

THE CAREER AUTHOR



Bonus Episode 12 // *Die Hard* (1988) // 132 minutes



John McClane, officer of the NYPD, tries to save his wife Holly Gennaro and several others that were taken hostage by German terrorist Hans Gruber during a Christmas party at the Nakatomi Plaza in Los Angeles.

Genre: Action, Thriller

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095016/>

Internal: NONE (no “Hero’s Journey” arc)
External: ACTION – Ransom

Progressive
Complication
(1:24:00) - Gruber
demands the
detonator from John
or he'll kill Ellis (and
more hostages).

Crisis (2:00:00) -
Does John drop the
gun to spare his wife
but then become
defenseless or does he
shoot Gruber while
risking his wife's life
and his own? **BEST
BAD CHOICE**

Inciting Incident
(23:03) - John hears
gunfire inside the
Nakatomi building.

Climax (2:01:00) -
John drops the gun.

Resolution (2:01:00) -
John pulls a gun taped
to his back and kills
Gruber, saving Holly
and ending the
standoff.

“Yippee Ki Yay, motherfucker!”

THE THREE ACTS

Act I

John McClane is trying to navigate the social awkwardness of attending his estranged wife's company Christmas party.

Act II - Aprox. 28% mark (00:37:00)

After killing the first terrorist, John has now engaged the enemy and will do battle during the second act.

Act III - Aprox. 43% mark (00:57:00)

John throws the body of a dead terrorist from the window. It lands on the cop's car, bringing in the LAPD and FBI.

DOES THE MOVIE WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

The Career Authors believe *Die Hard* works, but not well in places. Although J. and Zach have differing opinions of the movie, the film works in the external content genre. However, it has not aged well. Bruce Willis' role in *Die Hard* is legendary and it remains a classic 20th century action movie.