deepika Padukone and Ranbir Kapoor, is the typical tale of a jock falling in love with a nerd. Only in this one, the jock is an ambitious journalist, who travels the world, before he finds himself and realises that he is in love with her.

While standing at the entrance of the *Jahangir mahal*, one could see *Pravin Mahal*, the residence of the 'Nightingale of Orchha,' Pravin Rai. Pravin Rai was a cherished courtesan in the court of King Indrajit Singh of the Orchha State. Legend has it that Emperor Akbar, intrigued by tales of her beauty and poetry, summoned her to his court. Upon her arrival, Pravin Rai recited a couplet.



Raja Mahal

"Vinit Rai Praveen ki, suniye sah sujan. Juthi patar bhakat hain, bari, bayas, swan." Translated, it means, "Oh great and wise one! Please heed the words of Rai Praveen. Only those of low caste, such as barbers or scavengers, would eat from a plate that had been shared by another." With this verse, she subtly expressed her love for Indrajit. Impressed by her wit and poise, Akbar honored her and sent her back to Indrajit with respect.

## Timeless Charms of Orchha



Vikram Joshi  
Textile Technologist & Historian

I always harbored a deep-seated desire to explore the heartland of India, specifically *Madhya Pradesh*, but tales of poor road conditions from fellow travellers had always deterred me in the past. However, a couple of months ago, spurred by a new-found sense of adventure, my companions and I made a bold decision to embark on a road trip to *Madhya Pradesh*, with the enchanting *Panna Tiger Reserve* as our New Year destination. With the invaluable guidance of Major Chandrakant, a seasoned travel writer and adventurer, we were introduced to the owner of Ken River Resort in Panna, setting the stage for an unforgettable journey, filled with exploration and discovery.

Before reaching Panna, we decided to make a brief stop in *Orchha*, a quaint town, nestled amidst the scenic beauty of Madhya Pradesh, another recommendation from Major Chandrakant. Little did I know that this stopover would prove to be an enchanting journey through time, where historical wonders seamlessly came to life, leaving an



Orchha Fort.

indelible mark on my soul. Orchha, steeped in rich heritage and surrounded by breathtaking natural vistas, welcomed us with open arms. Its most prominent landmark, the *Orchha Fort*, stood proudly as an iconic testament to the grandeur of bygone eras. As we stepped foot into the fort, I was immediately transported to a world, where history whispered its tales through the ancient walls and architecture. Dating back to the 16th century, the *Orchha Fort* captivated me with its towering spires, formidable bastions, and intricate detailing that reflected the architectural brilliance of its time. Our knowledgeable guide, Sunil Singh, born in Agra but now a dedicated travel assistant, provided invaluable insights into the region's rich history as we wandered through the labyrinthine corridors of the fort.

The *Raja Mahal*, a true architectural masterpiece within the fort complex, offered a glimpse into the artistic prowess of the Bundela rulers. Its intricate frescoes, depicting mythological tales and vibrant scenes from daily life, served as a vivid testament to the fusion of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles. Similarly, the *Jahangir Mahal*, another gem within the fort complex, narrated

stories of alliances and diplomacy through its harmonious blend of Mughal and Rajput elements. The construction of the fort followed the establishment of the *Orchha State* in 1501 AD by Rudra Pratap Singh (r. 1501-1531). A *Bundela Rajput*. Over time, the palaces and temples within the fort complex were added by successive *Maharajas* of the Orchha State. Among these, the *Raja Mandir* or *Raja Mahal* was commissioned by Madhukar Shah, who ruled from 1554 to 1591. The *Jahangir Mahal* and *Sawan Bhadon Mahal* were constructed during the reign of Vir Singh Deo (r. 1605-1627). Notably, the architectural features of 'pepper pots and domes,' observed in the fort complex served as inspiration for *Lutyens* in designing structures in New Delhi.

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### #PLACES



Raja Ram Mandir.

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Beyond its historical monu-

### Valentine's Day



love and romance. Candy and flowers. Cards and gifts. Dinner and dancing. *Valentine's Day* comes along with a whole host of plans and accommodations that are meant to all boil down to one thing, *Love*. And it all comes in the name of one man, *St. Valentine*, who was an interesting (and perhaps, slightly misunderstood) character in history. *Valentine's day* is filled with love, romance and sweet gestures and it is the perfect opportunity to show affection towards those 'special people' in your life.

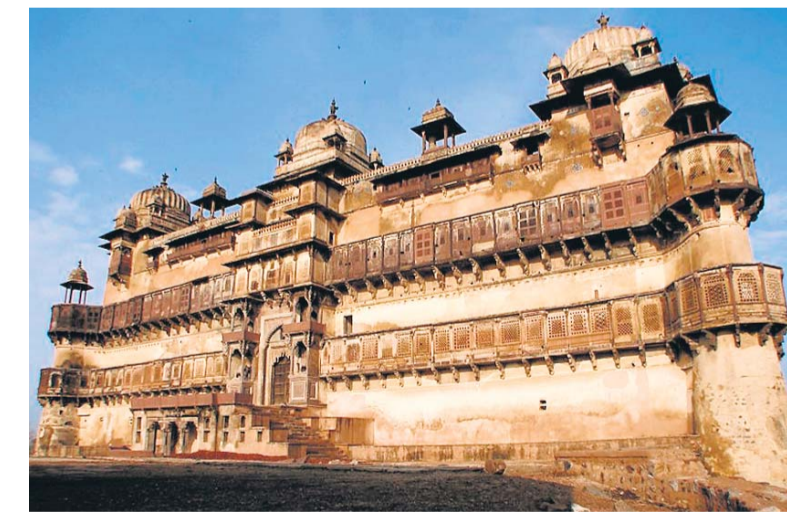
*Rama* is regarded as the 'King of Orchha.' Orchha is the only place in India other than Ayodhya, where lord *Rama* is also the King of the town. The story behind this goes like this. In 16th century, King Madhukar Shah of Orchha was a devotee of *Lord Krishna* whereas his wife, queen *Kunwar Ganesh* was a devotee of *Lord Rama*. There were always disputes due to this difference. Once king challenged the queen that if *Rama* really exist, then bring him to Orchha. Queen went to Ayodhya and prayed for 21 days with rigorous penance to *lord Rama*. At last, *Rama* appeared before her in his child form and agreed to go with her on three conditions. First, that he will be the only king of *Orchha*, there will be no other king. Second, that wherever he is placed once, he will remain there only and third, that he will go at a particular time and with some monks. Queen accepted the conditions and thus, *Rama* (statue, representing *Rama* himself) was

ruler when they visit Orchha. This aspect makes Orchha 'a unique place' for devotees of lord *Rama*. Climbing to the *Chaturbhuj Temple*, dedicated to *Lord Rama*, I was enveloped in a spiritual aura that seemed to transcend time itself. The temple's distinctive design, with its towering spires and ornate exteriors, exuded a serene ambience that invited introspection and reflection.

Orchha's culinary offerings added another layer to my sensory journey, with the flavors of *Bundelkhandi cuisine* tantalizing my taste buds. From savory *poha* to delectable *jalebi*, each bite was a gastronomic delight that mirrored the diverse tastes of the region, offering a true feast for the senses.

In conclusion, my visit to Orchha was a symphony of historical marvels, natural beauty, and cultural richness. The town's timeless appeal, encapsulated in its architectural wonders, vibrant markets, and warm community, made this journey an 'unforgettable exploration of India's heritage.' Orchha stands as a 'living testament' to the glorious chapters of the past, inviting every visitor to become a part of its rich tapestry of history and culture. As we continued our journey to *Panna Tiger Reserve*, I carried with me memories of Orchha that would last a lifetime, eager to uncover more hidden gems in the heartland of *Madhya Pradesh*.

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Jahangir Mahal.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

### BABY BLUES

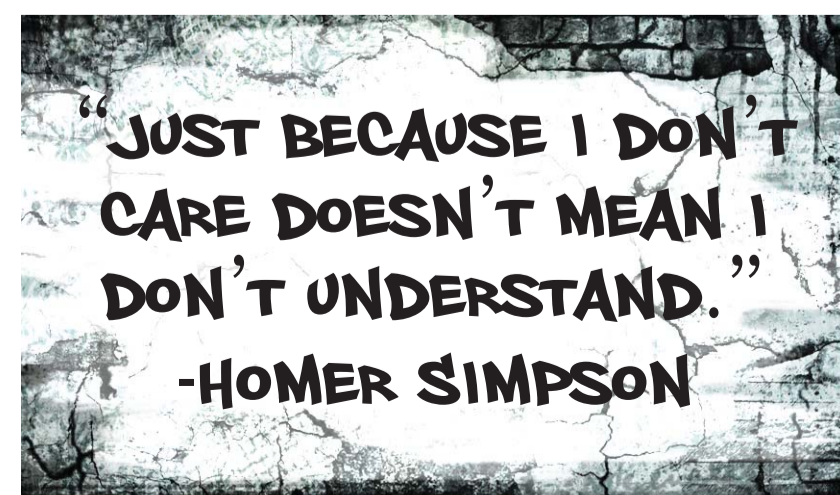


### ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

### THE WALL



## #LOVE SPECIAL

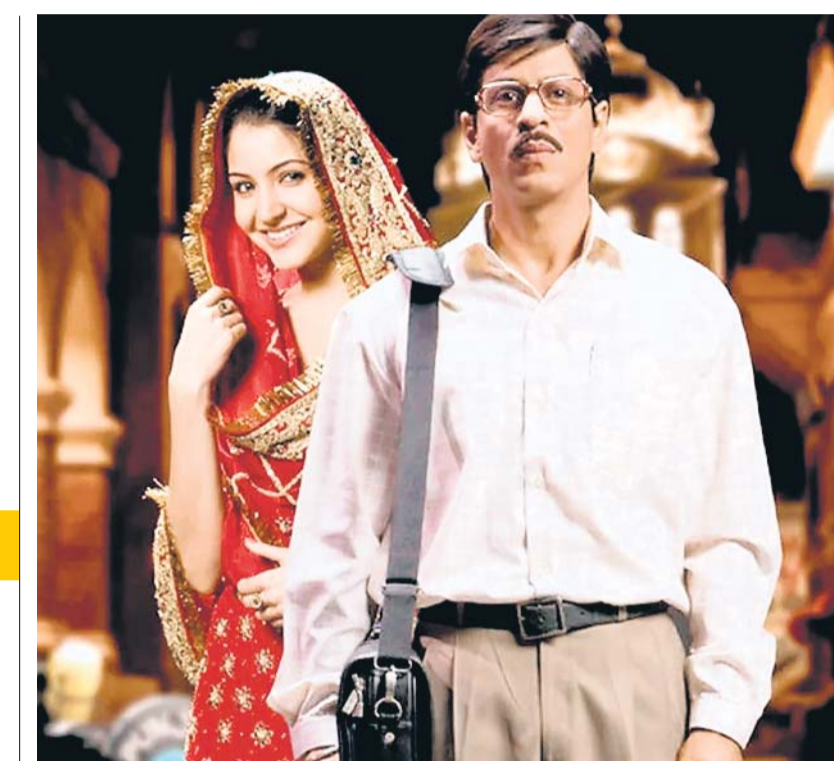
### Bollywood Soft Boys

From airport chases to alter egos, these soft boys are proof that if he wanted to, he would.

Finding love is hard, especially in the digital age. As terms like situationships, ghosting and gaslighting take over our dating lexicon and toxic masculinity is glorified in Bollywood and on the internet, women often get the shorter end of the stick. This *Valentine's Day*, these 'Bollywood soft boys' are a reminder to not settle for the bare minimum. If *Jai Singh Rathore* in *'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na'* could ride a horse to the airport to confess his love for *Aditi* and *Surinder Singh* could create an entire 'alter ego' to win his wife over in *'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi'*, the guy you like can definitely text you back.

#### Siddharth Sinha in 'Dil Chahata Hai' (2001)

Farhan Akhtar's directorial debut depicts three friends with completely different ideas of 'love.' *Akash*, played by *Aamir Khan*, does not believe in love at all. *Sameer* (Saif Ali Khan) is a hopeless romantic (often to his detriment) and *Siddharth Sinha* (Akshaye Khanna) is the most mature of the three and the official 'soft boy' of the film. With a youthful smile and artistic prowess, Siddharth is, undoubtedly, a catch. We get to witness his romantic, sensitive side when he falls for his older neighbour, *Tara* (Dimple Kapadia) while he helps her move in. Not all soft, artsy boys are gaslighters, who knew?



#### Surinder Sahnii in 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi' (2008)

'*Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*' is a testament to how no one is exempt from the transformative powers of a wardrobe overhaul. From a handlebar-moustachioed, shirt-and-pant businessman with glasses to a spiky-haired, Oakley sunglasses dude, *Surinder Sahnii* (Shah Rukh Khan) changes his entire personality to make his wife, *Taanii Gupta* (Anushka Sharma) happy. Through his alter ego, *Surinder* dances his way into *Taanii's* heart, turning their arranged marriage disaster into a sweet love story. If he wanted to, he would change his entire personality!

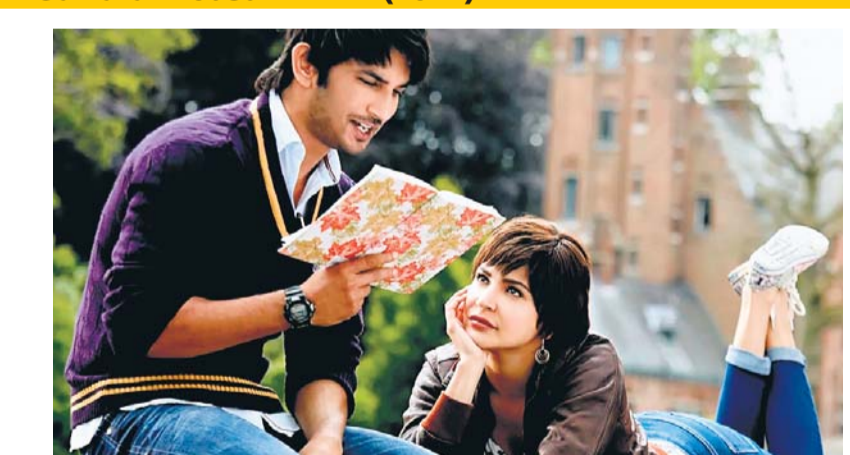
#### Jai Singh Rathore in 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na' (2008)



Imran Khan's *Jai Singh Rathore* runs through the airport for *Genelia D'Souza's Aditi*, on a horse, setting the standard high for best friends-to-lovers everywhere. With his graphic tees, moussed-up hair and cheeky

smile, *Jai* stole our hearts, comforting *Aditi* with lyrics that worm their way into our minds on challenging days. "*Woh Jo dichadite hai ek na ek din phir mil jaate hai, Aditi, jaane tu ya jaane-naa phool phir khil jaate hai...*"

#### Sarfaraz Yousuf in 'PK' (2014)



Oh, to be strolling the streets of Belgium with *Sushant Singh Rajput's Sarfaraz!* In this colourful *Rajkumar Hirani* film, *Sarfaraz* loves *Jagat* (Anushka Sharma), and their story comes to an abrupt halt when she receives

an unsigned letter from him, calling off their engagement. Still, we soak up the moments when we get *Sarfaraz* in a dark academic-style vest and satchel, grinning while cycling and giving ultimate 'soft boy' vibes.

#### Varun Srivastava in 'Lootera' (2013)



If you're on the lookout for tragic love stories, you can't go wrong with *Lootera* (2013). Featuring *Ranveer Singh's Varun Srivastava*, dressed in soft cashmere sweaters and slicked-back hair, the film showcases his infatuation with *Sonakshi Sinha's Pakhi*. Living in a sprawling estate belonging to her father, the two exchange coy looks and bond over literature and art. The film's second half reveals that *Varun* is a thief and betrays *Pakhi*, now suffering from tuberculosis. Still, his softness and regret reunite them for whatever little time *Pakhi* has left. *Soft boys* will break your heart, but they will paint your masterpieces, at least that's what we got from this thought-provoking film.

#### Raj Malhotra in 'DDLJ' (1995)

Shah Rukh Khan put on his leather bomber jacket, slung a guitar over his back and set out to rule the '90s. '*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge's Raj Malhotra* changed history when he fell in love with *Kajol's Simran* through Switzerland's mountains and Haryana's sunflower fields. Setting high standards for every Indian man, *Raj* turned from a catty, bickering flirt to a poetic 'soft boy' within months. When we think of 'soft boy' we think of chocolate brown eyes and a guitar riff, and for a good reason.