

True Romance?

by Colette Rethage
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If you want to take your date to see a romantic love story, go see *Snow White*, not *True Romance*.

The story starts off with Clarence (Christian Slater) talking to Elvis at a bar in Detroit about kung-fu movies and having sex.

Clarence ends up meeting a "nice" girl, Alabama (Patricia Arquette), who turns out to be a call girl looking to get out of the business. After they fall in love and get married (which happens over a period of two days), Clarence tries to resolve Alabama's past by attempting to kill her pimp. In the midst of the mayhem, Clarence innocently picks up over half a

million dollars worth of cocaine. He decides to sell it and use the money to start a new life for himself and Alabama. When he tries to sell it is when the action begins.

This movie ends up being a bloodbath between the cops and drug dealers, with Clarence and Alabama caught in the middle.

Christian Slater and Patricia Arquette were perfectly cast for the roles of Clarence and Alabama. Other cast members include Gary Oldman (*Dracula*) as Alabama's pimp, Brad Pitt (*Cool World* and *Thelma and Louise*) as a burnt out druggie searching for the eternal buzz, Val Kilmer (*The Doors*), and Dennis Hopper (*Flashback*).

If you like sex, drugs, and Elvis, then this movie is for you.

The Man Without A Face: No face, but full of heart

by Sarah Melchiorre
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Some people you meet have a profound impact on your life. They teach you many things. Some things are intellectual, and some are inspirational.

The Man Without a Face teaches Charles both. Charles (Nick Stahl) learns a lot about judgement from The Man (Mel Gibson). Justin McLeod, The Man, lives in seclusion after a terrible accident that leaves him horribly scarred.

Charles sees past the scars to the true McLeod, something the whole town is unable to see. McLeod is questioned by town officials and he replies, "What do you see? You don't see me. You can't see me!"

The Man Without a Face is an intensely emotional film about a boy and his best friend and mentor. The movie is filled with a lot of emotion and humor. The combination is right on target. Gibson not only starred, but also directed the picture. He shined through in both positions.

The movie explores many topics: prejudice, truth and fear.

"People spend too much time thinking of the past. Whatever it is, it's gone." McLeod told Charles about the troubles in his past. McLeod leads Charles out of his darkness and Charles brings McLeod into the light.



Sibling Rivalry: Henry Evans (Macaulay Culkin) and his cousin, Mark (Elijah Wood), in *The Good Son*.

The Good Son: Sibling rivalry at its best

by Laura Borawski
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I was told not to go. I was told it was predictable and stupid. Needless to say, I went anyway, as it is my duty to report to you on movies recently released to our local theaters.

I also went because I firmly believe that one cannot know what something is like without first-hand experience. Thus, I was off to see *The Good Son*.

I felt the opening of the movie was a bit rushed because a point was made within the first ten minutes of the movie that was relevant throughout. But I suppose that's necessary to avoid a seven hour movie, huh... Anyway, the scenery was

breath taking and made me want to see more. A well structured opener helped out, because of my negative outlook to begin with.

The main character and villain, Macaulay Culkin portrays a little brat named Henry. He was all of nearly nine years-old and I think he came straight from hell. His cousin Mark (Elijah Wood) who is staying with his relatives for a while after an immediate family tragedy, gets suckered into Henry's devious plans and is ignored by all others despite his pleas for help from the craziness.

Mark's Aunt Susan (Henry's mother, played by Wendy Crewson) is the only one who starts to get the hint that her son is cracked. I'll shut-up before too many details spill out. They

weren't bloody or grotesquely graphic, but their content and principles really freaked me out...

I would like to say, however, that the "Mr. Highway" scene along with the end of the movie, really hit me hard.

Over all, I felt *The Good Son* was a very good movie because it moved me. It bothered me. Movies that don't effect me aren't worth talking about, and I'm sure you agree. It's different. "Different" is good. Right? (Although it did remind me of the novel *A Separate Peace* "by John Knowles, if you can relate...")

It's rated "R" for ridiculously insane stuff, and Henry says the "F" word... Nevermind. Just go see for yourself.



Open Sesame: Karen McCoy (Kim Basinger) agrees to rob a high-security bank for ruthless gangsters.

The Real McCoy: Put it back behind the bars

by Doug Moore
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In *The Real McCoy*, Karen McCoy (Kim Basinger), a high-tech bank robber, is just released from prison for her last robbery attempt.

McCoy is determined to go straight and get on with her own life, but is blackmailed into one more bank job. Her life is further complicated by her bumbling partner, J.T. Barker (Val Kilmer), her tax-evading ex-husband, and her son, a six year-old who was told his mother was dead when she went to prison.

Juggling all these conflicts and relationships proves too much for this script. The film drags for what seems like hours until

the very end. The first three-fourths of the film is filled with long camera shots of Basinger staring at the rain, and staring at nothing in particular. Granted, Basinger is beautiful, but an audience can only take so much.

The climax of the film occurs during the bank robbery itself, a 25 minute affair that, at times, does have the viewer on the edge of his seat. The high-tech tools McCoy builds are impressive, and the twist at the end is worth staying for.

All in all, *The Real-McCoy* is entertaining, but not if you have to pay more than two dollars to see it. My recommendation: wait until it's out on video or watch it on cable.