



Anna: Hello I'm Anna Jones and this is Entertainment. And today we're going to hear what some people are saying about the recently released film of the bestselling novel 'The Da Vinci Code.' Now the film has caused quite a lot of controversy – if something causes 'controversy' or is 'controversial' then it means that there is public discussion and argument about something that some people feel strongly about. The Da Vinci code has caused controversy because of its plot – A murder inside the Louvre and clues in Leonardo Da Vinci paintings lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years -- which could shake the foundations of Christianity. The film is directed by Ron Howard and stars Tom Hanks as the professor who gets drawn into trying to solve the Da Vinci code. Well, as I said earlier the film has caused controversy and some Church leaders want it to be censored because it suggests that Mary Magdalen had a child whose father was Jesus Christ. If you 'censor' something then you remove the parts that are considered offensive or politically dangerous. Now the film has met with mixed reviews. The film critic Jason Solomon saw it at the recent Cannes Film Festival and he explained how the audience reacted to it. Listen out for several expressions he uses to describe this reaction. Do you think the audience liked the film?

Well the reaction here was rather flat, it was met with no applause and normally the first night audiences at Cannes applaud wildly if they like something or boo vigorously if they don't. There was kind of hushed silence that met the whole proceeding – I think in the end it has to have gone down as a bit of a failure here on the Croisette.

Anna: Well according to Jason Solomon the audience at Cannes did not like the film. He uses the following expressions to describe their reaction: ‘flat’ which means to lack interest or enthusiasm. He says that the film was met with ‘no applause.’ – they did not applaud or clap their hands together at the end of the film. Instead there was a kind of ‘hushed silence’ - throughout the film the audience was very quiet and said nothing. Jason says that the film was ‘a bit of a failure’ in Cannes –He uses the noun ‘failure’ which means that the film did not succeed or was not popular in Cannes. Listen out for those expressions again.

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Anna: And that was film critic, Jason Solomon.
The historical novelist, Sarah Dunant, has also seen the film – does she think the film is similar to the book?

It’s a slavishly faithful film of the book and I think there lies its problem. Like it or not the first half of this book is indeed a page turner – Dan Brown hooks you on adrenalin and keeps you going on adrenalin. Now the problem is, actually the devices he uses are quite clichéd but the speed at which he throws them at you means you don’t notice it.

Anna: She says the film is “slavishly faithful” – it’s a very true and accurate reflection of the book. If something is described as doing something “slavishly then it means it follows or copies someone or something exactly. Sarah uses the word “slavishly” to emphasise how closely the film resembles the book . She says that ‘like it or not’ – whether you like the book or not – it is a ‘page turner,’ it’s a very exciting read and makes you want to carry on reading it.

She says that the author ‘hooks you on adrenalin’ he keeps the readers interest by getting their ‘adrenalin’ going – the plot is designed to keep the reader’s interest and excitement. Does Sarah think that the devices that the author uses to do this work? Listen again

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Anna: Sarah says Dan Brown uses devices that are quite ‘clichéd’ – they have been used so often that they are no longer interesting. Now let’s take a look at some of the language that we heard today:

Controversy - the book caused quite a controversy

Censor – the theatre director tried to reverse the decision to censor her play

Flat – the lecture sounded very flat and uninteresting

Failure – he felt a failure because he could not pass his exams

like it or not - like it or not you will have to work harder if you want to get a better job

Anna: That's all from entertainment this week.

