# THE CAREER AUTHOR



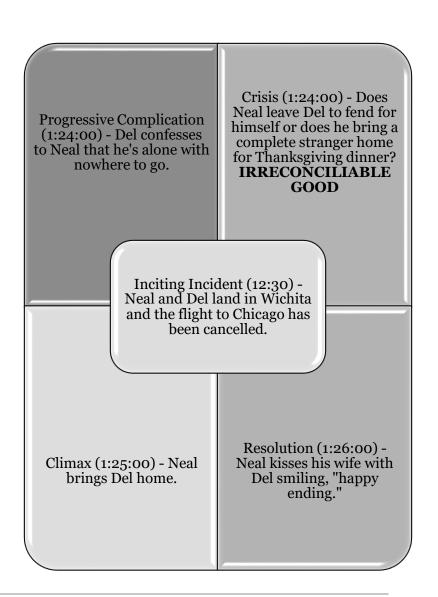
Bonus Episode 11 // Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987) // 93 minutes



A man must struggle to travel home for Thanksgiving with an obnoxious slob of a shower curtain ring salesman as his only companion.

Genre: Comedy

https://www.imdb.com/title/tto 093748/ **Internal**: NONE (no "Hero's Journey" arc) or *slight* character growth for Neal Page. **External**: ACTION – Countdown



"You're going the wrong way!"

## THE THREE ACTS

#### Act I

Neal is doing his best to get home for the holidays but weather and unexpected travel complications make that challening. He is working within the confines of the ordinary world in Act 1 (following the instructions of the airline).

#### Act II - Aprox. 30% mark (00:28:00)

Neal and Del wake up (cuddling) after a night in a motel in Wichita. They now must find a creative, alternate way to get home to Chicago.

#### Act III - Aprox. 87% mark (01:21:00)

Neal and Del have arrived in Chicago and decide to go their own way—or do they?

### DOES THE MOVIE WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

**The Career Authors** believe *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* works, but barely. Hughes lost an opportunity for a Scrooge-style moment of realization or redemption. Although Neal and Del are funny characters, they are not likeable and often appear selfish. Characteristic of Hughes' style, the second act is long with a series of irreversable progressive complications. While the film had potential to end with more emotional resonance, it still stands as a comedy classic and one of John Candy's best performances.

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