

THE ETERNAL CITY AND ETERNAL LOVE IN THE ROSE "ROMAN HOLIDAY"

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Abstract

The authors present the movie "Roman Holiday" (USA, 1953) in unusual way, namely the consideration of the relationship between characters not only in the movie but also in life. We focus on the relation between Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. They became lifelong friends through "Roman Holiday".

What is love? What should love look like? For thousands of years, countless people have practiced and explored, but no one has found a standard answer.

This "love story" with seemingly imperfect endings are always more moving and attractive than stories with perfect endings, and they have a kind of infinite space for imagination.

The authors don't interpret the friendship between two people as love wishful thinking, it may be slightly wrong to these two people of the century who are respected by the audience. But from a certain point of view, touching and beautiful love stories are widely circulated, and it can also make many young people understand that love that is destined to be unfulfilled requires restraint and will become better because of restraint.

The authors describe the rose "Roman Holiday" (1966), and give biological characteristics of the rose "Roman Holiday".

Key words: the movie "Roman Holiday" (USA, 1953), Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, lifelong friends, love, friendship, Rabindranath Tagore, the rose "Roman Holiday" (1966).

**Clad in the light of a pole-star piercing the darkness of time:
You become an image of what is remembered forever
*Rabindranath Tagore***

"Roman Holiday" is considered one of the great romance stories of 1950s classic cinema, yet, the film is more making a statement about the profound experience two people can discover by prioritizing their connection and not rushing into romantic couplehood simply because there is attraction there. If you focus on the other person, understand who they are, and feed into their energy, aren't possibilities for mutual stimulation and individual learning endless as the thing begins? [47].

Roman Holiday (1953, USA) is one of our favourite films and this article is devoted to the stars of the world cinema Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, and the rose *Roman Holiday*, which keeps the secret of love of the main characters from the film *Roman Holiday*: only in the movie or in their real life? (see the movie [58]).

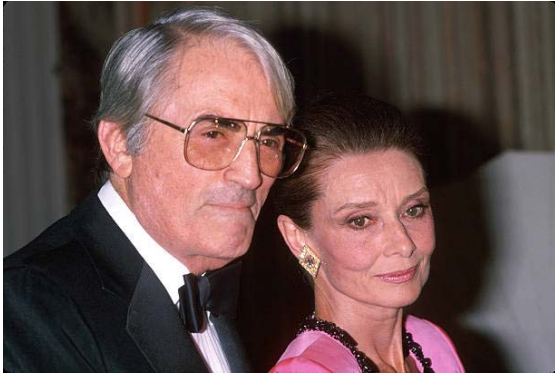


Fig. 1. Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, 1988.

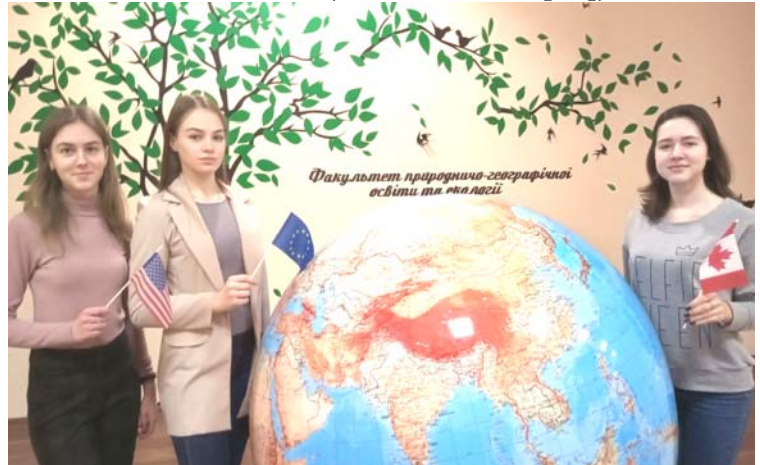


Fig. 2. Our project group: Kirilchuk N. [35] (left), Maksymenko A., and Porokhnitska A. [54; 55] (right).



Fig. 3. *Roman Holiday* (1953, USA). Ann (Audrey Hepburn), A European princess, and Joe Bradley (Gregory Peck).



Fig. 4. The *Roman Holiday* Rose, 1966.

And, on a relationship level of lessoning, the film is saying, if two people are attracted, there are options besides couplehood; they don't even need to be together, physically, to have "won" with each other. *Roman Holiday* asks us, what is a holiday capable of giving? A holiday, by definition – its etymological meaning is a "holy day" – takes us away from our routine doing. But, what if a holiday gives us an opportunity to access more of the surprising, innermost parts of ourselves that are there all along? Letting go, going deep, is a gift we give to ourselves. If there is someone who vibes at that frequency with you, let that access loose [47].

Roman Holiday was a commercial success, finishing 22nd in the box office in 1953. The film continued to garner money after its release, with "modern sources

noting it earned \$10 million total at the box office". Critics praised Peck's performance (Fig. 3, 5, 7); Bosley Crowther stated that "Peck makes a stalwart and manly escort...whose eyes belie his restrained exterior," while the Hollywood Reporter commented that "Peck turns in another of his outstanding performances playing the love-smitten reporter with intelligence and good-humored conviction." The film was met with critical acclaim. It was nominated for multiple accolades, including 8 Academy Awards, with Hepburn winning for Best Actress; Peck also scored a BAFTA nomination for Foreign Actor. At the 1955 Golden Globe awards, Peck and Hepburn were named the World Film Favorite Award winners for their respective genders [22].



Fig. 5. *Roman Holiday* (1953, USA).



**Fig. 6. The Rose
Roman Holiday, 1966.**



Fig. 7. In Joy's flat.

Peck stated that he had told his agent "I'm smart enough to know this girl's going to win the Oscar in her first picture, and I'm going to look like a damned fool if her name is not up there on top with mine" [22], **see the video [12]**.

Roman Holiday (1953) was the Hollywood romantic comedy that introduced Audrey Hepburn in a leading role and immediately established her as a star – she won the Academy Award for Best Actress [69] (Fig. 3, 5, 7, 8, 10).



Fig. 8. 26th annual Academy Awards. New York Ceremony on March 25, 1954. Best Actress winner Audrey Hepburn for "*Roman Holiday*".



**Fig. 9. The Rose
Audrey Hepburn (1991).**



Fig. 10. Audrey Hepburn with her Oscar, 1954.

The film was shot entirely in studios and locations in Rome [17; 33; 34; 38; 39; 42; 73; 75; 76] and seems to feature a famous monument or ancient site in the background of almost every outdoor shot [69], **see the video [60; 61]**.

"It was my good luck during that summer in Rome to be the first of her cinema swings, to hold out my hand and help her keep her balance as she did her spins and pirouettes and made..." said Gregory Peck, one of the most popular film stars (Fig. 11, 12; 13). In 1999, the American Film Institute named Peck among 25 Greatest Male Stars of Classic Hollywood Cinema, ranking him at No. 12 [22], **see the video [25]**.



Fig. 11. The cast and crew leaving Rome after the filming of *Roman Holiday* (1953).

Roman Holiday is a romantic comedy about a princess who rebels against royal restraints – and falls in love with an American journalist [64].

Of course, the film's outer theme is about a romantic relationship that never took flight. It was rumored,

by the way, that Peck and Hepburn had their own offscreen amorous relationship during the shooting. However, since Peck was a married man with 3 children, they apparently mutually agreed to terminate the affair. In any case, what does it all amount to? Was it just a one-day flirtation, a momentary fantasy that merely created a



Fig. 12. "...to hold out my hand and help her" (Gregory Peck).



Fig. 13. On the Spanish steps, *Roman Holiday*, 1953.

nice memory? Perhaps. But the story here uncovers the kind of crucial-to-life opportunity that rarely comes along – true love. In this film's case, that opportunity was abandoned in favor of attendance to mundane responsibilities. That crucial opportunity should not have been lost... [69]. (Fig. 13).

"You have to be a little bit in love with your leading man and vice versa," Audrey has said, who was rumored to have really fallen for Gregory Peck on the set. "If you're going to portray love, you have to feel it. You can't do it any other way" [8] (Fig. 13, 15).

During *Roman Holiday* she was 24, Gregory Peck was 37 years old. He was 13 years older than Audrey (Fig. 14). Gregory Peck was married to Finnish-born Greta Kukkonen for a while and had three sons from her. But this marriage failed because it was too hard for Greta to share her husband with his another passion – his work (Fig. 16). Thirteen years later, the couple had an amicable divorce in 1955. After a painful divorce, Gregory Peck focused on his work.



Fig. 14. G.Peck and A.Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*, 1953.



Fig. 15. The Roman Holiday rose.



Fig. 16. Gregory Peck, Greta Kukkonen (left), Audrey Hupburn (right), during *Roman Holiday*, 1953.

Peck's marriage to the former Greta Kukkonen was an unhappy one at this point, and there were many rumors of his dalliances with other women. Still, they remained together for the sake of their three children, and the whole family went to Rome together. On the way there, however, at Paramount's request, Peck stopped in Paris to do an interview [18, p. 175–177]. The reporter was a lovely young woman named Veronique Passani. She visited Rome to interview Peck again during the shoot, and Wyler said that's when the two fell in love (though Peck always maintained it wasn't until later). Whatever the timeline, Peck and Passani were married on December 31, 1955, shortly after his divorce from Greta was finalized.

They remained married for the rest of Peck's life [67].

In 1952 Hepburn became engaged to James Hanson (Fig. 17). While filming *Roman Holiday*, *Express* reports that Hepburn was busily planning the wedding, rushing out of rehearsals to get her ivory satin gown fitted (Fig. 18). When



Fig. 17. Audrey Hepburn and James Hanson, 1952. Fig. 18. Audrey Hepburn in her gown dress, 1952.

Hepburn was filming her break-through role in *Roman Holiday* in the Italian capital, she was rushing from rehearsals to the couturiers run by the Fontana Sisters at the foot of the Spanish Steps ([see the video \[5\]](#), where she had several fittings. In love with a rich, powerful and handsome man, it looked as if Hepburn was going to have everything – a marriage to a loving, protective husband, children and a career [43; 45].

But in the time it took to adjust the seams and secure the buttons, doubt had set in and Hepburn called off the wedding. (The unworn bridal gown, with its 21-inch waist and stream of tiny buttons along the back, has since been auctioned off). Hepburn broke off the engagement with the powerful businessman – who would later become "the archetypal corporate raider of the 1980s" – and wrote about her disappointment over the split in one of her cursive correspondences (Fig. 17).

"It is with a heavy heart I am writing to tell you James Hanson and I are no longer engaged," Hepburn wrote her friend. "I know there is little I need explain to you, a gentleman of this profession. For a year I thought it possible to make our combined lives and careers work out... It is all very unhappy making but I am sure it is the only sensible decision" [43; 45].

The gown was hanging in the shop of the Fontana Sisters in Rome. Audrey asked the sisters to give the dress to a beautiful Italian girl who would never be able to afford such a dress. The sisters carried out Audrey's generous request, and Amabile Altobella had the wedding gown of her dreams as a gift from Audrey [11] (Fig. 18).

In December 1953 Gregory introduced her to Mel Ferrer at a party (Mel and Greg were friends (Fig. 18). Ignoring the warning signs, the actress dove headfirst into a romance with the divorced father of five, who was still married to his third wife. They wed a year later, but the union spelled trouble from the start. "Mel was an unpleasant, difficult, controlling person. He was jealous of Audrey's fame" [8], Fig. 19.

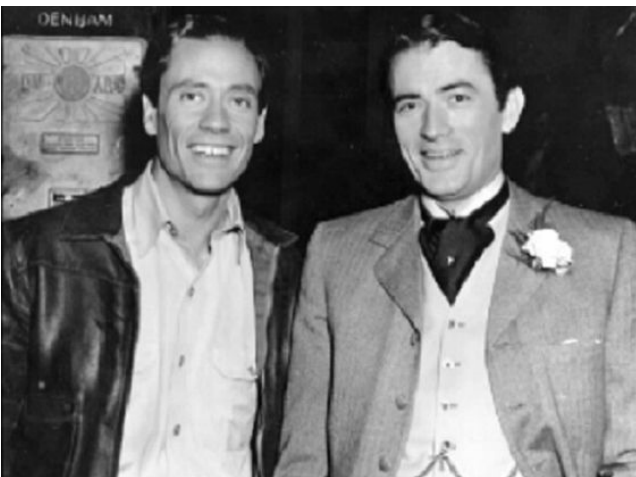


Fig. 18. Mel and Greg, 1955.



Fig. 19. Audrey and Mel Ferrer (September, 1954).

In spite of her best efforts, she never succeeded in achieving a "normal married life".

Following the disengagement, she went on to marry the actor Mel Ferrer (1954) (Fig. 20), (see the video [80]). Hepburn's mother called Ferrer a "frog faced delinquent with the spindly legs" and accused Ferrer, who married five times, of causing "sufficient havoc to last a long time." She vented, "I believe that Audrey is getting rather sick of the neurotic side to him!" [43].

And what about Gregory Peck?

During an interview in 1953, Peck met a French journalist, Véronique Passani, who interviewed him before he went to Italy to shoot "Roman Holidays." Seven months later, the couple started dating.

On New Year's Eve of 1955, the day after his divorce from Kukkonen was made final, Passani and Peck got married (Fig. 20). For love, she gives up her job, and from their union, they had two children, Anthony (b. 1956) and Cecilia (b. 1958). The couple stayed together till Peck's death from bronchopneumonia in 2003 [15].

Let's take a look at the photos of A. Hepburn (Fig. 19) and E. Passani (Fig.20, 21). Don't you find they look alike?

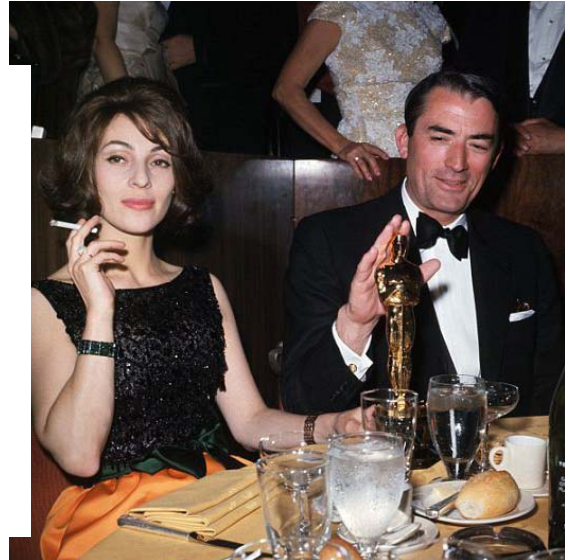


Fig. 20. Passani and Peck (1963). Fig. 21. Oscar winner: Peck and his wife on the night when he won an Oscar for the film, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1963.

After 14 years Audrey Hupbern and Mel Ferrer divorced. 'I can't tell you how disillusioned I was,' Hepburn later said, according to biographer Barry Paris' Audrey Hepburn, "I'd tried and tried" [19].

In 1969 she married Andrea Dotti (1969) (Fig. 22), an Italian psychologist. They divorced and she spent her remaining years happily attached, though not married, to Dutch actor Robert Wolders, probably the only man with whom she was content [43; 45] (Fig. 23).



Fig. 22. Audrey and Andrea Dotti's wedding day, January 18, 1969.

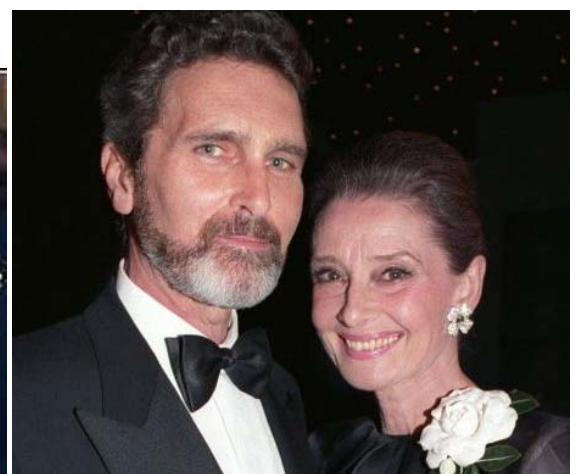


Fig. 23. Audrey and Robert Wolders. The Bafta Awards at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Britain, 1992.

Hepburn's traumatic and courageous experiences during the war (1939–1945) and the malnutrition which accounted for her wraithlike physique, combined to forge her personality. Her sense of insecurity never left her and she felt in constant need of affection. Moreover, her mother had instilled in her the tenets of selflessness, to think of others first and not to talk about herself. "you are not interesting," she declared. "It's others who matter" [45].

From that time on Hepburn would gravitate towards men who offered her both security and protection and who could speak for her as well as themselves. James Hanson filled the bill admirably at first. But as an entrepreneurial industrialist he simply had no understanding of the pressures of life in the movies [45].

With roles in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), *Funny Face* (1957), and *Roman Holiday* (1953), Fig. 23, 24, 25. Audrey established herself as a new type of



Fig. 23. *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 1961.



Fig. 24. *Funny Face*, 1957.



Fig. 25. *Roman Holiday*, Rome, 1953.

Hollywood actress in the 1950s as her elegant bearing and elfin beauty set her apart from the voluptuous bombshells of the day Yet for all of her charm, Audrey suffered a lifetime of heartbreak, two regrettable marriages and several rumored affairs – and only found a devoted companion in her later years [8].

She was once the most publicly adored woman in the world, yet felt a deep lack of love in her private life. Now a new film about Audrey Hepburn (*Audrey*, 2020, Director Helena Coan, **see the documantary [6]**), the first made with the consent of her family, reveals her extraordinary sadness and pain as she candidly discusses her life [70].

"She's seen as this paragon of perfection and beauty, but the film was about showing the person underneath that. She suffered massively with insecurities about her looks and with men," said Coan [70].

"The best-kept secret about Audrey was that she was sad," says her oldest granddaughter Emma Ferrer, who was born a year after her grandmother [70].

"The emotional high point of the film is when she reveals how much she struggled to find love," said Coan, who studied hundreds of hours of archive footage and material to piece together a lesser-known side of Hepburn's life. "Her second husband was photographed with 200 different women he was having affairs with, he was insanely adulterous, and she suffered at his hands," said Coan, who interviewed a number of friends who knew the couple [70].

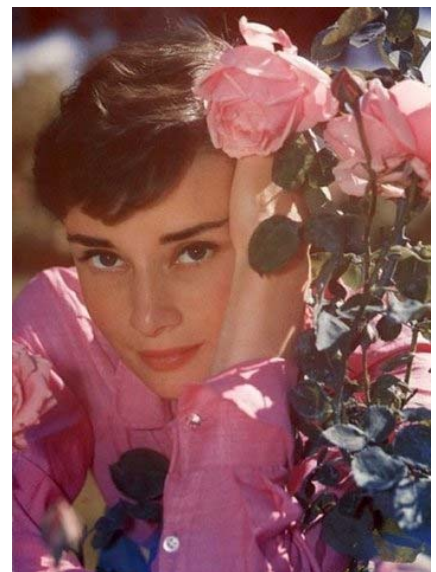
There may have been countless times when Gregory Peck listened to Audrey Hepburn on the other end of the phone talking about the unsatisfactory marriage life, and felt the pain of Audrey Hepburn's love failure in the text of the letter. The surface is calm and the waves are calm, but the heart is already galloping, and all the distress and care are turned into listening, comforting and silent company. There is nothing he can do, and that's all he can do [13].



Has known each other for more than 40 years, Fig. 26. Gr. Peck & A. Hepburn, 1988.

and there is indeed friendship between the two, perhaps as rumored to have love – they are only one step away, but they are close to the horizon [13], Fig. 26.

"I believe in pink. I believe that laughing is the best calorie burner. I believe in kissing, kissing a lot. I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day and I believe in miracles" [78], Fig. 27.



"Rose's covenant". Entering the Hepburn era in Shanghai in 2019 (Fig 28). Open the curtain. The butterfly hall is very attractive. Five thousand Butterflies are made of paper butterflies, and SWAROVSKI, the world's Fig. 27. Audrey and roses. leading Seiko cutting crystal product manufacturer, is also among them. Two thousand The butterfly adorned the SWAROVSKI element, bringing glory and glory to Audrey

Hepburn, the angel who crossed the era. Each butterfly is inlaid with six hundred a lot of SWAROVSKI elements, sparkling and smart, are also magnificent [44], Fig. 29.

The Museum of art has become a dream space, leading audiences back to the gorgeous, dreamy age from multiple angles such as film, music, photography, literature, art, pop culture and fashion life [44].



Fig. 28. The Museum of art in Shanghai (China), 2019.



Fig. 29. Dancing butterflies of SWAROVSKI

Among the many beautiful legends of the angels, there is a story about about butterfly brooches.

After the "Roman Holiday" became famous, the feelings of heroes and heroines in the film also kept fans interested. Unfortunately, the couple did not come together in real life. But at Hepburn's wedding, Gregory Peck A *butterfly brooch* with a blue gem was given to Hepburn, and it was this brooch that accompanied the Angel until the end of his life [44], Fig. 30.



Fig. 30. Famous Audrey Hepburn's Butterfly Brooch.

The brooch is also elegant and pretty, which can right match this elegant lady! It is not the cheap brooches; it is a treasure that is handed down from older generations of his family. Hepburn cherishes it very much and regarded it as a treasure as well. After she died, Peck bought the brooch back. When he fondled the brooch with his or her shriveled hand, he felt he was touching Hepburn's heart beating [7].

The mutual appreciation between Peck and Hepburn stretched over pure heterosexual admiration, in addition to which he also saw a lot in her as an actress. He asked to put Hepburn's name with his above the title, saying, "...if I don't, I am going to make a fool out of myself because this girl is going to win the Oscar on her very first performance" [31], Fig. 8, 10, 36.

This movie (*Roman Holiday*, 1953) is so successful that people mistakenly think that Peck and Hepburn divorced and canceled their marriage for each other [10]. This is too much thinking.... (Fig. 31, 32).

"Everyone on the *Roman Holiday* set was in love with her," Peck, a lifelong friend, remembered long after. "She was as funny as she was beautiful. She was a magical combination of high chic and high spirits" [4].



Fig. 31. *Roman Holiday*, 1953.

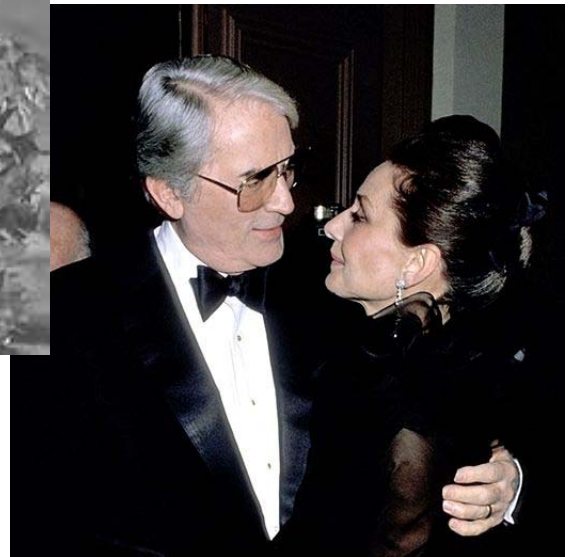


Fig. 32. Peck and Hepburn, 1989.

Maybe the two of them really had love each other in the name of the characters in the filming, but the beginning is the end. No

matter how much love between the two characters, the two protagonists, the characters and the protagonist, in that September, the two protagonists will inevitably pull out all the unrealistic emotions and return to their own as the filming work ends. Go in life [13].

Can only put all the love between men and women in that movie, hidden deep in the work of the summer when "*Roman Holiday*" was filmed, and sublime this friendship into friendship in life, and love each other in the name of friendship.

From the moment of acquaintance, a young man, a married man and a child; a marriage, a divorce and a remarriage. In the time-staggered life changes, Gregory Peck's love for Audrey Hepburn has always been in love and only in courtesy, and Audrey Hepburn's marriage and family do not allow her to have any wrong thoughts

(Fig. 33). The trajectories of two people's lives can only be parallel and gaze at each other far away, and they cannot cross or go hand in hand [13], Fig. 33, 35.



**Fig. 34. The rose
Roman Holiday.**



Fig. 35. Roman Holiday, 1953.

Fig. 33. Roman Holiday, 1953 "...go hand in hand".

The Academy's Board of Governors voted to confer Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award: 1993 Oscars award on January 12, 1993. Ms. Hepburn passed away on January 20th, and the award was accepted on her behalf by her son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer. Presented by Gregory Peck at the 65th Annual Academy Awards (see video [9]), Fig. 37.



Fig. 36. Audrey Hepburn in Roman Holiday, 1953.



Fig. 37. Sean Hepburn Ferrer. Presented by Gregory Peck, 1993.

Peck was listed among the world's best-looking man, as well as the best-dressed. And he was reputed to be a ladies' man, both on screen and off. His name was sometimes linked with some of the world's most beautiful women (whom he happened to have co-starred with), such as Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn (Fig. 36),

Ava Gardner, Ingrid Bergman and Lauren Bacall. But, gentleman that he was, he never talked about it. When an interviewer once tried to grill him about his supposed affair with Ingrid Bergman, his co-star in Alfred Hitchcock's *Spellbound*, Peck quietly closed the subject with, "Now we get into an area where I can't answer" [2].

The relationship between Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck is indeed very deep. They became attached to each other because of the drama. But what kind of feeling is between the two? How much weight does Audrey Hepburn have in Gregory Peck's heart? [13].

Love is an indispensable part of a woman, which is applied to Audrey Hepburn too, who is the most well-known woman of elegant and decent manner... there is a touched and particular relationship with Gregory Peck, who was the one in her fate but unfortunately never came to an end of marriage. These two were connected because of the classic *Roman Holiday*, and turned out to be the most ideal screen couple, which actually were not in reality [1], Fig. 31, 32, 33.

We know, that red roses have been synonymous with passion and romantic love. Remember poem by English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (he lived in Rome in Piazza di Spagna at the bottom of the Spanish Steps (Fig. 38):

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory;
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on [65].



Fig. 38. Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822). Fig. 39. 'Roman Holiday' Rose. A button eye.

'Roman Holiday' Rose is a Floribunda rose (Fig. 39) which produces clusters of double, fragrant orange flowers that turn to blood red with a yellow base. Foliage is dark green. In general, roses are a large group of flowering shrubs, most with showy flowers that are single-petalled to fully double petalled. Leaves are typically medium to dark green, glossy, and ovate, with finely toothed edges. Vary in size from 1/2 inch to 6 inches, five petals to more than 30, and in nearly every color. Often the flowers

are very fragrant. Most varieties grow on long canes that sometimes climb. Unfortunately, this favorite plant is quite susceptible to a variety of diseases and pests, many of which can be controlled with good cultural practices [40].

'Roman Holiday' Rose is a U.S. introduction from 1966 (Fig. 39, 41, 42). An All-American Rose Selection in 1967. The red body wrapped in yellow and orange make this rose bloom very cheerful in appearance [59].

Bred by Robert V. Lindquist (Fig. 40), of Hemet, California is vice-president and director of research of a 1,000-acre rose ranch which annually ships out 1 1/2 million rosebushes. Annually he develops new hybrid strains... Bob's great grandfather and grandfather were nurserymen in Finland, and his father, now 84, was a nurseryman in Sweden and England before settling in California as partner of Charles W. Howard in the large rose-growing firm, Howards of Hemet... After graduation from the University of Southern California, he joined the family firm, where he shares management duties with Charles Howard's sons, Paul and Charles Jr. [74].

'Roman Holiday' Rose was selected: **Seed:** Pinkie (Fig. 43) × Independence (Fig. 44).

Pollen: Circus (floribunda, bred by Herbert C. Swim, USA, 1955) (Fig. 45) [32].



Fig. 40. Robert V. Lindquist with his daughter.



Fig. 41. Roman Holiday. Flower bud.



Fig. 42. Roman Holiday. Flower.



Fig. 43. Pinkie.



44. Independence.



45. Circus (1955).

Thus, below is given Biological Characteristics of the rose "Roman Holiday".

Biological Characteristics of the rose "Roman Holiday"

Class: Floribunda.

Alternative cultivar names: Roman Holiday, 'LINro'.

Family: Rosaceae.

Plant Category: shrubs.

Plant Characteristics: high maintenance.

Foliage Characteristics: medium leaves.

Flower Characteristics: double, fragrant, showy.

Flower Color: red blend, orange, yellow undertones, ages to red.

Extra Color Info: red, with yellow reverse (Bi-Color: red and yellow) (Fig. 46, 49, 50).

Bloom size: Medium: 2–3".

Petal count: double: 16–25 petals.

Flowers: Showy Fragrant

Bloomtime Range: Mid Spring to Mid Fall.

Uses: Cut Flower (Fig. 49, 50).

Hybridizer & year: Robert V. Lindquist, 1966.

Awards: AARS: 1967.

Rebloom: Flushes.

Fragrance: Strong.

Life cycle: Perennial.

Light Range: Sun to Full Sun.

Soil pH Preferences:

Moderately acid (5.6–6.0).

Slightly acid (6.–6.5).

Neutral (6.6–7.3).

Slightly alkaline (7.4–7.8).

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4 to 9.

Soil Range: Sandy Loam to Some Clay.

Water Range: Normal to Moist.

Leaves: Deciduous

Wildlife Attractant: Bees.

Propagation: Other methods: Cuttings: Stem; Cuttings: Tip.

Miscellaneous: With thorns/spines/prickles/teeth.

Conditions : Full Sun. [32; 40; 46; 59; 63].

United States: Patent No: PP 2,725 on 7 Mar 1967 [32].

Seed: Pinkie × Independence [32].

Pollen: Circus (floribunda, bred by Herbert C. Swim, USA, 1955).



Fig. 46. The rose flower bud.



Fig. 47. Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*, 1953.



Fig. 48. Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, November 30, 1988, New York.



Fig. 49. The rose "Roman Holiday".
Bouquet.

Fig. 50. The Secret of two lovers in the rose "Roman Holiday".



With *Roman Holiday*, which earned her the 1953 best-actress Oscar, Audrey Hepburn became also a living icon for the Eternal City. Luca Dotti recalls his mother's three-decade love affair with the Italian capital [16].

Hepburn felt at ease in the Eternal City, and for their part the Romans thought of her – this beguiling girl who'd zoomed through their streets on a Vespa (see the video [62]) – as a kind of ambassador [30], Fig. 51.



Fig. 51. *Roman Holiday*, 1953. On a Vespa.



Fig. 52. Gregory Peck & Audrey Hepburn in 1988 Oscar Award Ceremony (see the video [24]).

Audrey Hepburn at the 47th annual Golden Globes in 1990 where she won the special Cecile B. DeMille award. Audrey is pictured with her 'Breakfast At Tiffany's' co-star George Peppard on the right and Gregory Peck (Fig. 53).



Fig. 53. The 47th annual Golden Globes in 1990.



Fig. 54. Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, 1991 April.

Fim Society of Lincoln Center Honors Audrey Hepburn, 1991 April (Fig. 54)
Audrey Hepburn, Avery Fisher, Ralph Lauren, Betty Wilder, and Gregory Peck
(Photo by Ron Galella)

Some words about *A Tribute to Gregory Peck* in 1989 (see video [27]). This video from 1989 is an Emotional Tribute to a true Gentleman [27]. Wonderful to see so many friends appreciate a Legend. Gregory Peck was a real gentleman...stunning looks, but just a really really good man... and Audrey Hepburns speech was perfection. *Roman Holiday* is one of our favourite films...

It was the 17th Annual American Film Institute Life Achievement Award a salute to Gregory Peck. British actress Audrey Hepburn (1929–1993), wearing a black evening gown with a floral motif attends the American Film Institute (AFI) ceremony honouring Gregory Peck (Fig. 55, 56, 57, 60), held at Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, 9th March 1989.

And look around... it's all class. What an wonderful initiation by Audrey Hepburn. Everything seems like it was Gold standard then. Don't get us wrong. We love movies of our present generation. But somehow, we feel, we kind of lost the simplicity of story telling and acting in middle of all these modern screen.



Fig. 55. Audrey Hepburn, on March 9, 1989

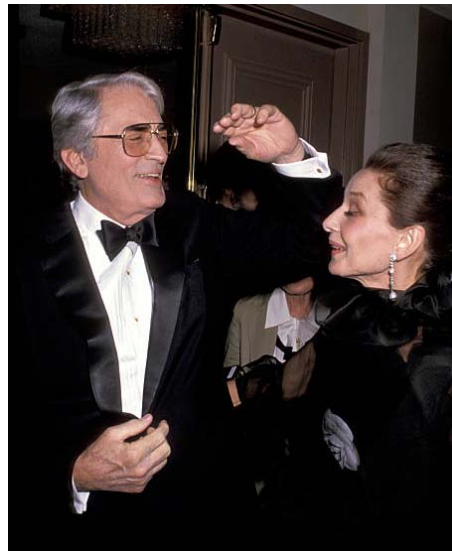


Fig. 56–57. Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn (1989) during American Film Institute Honors Gregory Peck (Photo by Ron Galella)

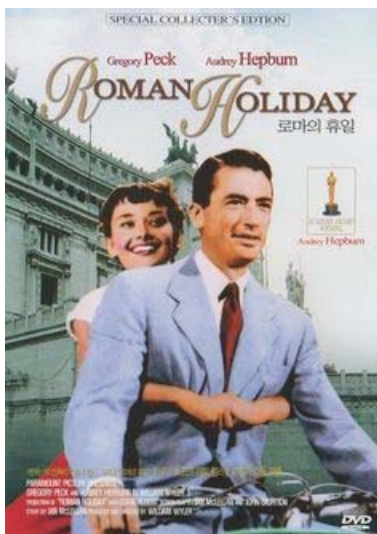


Fig. 58. *Roman Holiday*, 1953. Peck & Hepburn.



Fig. 59. The rose *Roman Holiday*, 1966.



Fig. 60. Peck & Audrey Hepburn, Beverly Hills, California, 1989.

Speculation has it that the impeccable couple from *Roman Holiday* did in fact fell for each other in real life, but the decency of both terminated their love from sprouting. In 1952, the 36 years old Gregory Peck was established and married, while the 23 years old Audrey Hepburn was just debuting. A few years leading to his divorce, she was no longer available. Then on forward, they kept missing each other-she single he married, he single she married, so that eventually tragedy ruled in giving them the luck to encounter, but not the fate to wed [31], Fig. 61, 62.



Fig. 61. ... the luck to encounter (1952).

She was a distant relative of the English royalty and a perfect fit for Princess Ann. Noble at heart and stunning beyond words, she exhibited extraordinary elegance in the press scene closing *Roman Holiday*, effortlessly swapping across languages as she met and greeted an international pool of journalists. Perfection hit perfection as the film mixed a chemistry whose spark would endure long past the eternally remembered summer day in romantic Rome [31] (Fig. 25, 31, 34, 35), see video [79].



Fig. 62. In Rome, 1953.

Character always comes first with Wyler, and his assured, nuanced direction wonderfully highlights the unaffected, winning personalities of Peck and especially Hepburn. The chemistry between the two is magical, and Peck graciously yields the spotlight to Audrey in virtually all their scenes together. His low-key work is easy to ignore when compared to Hepburn's brilliance, but Peck remains a magnetic presence, and the film wouldn't be nearly as good without his participation [37].

By the time of *Roman Holiday*, Peck was already distressed about Greta Kukkonen, but the unhappy couple struggled to file divorce in consideration of their

three young children (Fig. 16). When Peck finally decided to carry on with the dilemma, Hepburn had begun to see British businessman James Hanson [31] (Fig. 17).

Peck indirectly enabled Hepburn's 14 years marriage to American actor Mel Ferrer as the couple developed feelings at his cocktail party (Fig. 18, 19). However, the contractual bond with Ferrer seemed damned throughout as they only yielded one son, the rest of Hepburn's five pregnancies resulting in miscarriages [31].



Fig. 63. Audrey Hepburn, 1992.

Though Hepburn had experienced a series of infidelity and divorces, returning to the legend of the brooch the unchanged love was the butterfly brooch, which walked her through all pains and joys until her death. We couldn't easily recognize it is all about love or simple friendship, but we can realize something when 77 years' old Peck came to see her off, lowered his head, slightly kissed her coffin and gently said out her innermost feeling "You are the Only Love in my life."

Ten years later, he repurchased in her memory, the butterfly brooch he gave to Audrey as a wedding present at the Sotheby New York auction house held a charity bazaar to auction her previous private commodities. Peck came just for the butterfly brooch, which he got and kept as a memory of Hepburn (Fig. 30). As he closed his eyes to farewell the world 49 days later, he held the brooch with a smile on his face. At last, the couple reunited in Heaven [1; 31].

We have studied many sources, but have not found confirmation of this legend. As a fact, we will give below the official description of the funeral procession with photographs where Gregory Peck was not at the funeral [10; 13].

Funeral services for Audrey Hepburn were held at the village church of Tolochenaz, Switzerland, on January 24, 1993. Maurice Eindiguer, the same pastor who wed Hepburn and Mel Ferrer and baptised her son Sean in 1960, presided over her funeral while Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan, of UNICEF, delivered a eulogy. Many family members and friends attended the funeral, including her sons, partner Robert Wolders, brother Ian Quarles van Ufford, ex-husbands Andrea Dotti and Mel Ferrer, Hubert de Givenchy, executives of UNICEF, and fellow actors Alain Delon and Roger Moore. Flower arrangements were sent to the funeral by Gregory Peck, Elizabeth Taylor, and the Dutch royal family. The same day as her funeral, Hepburn was interred at the Tolochenaz Cemetery, a small cemetery that sits atop a hill overlooking the village [20].



Fig. 64. The roses Roman Holiday.

Just a year before her death, but indeed Audrey Hepburn was still able to pay tribute to his first leading man in the movie that propelled her to superstardom. Wonderful people. Great artists. Audrey's tribute to Gregory Peck at the Kennedy Honors (see video [26]).

We found a very beautiful and emotional video of Gregory Peck talking about his long time friend Audrey Hepburn. After Audrey Hepburn's death (20.01.1993) Gregory Peck read her favorite poem by Rabindranath Tagore (the video [23], (Fig. 65):

Unending Love

by Rabindranath Tagore

I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times...
In life after life, in age after age, forever.
My spellbound heart has made and remade the necklace of songs,
That you take as a gift, wear round your neck in your many forms,
In life after life, in age after age, forever.

Whenever I hear old chronicles of love, it's age old pain,
It's ancient tale of being apart or together.
As I stare on and on into the past, in the end you emerge,
Clad in the light of a pole-star, piercing the darkness of time.
You become an image of what is remembered forever.

You and I have floated here on the stream that brings from the fount.
At the heart of time, love of one for another.
We have played along side millions of lovers,
Shared in the same shy sweetness of meeting, the distressful tears of farewell,
Old love but in shapes that renew and renew forever.

Today it is heaped at your feet, it has found its end in you
The love of all man's days both past and forever:
Universal joy, universal sorrow, universal life.
The memories of all loves merging with this one love of ours –
And the songs of every poet past and forever [3].

Fig. 67. The Rose Roman Holiday.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) is considered the greatest writer in modern Indian literature. A Bengali poet, novelist, educator, Nobel Laureate for Literature (1913). Tagore was awarded a knighthood in 1915, but he surrendered it in 1919 in protest against the Massacre at Amritsar, where British troops killed around 400 Indian demonstrators. Tagore gained a reputation in the West as a mystic originally and that has perhaps mislead many Western readers to ignore his role as a reformer and critic of colonialism [3], (see a documentary on Tagore [56]).

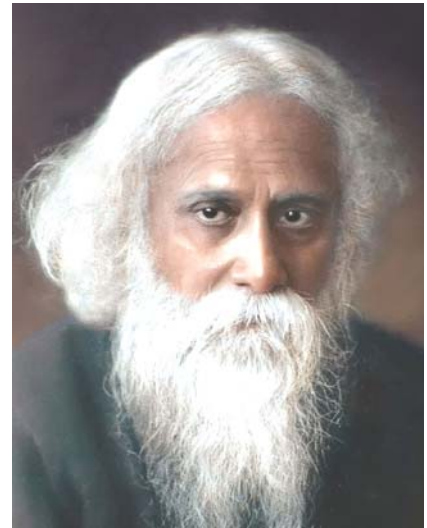


Fig. 65. Rabindranath Tagore.



Fig. 66. Audrey and Gregory, 1953.



Fig. 67. The Rose Roman Holiday.

And below the **video [23]**, there are some opinions of fans' these stars listening to what Gregory Peck said:

- We think the most difficult thing Gregory Peck ever had to do in front of a camera is to say what he just said here upon Audrey Hepburn's passing, without crying.

- What a sad and beautiful moment.

- Gregory Peck's eyes clearly fill with tears as he recites the poem.

- Such a wonderful and beautiful poem...
Unending Love.

- He truly loved her. And she loved him. They will always do. We are sure they're together in heaven.

- They truly in love. Truly. It's puity, they weren't together. We truly wish they will be together forever after this life.

- The true love is the love you never speak out.

- ... they were true soulmates. Two beautiful angels are now in heaven. May they rest in peace.

- He could have been a great couple with Audrey... And imagine their children..We think that both,didn't get what they really deserved in marriage [23].



Fig. 68. *Roman Holiday*, 1953.



Fig. 69. Audrey Hepburn, 1989.



Fig. 70. The R. *Roman Holiday*.

deepest respect. for your friendship, your goodness, and your humor, you have all my love."



Fig. 71. Gregory Peck Kennedy Center Honors Tribute, 1992.

"Dearest Greg, to your generosity, I owe my career, for your courage and integrity, you have my deepest respect. for your friendship, your goodness, and your humor, you have all my love."

Audrey Hepburn

There are grander films, to be sure, that deal with more critical issues of humanity. But the emotional trauma conveyed by Audrey and Greg, with palatable yet quiet dignity, as the two lovers part ways in *Roman Holiday*, makes the ending one of the most heartbreaking ever filmed.



Fig. 72. Audrey Hepburn's brooch.

And here isn't a director in the world, though some would come close, who could capture the minute inflections of that final scene in *Roman Holiday* (see the video [77]). This is truly one of the great movie frolics of all time. Thanks to all of them for having left this masterpiece for us to view forever.

We think that Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn should have got together in real life and got married. They were soulmates. Two beautiful angels are now together in heaven. May they rest in peace...

"Music, when soft voices die,

Vibrates in the memory" (Shelley), and to conclude a song "Unending Love" by Charles Aznavour and Mireille Mathieu (see the video [81]).

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