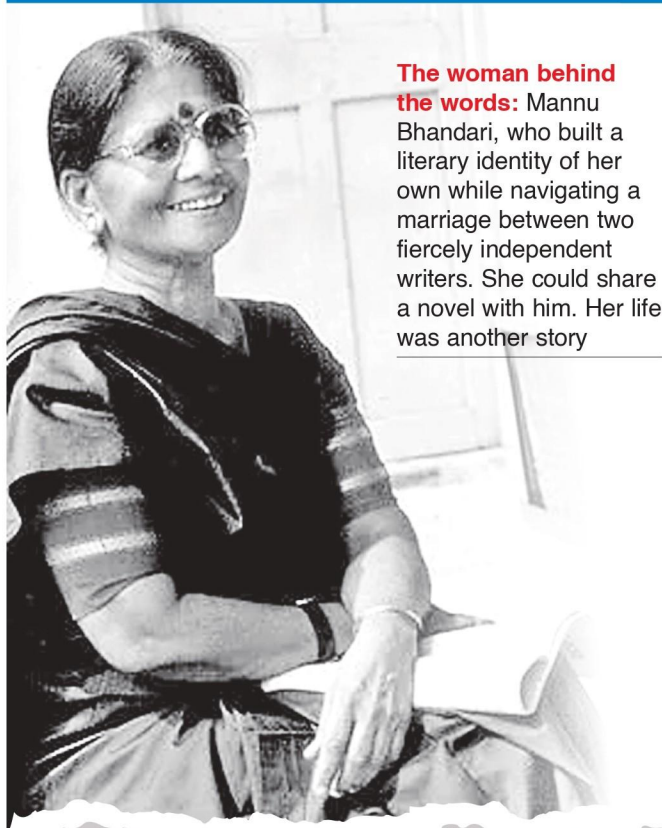




The woman behind the words: Mannu Bhandari, who built a literary identity of her own while navigating a marriage between two fiercely independent writers. She could share a novel with him. Her life was another story



Behind the books and manuscripts was a man determined to live life on his own terms

Love, Literature & a Little War

There was something almost poetic about the beginning. Two young writers met in Calcutta in the 1950s, when Hindi literature was changing and a new generation was beginning to write about ordinary people, complicated relationships and the

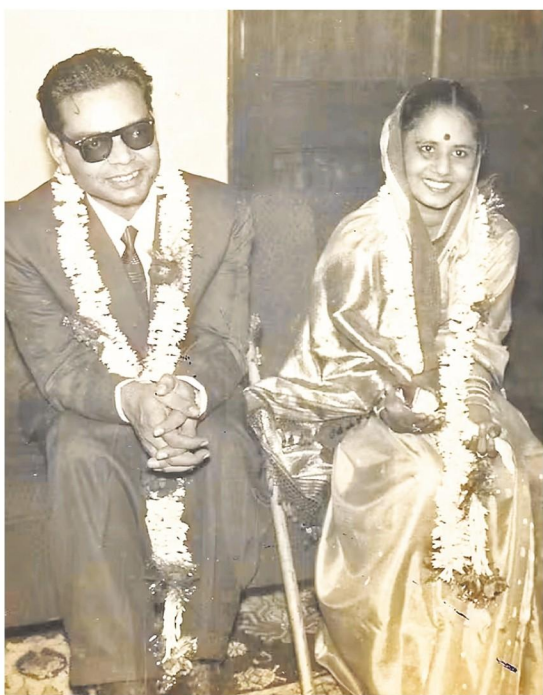
uncertainties of a newly independent India. She was Mannu Bhandari. He was Rajendra Yadav. Both wanted to write. Both wanted to be free. Both believed literature could change the way people saw themselves. And then, they fell in love.

Bhandari was drawn to Yadav despite her father's reservations. He was already an established writer, restless and unconventional; she was finding her own literary voice. Their shared love of books seemed to promise the perfect marriage: two people who would understand each other's ambitions because they had the same

ones. They married in 1959. For a while, it seemed like the beginning of a beautiful literary partnership. **But marriage brought them face to face with a question neither had fully anticipated:**

Could two people who wanted complete freedom also build a life together?

Bhandari entered the marriage imagining a shared life—shared responsibilities, companionship and a home in which both could write. Yadav had something very different in mind. Soon after their marriage, he proposed what he called a life of “parallel lives”: they would live under the same roof, but remain independent, each following their own path. For Bhandari, it was devastating. She had married hoping that their similarities would bring them closer. Instead, she discovered that the very thing that had attracted them to each other—their fierce individualism—could also keep them apart. Their home became a meeting place for writers. The literary world of Delhi passed through their lives. There were conversations about books, arguments about stories, friendships and rivalries. Both were becoming important figures in the Nayi Kahani movement. But outside the literary world, Bhandari increasingly carried the weight of domestic life. Yadav pursued his bohemian existence. He had affairs, spent long periods away and resisted the conventional expectations of marriage. In his own memoir, he acknowledged that he often took his wife and family for granted. Yet this was not simply a story of a woman disappearing behind a famous husband. Bhandari kept writing. Her stories found readers. Yahi Sach Hai became the basis of the much-loved film Rajnigandha. Her novel Aapka Bunty, about the emotional consequences of a parents' separation on a child, became one of her most remembered works. There was even a strange, beautiful experiment in their marriage: they wrote a novel together. Ek Inch Muskaan was written in alternating voices—Yadav writing the male protagonist's perspective while Bhandari wrote the perspectives of the women in his life. Their literary partnership worked on the page even when their personal partnership was becoming increasingly fragile.



He had his desk. She had her words. Marriage had to find the space between them

Eventually, after years of trying to make the marriage work, Bhandari left. They separated permanently, although they never formally divorced. And perhaps that is the most complicated part of their story: the marriage ended, but the relationship did not completely disappear. They continued speaking. They remained connected through their daughter, Rachana, and through the world of literature they had shared. Yadav died in 2013. Bhandari lived until 2021. Years later, their separate memoirs offered something extraordinary: two people remembering the same marriage from opposite sides. Her *This Too Is a Story* is a

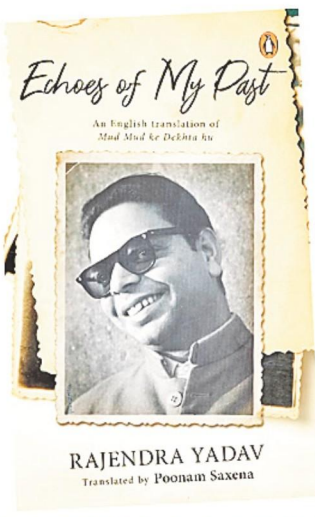
When Love Could Not Silence Ambition

Story and his *Echoes of My Past* reveal not one definitive version of their relationship, but two memories shaped by love, disappointment, ambition and regret. Perhaps that is what makes their story so haunting. They had fallen in love because they were alike. They eventually came apart because they were alike. Both wanted freedom. Both wanted to write. Both wanted their own lives. But only one of them was willing to discover how much freedom can cost when two people are trying to build a home together.

They could share a language, a literary world and even a novel. What they could not permanently share was a life.



Two writers, one marriage—and a love story that could not survive the war between love, freedom and independence



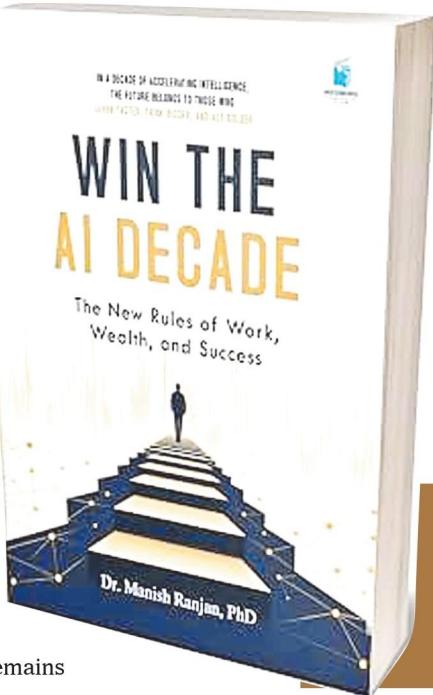
Years after their marriage began to unravel, both Mannu Bhandari and Rajendra Yadav looked back on the same life through very different eyes—two memoirs, two memories, one complicated story

Win the AI Decade – survival notes for the white-collar class

Manish Ranjan's career manual asks an uncomfortable question: what are professionals for when thinking itself becomes a commodity?

Every technological upheaval has its defining clock. For the AI era, Manish Ranjan proposes 47 seconds — the time an AI coding agent took to produce an authentication module that a young engineer had spent three days building. The moment, witnessed by Ranjan, becomes the emotional trigger for *Win the AI Decade*, a career manual for professionals trying to understand what remains valuable when machines can increasingly perform the work they trained for. The book is unapologetically practical. Across 21 chapters and five parts, Ranjan offers an AGENCY Score, a 90-day action plan and a succession of frameworks aimed at helping readers navigate an economy where technical competence alone may no longer guarantee security. His central argument is blunt: reassurance that “AI won't take your job” is a lullaby. The real question is whether your work contains something AI cannot easily commoditise. For Ranjan, those scarce qualities are judgment, trust, taste, accountability and the courage to make decisions. The professional who merely executes instructions is vulnerable; the one who defines problems, exercises judgment and takes responsibility becomes harder to replace. The India-specific argument is equally interesting. Ranjan points to the country's relatively small pool of AI-skilled technology professionals not simply as a weakness but as an enormous opportunity. For a nation whose IT-services industry has depended heavily on human expertise and

scale, the rise of AI could force a fundamental rethink of how talent is trained, hired and valued. Some of the book's strongest writing comes when Ranjan steps away from career frameworks. His “Letter to Indian Parents” speaks to families that invested savings, sacrifices and expectations in their children's education and engineering degrees. Its argument is unexpectedly old-fashioned: values such as fairness, thrift, integrity and choosing what is right over what is easy may become more valuable, not less, in an AI-driven economy. That is where the book rises above the standard productivity manual. It recognises that professional reinvention is not simply about learning another tool. It is also about deciding what kind of human contribution remains worth paying for. There are caveats. The promises around wealth and success occasionally stretch beyond what any career book can credibly guarantee, while readers may find the constant scoring, frameworks and 90-day plans exhausting. Yet the central proposition remains



difficult to dismiss. The 47-second anecdote ultimately becomes more than a story about coding. It is a metaphor for the speed at which professional advantage can disappear. Ranjan's advice is therefore less about competing with AI than moving up the value chain before AI moves through it. In the coming decade, skills may depreciate quickly. Judgment, responsibility and the ability to make sense of complexity could appreciate instead. The book's most urgent message is consequently its simplest: the most expensive thing a professional can do with the AI revolution is wait for it to decide their future.

Title: Win the AI Decade
Author: Dr. Manish Ranjan
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