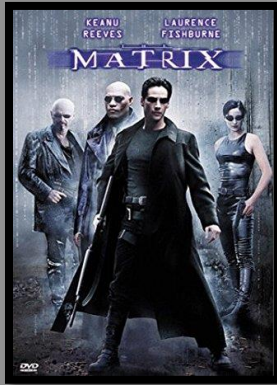


THE CAREER AUTHOR



Bonus Episode 2 // *The Matrix* (1999)



A computer hacker learns from mysterious rebels about the true nature of his reality and his role in the war against its controllers.

Genre: Science Fiction

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0133093/>

Progressive Complication (1:19:00) - Cypher follows through on his betrayal, murdering the crew while they're inside The Matrix.

Crisis (1:35:00) - Does Neo allow the mercy killing of Morpheus or does he go into The Matrix to a certain death?

BEST BAD CHOICE

Inciting Incident (7:50) - Neo sees "Knock, knock" on his monitor right before the knock at his door.

Climax (1:40:00) - Neo decides to go into The Matrix to fight Agent Smith and save Morpheus.

Resolution (2:05:00) - After Trinity's kiss, Neo is resurrected and gets them out of The Matrix. Live to fight another day.

*“Unfortunately, no one can be told what *The Matrix* is. You’ll have to see it for yourself.”*

THE THREE ACTS

Act I

Neo awakens in the first act. He transitions from the ordinary world to the extraordinary world, reluctantly making choices that get him closer to "the truth" as he believes it to be. He literally crosses the threshold into the second act after taking the red pill.

Act II - *Aprox. 25% mark (00:29:53)*

The middle half of the film is spent showing Neo's denial of his true responsibility. In addition, he faces several challenges during his training. Those failures and related events serve as a series of progressive complications leading up to the ALL IS LOST MOMENT when Cypher betrays Morpheus and the crew.

Act III - *Aprox. 75% mark (01:30:00)*

The third act begins precisely at 01:35:00 when Tank is about to pull the plug on Morpheus and Neo stops him. There is a false ending at 02:03:00 where Neo dies before being resurrected by Trinity's kiss which is the beginning of the film's global Resolution.

The Protagonist –
Neo (Anderson)

Wants to?
Find out what The Matrix is.

Needs?
To find his own freedom, discover his the "truth."



The Antagonist –
Agent Smith

Wants to?
Capture Neo and kill Morpheus.

Needs?
Keep humans in The Matrix, power source.



CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

**The
Mentor -
Morpheus**

**Threshold
Guardian
- Agent
Smith**

**Herald -
Apoc, Tank,
Dozer,
Switch**

**Shape
Shifter -
Cypher**

**Shadow -
The Matrix
(and Agent
Smith)**

**The Ally -
Trinity (and
the crew)**

**The
Trickster -
Mouse**

**More on Campbell's archetypes - <https://mythcreants.com/blog/the-eight-character-archetypes-of-the-heros-journey/>*

DOES THE MOVIE WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

J: This movie is a new classic for many reasons. But from a craft perspective, it is practically perfect. The story hits the major conventions, honors the 3-act structure almost to the second, and delivers a rich, layered entertainment experience. For authors interested in developing an alternate reality with a character-driven plot, this work of fantasy is a must-see. I'd take the red pill.

Zach: With its solid three act structure, perfect pacing, and likable characters, there isn't much bad to say about The Matrix. Even after nearly twenty years, it's a nearly perfect movie that has aged really well. I'd say the movie 100% works.