

SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

The DeVicenzo Code, The Movie

2006-USA/Argentina-
Suspense/Thriller

Review Summary:

“The DeVicenzo Code, The Movie” is a clumsy and plodding screen version of the fast-paced, controversial and best-selling novel, “The DeVicenzo Code, The Book.” First published two years ago in Spanish by the award-winning Argentinean author Jorge Victor Borge, the novel quickly became a global sensation and has been translated into 27 languages including Canadian, Pig Latin and COBOL. Packed with erudite research about symbolism and religion, the book tells the eerie but seemingly true tale of famed golfer Roberto DeVicenzo, who in spite of an elegantly “drowsy swing” and a stellar international record, is most famous for signing an incorrect scorecard during the final round of the 1968 Masters.

After holing out on the 72nd green and thinking he tied Bob Goalby for the lead, DeVicenzo signed his official scorecard for a

mistakenly recorded par four on the seventeenth hole instead of his actual birdie three. By the cruel yet clearly defined rules of golf, once Big Roberto signed for the higher score, it became his official scorecard. Thus, Bob Goalby won the Masters by a single shot over DeVicenzo.

In Borge’s thriller, this infamous scorekeeping incident becomes the pivot point for a series of exciting and hair-raising events at Pebble Beach, Warwick Hills, Pine Valley and a muni outside Denver called “Angel’s Kneecap.” But in this dismal cinematic version of the tale, director Moe Howard and screenwriter Curly Wordsmith mangle Borge’s nerve-tingling plot with a confusing array of special effects and flashbacks. The opening scene depicting an albino cad-die being transported by mule train around Amen Corner is not only ridiculously forced but it’s false to one of the book’s key passages.

Another big minus is the lame and annoying score by John Tesh and Toni Tennille (of Captain & Tennille fame) that seems to lacquer every romantic moment (e.g. the first kiss between DeVicenzo and Mickey Wright) with overwrought, sugary instrumentals using harps, bass drums and electric kazoos.

Still the movie does have some redeeming qualities: 1) It’s in color; 2) During the three-hour ordeal, you can nod on and off without missing anything; and 3) It does finally end. Not even a cameo appearance in a thong bikini by Natalie Gulbis can save this turkey.

This movie can be best summed up by the mumbled words of one filmgoer as he left even before the intermission: “What a stupid I am.”

—Roger Eggbert, Chino (CA)
Sun-Times

- Read the full Chino Sun-Times Review—click here.
- Find Showtimes in your area (excepting North America)—click here.
- View Trailer—click here.
- Rate, Review or Ask for Refund for “The DeVicenzo Code, The Movie”—click here.

Cast for “The DeVicenzo Code, The Movie”:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Roberto DeVicenzo | ..Antonio Banderas |
| Bob Goalby |Joe Pesci |
| Mary Magdalene |Madonna |
| The Teacher |Rick Smith |
| Mickey Wright |Jodie Foster |
| Old Tom Morris |Robin Williams |
| Young Tom Morris | ..Whoopi Goldberg |
| Clifford Roberts | ..Sylvester Stallone |
| Bobby Jones | ..Philip Seymour Hoffman |
| Christy O’Connor Sr. |Himself |

Other Production Credits:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Executive Producer |Phil Knight |
| Special Effects |Paul Hahn Jr. |
| Catering |Half-way House Ltd |
| Casting |Alwright Hand |
| Costumes |Ian X. Poulter |
| Boom Operator |Fred G. Couples |
| Key Grip |Ed Fiori |

A member of the Golf Writers Association of America, Moore lives in Grand Rapids where he’s occasionally visited by longtime admirer Selma Hayek. MG