

**Twelve terrorists. One cop.  
The odds are against John McClane...  
That's just the way he likes it.**



**BRUCE WILLIS**  
**DIE HARD**

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A GORDON COMPANY/SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION A JOHN McTIERNAN FILM BRUCE WILLIS DIE HARD  
ALAN RICKMAN ALEXANDER GODOUNOV BONNIE BEBELIA MICHAEL KAMEN RICHARD EDLUND FRANK J. URIOSTE  
JOHN F. LINK JACKSON D'AGUIA JAN DE BONT CHARLES GORDON JEB STUART STEVEN E. DE SOUZA  
RODERICK THORP LAWRENCE GORDON JOEL SILVER JOHN McTIERNAN  
DOLBY DIGITAL  
MPAA RATED R  
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## DIE HARD U.S. (1988)

**Director** John McTiernan **Producers** Lawrence Gordon, Joel Silver

**Screenplay** Jeb Stuart, Steven E. de Souza **Cinematography** Jan de Bont

**Music** Michael Kamen **Cast** Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, Alan Rickman, Reginald VelJohnson, Paul Gleason, DeVoreaux White, William Atherton, Hart Bochner

New York cop Detective John McClane is an ordinary guy who tries to do the right thing. Estranged from his wife, Holly Gennaro, he visits her in Los Angeles for Christmas. He goes to her firm's Christmas party held in a fancy suite in a skyscraper and fast finds himself a fish out of water among a bunch of sharp-suited executives. Soon he is in even deeper water when the party guests are taken hostage by some Eastern European terrorists, who are really just villains intent on stealing \$640 million held in a vault in the building. McClane escapes capture and resolves to bring the hostages—and his wife—to safety. His first problem is that no one knows what is going on, and he has to somehow inform the police, even if that means dropping a corpse onto a patrol car. Such fast thinking is typical of McClane, a reluctant barefoot hero, he scrabbles around the building foxing his foes as much by his ability to improvise with whatever comes to hand, whether that is a machine gun or duct tape, as by his capacity to outgun his adversaries.

Bruce Willis plays McClane in the role that shot him to stardom—until *Die Hard* he was most known for his comic role as a wisecracking detective in the TV series *Moonlighting*. Willis's

◀ **The original poster did not feature Willis: producers thought his image might stop non-Willis fans from seeing the movie. It was changed when the film became a box-office hit.**

unmatched ability to deliver one-liners and his unlikely casting made him all the more credible as an ordinary guy who finds himself in an extraordinary situation. McClane wins the day by his wits, guts, bad-ass attitude and cowboy swagger.

Director John McTiernan came to the movie with perfect credentials, having taken the helm of the sci-fi actioner *Predator*, and his command of pyrotechnics and nifty camera work

“WHY THE DIDN'T YOU STOP 'EM,  
JOHN? 'CAUSE THEN YOU'D BE DEAD,  
TOO, .” JOHN MCCLANE

makes from some superb action sequences resulting in raft of explosions and death-defying leaps that never seem heavy handed. He is enabled by a strong cast, notably Willis, Bonnie Bedelia as Gennaro and Alan Rickman as the cruel but sophisticated bad guy Hans Gruber, and a script packed with snappy dialogue and black humour.

At a time when action movies were prone to depicting super heroes, *Die Hard* returned to a classic story line of how a true hero is someone who wins out the hard way. When the cops come on the scene to help out with a SWAT team, followed by the FBI, they look arrogant dullards as the Machiavellian Gruber anticipates their every move. It is left to a maverick cop to fight the battle alone. *Die Hard* reinvigorated the action genre when it was released, spawning a series of follow ups, but none are quite as good as the original, which is, frankly, flawless. **CK**

►  
A comic actor, Willis quickly rose to the challenge of being an action hero. He performed many of his own stunts, even jumping off a 25-foot ledge into an air bag, followed by ball of flame.

