

# Psychotic plot twists throughout

*The long awaited Cape Fear compares to Silence of The Lambs*

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The Collegian

"Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. How she rubs her hands ...."  
-Macbeth, v. i.

In Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Lady Macbeth becomes so obsessed with the blood flowing from Macbeth's murders that she rubs her hands continuously, trying to wash her guilty conscience. So does one of the characters in Martin Scorsese's re-make of *Cape Fear*, a 1962 movie which originally starred Gregory Peck and Robert Mitchum.

Robert DeNiro plays Max Kady, a convicted rapist who is released after spending 14 years in jail.

The first shots of DeNiro are of his back while doing arm push-ups: a large cross tattoo with two scales dangling from the crossbeam. Underneath the scales the words "Truth" and "Justice" are scrolled.

Then Kady turns around and we see more of his well-formed physique and more tattoos: lightening bolts on both sides of his abdomen. Apocalyptic quotes from the Old Testament cover the

into the verbal sparring with Kady after the couple see him snooping around the house. Kady is labeled as "white trash," and "a pervert," for the benefit of their 15-year-old teenage

movies are over.

In *Cape Fear*, we aren't completely sure about who is at fault for all of the violence. Sam Bowden gradually starts to lose control of his mind and his

There is more to this film than just simple revenge, if you're willing to listen to the script, re-written for a 90's audience.

DeNiro has to be one of best actors alive today and his performance in *Cape Fear* reinforces that opinion. His Southern drawl and "I've done nothin' to hurt you," attitude, leaves the audience with queasy stomachs.

Nolte, Lange and Lewis slowly transform into the dysfunctional family, and each one performs realistically and with emotion. The musical score is even effective, pumping up the tension a few notches.

Just as Kady says prophetically, "You can't run away from your demons," don't run away from this psychological thriller. It's guaranteed to keep you up at night.

**"Scene after scene, Kady attempts to dig underneath Bowden's skin in perfectly legal intimidation ... It's similar to What About Bob, but in this version everyone goes to hell."**

inside of both arms. A broken heart with the name "Loretta" over his right breast. He is a man with a vision and a mission.

Why is Kady so obsessed? Sam Bowden (Nick Nolte), Kady's defense lawyer, concealed a report about the alleged rape victim's promiscuity. And now Kady is back for revenge, or as he puts it, "I'm your salvation." But it is the same kind of salvation seen in the crusades and in the Spanish Inquisition.

The plot thickens when Kady confronts Bowden about his unethical defense tactics. Jessica Lange plays Leigh Bowden, Sam's wife. She too is drawn

daughter, Danny (Juliette Lewis).

Scene after scene, Kady attempts to dig underneath Bowden's skin in perfectly legal intimidation. But Bowden's emotional reactions get him into trouble with half-baked legal maneuvers, and when those fail, he resorts to violence. It's similar to *What About Bob*, but in this version everyone goes to hell.

Obvious comparisons and contrasts could be made between *Cape Fear* and *Silence of the Lambs*. Both are contemporary thrillers about shocking murders, with plenty of blood and gore, and psychological plot twists meant to scare us even after both

ethics, proving to be a flawed protagonist. But aren't lawyers accused of not doing what's right (brought on by defending hardened criminals)?

And here's Bowden, putting Kady in jail because he looked guilty 14 years ago. Just what are we asking our legal system to do for us? There are no clear answers to this question.

Putting legal questions aside, Scorsese slowly incorporates a struggle between innocence and corruption, played out in a pivotal scene with young Danny and her budding sexuality and Kady and his manipulative honesty.

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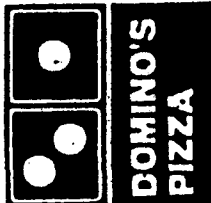
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