



DVD

DISC DETAILS

OUT: 23 August

RRP: £19.99

DISCS: 1

ASPECT RATIO: 2.35:1

AUDIO: TBC

PICTURE: ★★★★★

SOUND: ★★★★★

EXTRAS: (TBC)

Alternate ending;
Deleted and alternate scenes;
Outtakes

FILM DETAILS

DISTRIBUTOR:

Momentum

CERT: 12

RUN TIME: 104 mins

YEAR: 2010

DIRECTOR:

Lasse Hallström

STARS: Channing

Tatum, Amanda

Seyfried, Henry

Thomas

OR GET IT ON...

Blu-ray (£24.99)



"Do you think I should grow my hair long like yours?"

FILM ★★ EXTRAS TBC

DEAR JOHN

Dear Dear John, this relationship isn't working...

Adapted from the Nicholas Sparks novel, this is a weepy, worthy Hollywood romance with drama and trauma ladled on thick. John (Channing Tatum) falls in love with Savannah (Amanda Seyfried). He's a soldier on leave from the Green Berets who kicks off the movie by likening himself to a knackered coin - partly down to the fact that his reclusive dad (Richard Jenkins) collects them (coins, that is). She's a goody two-shoes college student who wants to teach special education and whose only vice is cursing, although she only does that inside her head so it doesn't actually do much to tarnish her excessively shiny halo, even if her coyness does make you stop and wonder if the film is in fact set in the '50s.

The course of true love does not run smooth in Hollywood movies, but when John and Savannah's tale is named after a 'Dear John' letter (the way gutless people used to dump each other before texting and Facebook were invented), you fear for their hearts. The main friction comes when John blows off his promise to serve just one more year and then return home to marry Savannah, inspired by the events of 9/11 to join the fight in Afghanistan instead.

Not that that's the only barrier to their fairytale life, with the plot factoring in cancer, autism, heart attacks, terrorism, excessive patriotism, pointless montages and the fact they're living inside a Nicholas

(which should include an alternate ending, deleted scenes and outtakes) weren't available at the time of going to press, so it's unclear whether the production team feels they were well matched.

"They write plenty of slushy letters to each other, but the pair don't exactly light up the screen."

Sparks story. Oh, and a lack of chemistry. They write plenty of slushy letters to each other, but the pair don't exactly light up the screen when they're together. Extras

Better, though, is Richard Jenkins' performance as John's reclusive, coin-collecting dad. Odd then that most of the secondary characters in this film are just there to fill up spaces, while John and Savannah are too sweet, and too superficial, for their romance and its subsequent derailment to seem particularly awful.

The passion and anguish you'll find in truly heart-wrenching stories of doomed love (*Romeo And Juliet*, *Atonement*..) is noticeably missing here. It's all very sad and whatnot, but it's difficult to shake the feeling that it's a bit pointless. *Dear John* may work on paper, but someone, somewhere forgot to make sure it passed the 'So what?' test. **Anne Wollenberg**

FINALWORD

This is typically slushy Nicholas Sparks fare, but it's probably not long-term relationship material. Its protagonists certainly aren't.



Deckchair canvas: sometimes useful.

NEXT STOP...

ATONEMENT (2007)
This recent Blu-ray release saw the wartime romance beautifully presented in hi-def, with director's commentary, deleted scenes and featurettes intact. Keira Knightley and James McAvoy smoulder as lovers kept apart by circumstance.
Film: ★★★★★
Extras: ★★★★★