



Nothing Lasts Forever

Roderick Thorp

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This bestseller was the basis for the blockbuster film *Die Hard* starring Bruce Willis.

High atop a Los Angeles skyscraper, an office Christmas party turns into a deadly cage-match between a lone New York City cop and a gang of international terrorists. Every action fan knows it could only be the explosive big-screen blockbuster *Die Hard*. But before Bruce Willis blew away audiences as unstoppable hero John McClane, author Roderick Thorp knocked out thriller readers with the bestseller that started it all.

A dozen heavily armed terrorists have taken hostages, issued demands, and promised bloodshed all according to plan. But they haven't counted on a death-defying, one-man cavalry with no shoes, no backup, and no intention of going down easily. As hot-headed cops swarm outside, and cold-blooded killers wield machine guns and rocket launchers inside, the stage is set for the ultimate showdown between anti-hero and uber-villains. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good fight to the death. Ho ho ho!

Nothing Lasts Forever Details

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Author : Roderick Thorp

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From Reader Review Nothing Lasts Forever for online ebook

Benoit Lelièvre says

The cult novel that inspired Die Hard isn't actually quite as satisfying as the movie itself, but it's not a landslide victory. Far from it. Roderick Thorp's got some serious writing chops. He's not a great stylist, but his novel crackles with original thoughts and powerful exposition. Joe Leland's not quite John McClane, but he's quite the interesting cat nonetheless: he's a third degree black belt shit talker and rationalizes his fears the way only an alpha male can. He's fun to read, and belongs on the page at least as much as John McClane belongs on the silver screen.

Now, in order to answer the question everyone's obsessing about: the novel is maybe 60-70% similar to what the movie is. It's not where Nothing Lasts Forever is fun though. These scenes are action packed and rapid fire, so they're hard to conceptualize. It's through the original scenes that the novel stands out though, through the exposition and Thorp's über-efficient dialogues. If you worship the movie as much as I do, it's worth a read. If you're just a pulp fan, it's worth a read too. This is some seriously fun throwback stuff.

Chris says

The only thing better than watching Die Hard is reading it. I had no idea that Die Hard was based off of a book until I saw a little pop up on Goodreads about it. Needless to say I was very excited to read this story. While reading, I have to say the movie stayed very close to the book, and it was probably the best adaptation I have seen/read.

Now, on to the review, I would say this is really more of a 4.5 start book only because there were things in this I wasn't all that thrilled with. In this book there are flashbacks that seem to come at random to fill in holes of information. These were not in the movie, but the story, in my opinion would have been just fine without them. They were not terribly long but they were rather dull. It always seemed to come right in the middle of the action so it kind of slowed the pace of the book a bit. Just as things were getting intense and the action was building Leland would have some sort of flash back to give us a little bit of information on other characters or his own past. I think if these interludes we placed differently throughout the book I might not have found them so dull.

Enough about the part I didn't care for, this book was otherwise awesome. There are a few subtle changes mainly the character name. Joe Leland is the main character who is John McClain in the movie. Instead of him visiting his wife at Christmas he is visiting his Daughter instead. Other than that a lot of the character names are the same and so are their personalities. It was a lot of fun to envision these characters with my own imagination, and they weren't far off from who was cast for the movie.

Here is the kicker, I have seen Die Hard a million times so I figured I had this whole thing figured out and for the most part I was right. I could see each scene from the movie as I read through this. Once I got to the end however, I was shocked. It ends pretty close to the movie so if you have seen it then you know what happens for the most part. Thorp throws in a curveball I was not expecting and I was shocked, I could actually feel my jaw drop when I read it and had anyone been paying attention to me I am sure someone would have made a joke at my expense. Not sure how I feel about it to be honest, but at the same time I was so glad that there was something I didn't expect, that it was almost refreshing. For anyone who is a fan of the

movie, you must add this to your to-read list. No Die Hard fan would be complete without reading this book. It is a quick, fun read and I flew through this. So very glad I read it.

A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says

Book source ~ NetGalley

This is the book that Die Hard is based on. In many ways, the movie follows the book, but I have to say, the movie took many of the boring details of the book and either changed them or left them out entirely, making it a much better story. That's just my opinion though. I kinda liked the main character who, in the book, is named Joseph Leland. He's much older than John McClane and has a more varied experience than just being a cop. But he does too much introspection for my liking. In the movie John's going to see his wife, in the book Leland is visiting his daughter. Which makes that ending very...whoa. Definitely not the way you want a movie to end. If you've never seen Die Hard then you should. If you prefer books to movies then this should entertain, too. Personally, for one of the rare instances in my life, I like the movie better.

Note: Ends at 86%, has bonus content.

Kemper says

Treasure of the Rubbermaids 14: Yippee kai yay, Mr. Falcon!

The on-going discoveries of priceless books and comics found in a stack of Rubbermaid containers previously stored and forgotten at my parent's house and untouched for almost 20 years. Thanks to my father dumping them back on me, I now spend my spare time unearthing lost treasures from their plastic depths.

Gather around you whippersnappers and listen closely as Grandpa Kemper tells you another fascinating tale from his days of yore.

Many, many moons ago back in the late 1980s I once went to the movies with some friends and they showed a trailer for a film called *Die Hard*, and we were all very confused. It looked pretty cool, but why was the guy from *Moonlighting* fighting terrorists? Was it supposed to be serious or funny? It looked like a hard core action movie but Willis was cracking jokes, too. Was Arnold Schwarzenegger too busy for this one?

As hard as it is to believe now, back when he still had hair and long before he had helped that kid who saw dead people or chased 12 monkeys through time, Bruce Willis was seen by the viewing public as the kind of guy who would play the lead in romantic comedies and definitely not the dude who you'd see firing machine guns at villains. But some bright Hollywood type cast Willis in *Die Hard* after all the other action heroes of the day turned it down and the rest is history.

The film was based on this book originally titled *Nothing Lasts Forever*. Joe Leland* (not John McClane) is a middle aged ex-cop who now works as a security consultant with an emphasis on anti-terrorism tactics who goes to visit his daughter Steffie in L.A. After arriving at Steffie's office in the middle of a Christmas Eve party Joe goes off to wash up and make a phone call when the building is invaded by 12 terrorists who take

Steffie and her co-workers hostage. Joe manages to hide, but he's trapped in the high rise and has to start fighting the bad guys to save his daughter and survive.

**(This book is actually a sequel to another Roderick Thorp novel called *The Detective* which was also turned into a film starring Frank Sinatra in 1968. The Interwebs tells me that due to contractual issues Sinatra had to be offered the role in *Die Hard* even though he was over 70 at the time. I don't know if that's true, but the idea of Sinatra saying "Yippee kai yay, motherfucker!" makes me smile.)*

While there are some significant changes between the book and the film version like the age difference between Joe Leland and John McClane, there's a surprising amount of material written here that got used in the movie. Running barefoot through broken glass, using a fire hose for an improvised bungee jump off the roof, dropping explosives down an elevator shaft on an office chair, and making a dangerous climb through an air shaft are all things that seem like a Hollywood screenwriter putting an action hero through an obstacle course, but they're all here in the book.

One thing the movie adapted very well is showing the toll that the fight takes on the hero. Joe Leland is seriously injured, exhausted, and absolutely filthy by the end of this. The film picked up on that and did a great job of making McClane a completely worn out mess by the time the credits rolled. I think one of the things that makes *Die Hard* such a great action movie is that they followed the book's example of making the hero someone who can be hurt and who does get tired and runs out of bullets eventually instead of just having him stroll out of the fight at the end with just a little dirt on his face and a tiny cut on his forehead.

The book was published in 1979 so it does seem somewhat dated, and there's a lot more political stuff as well as some hand wringing over this escalating terrorism issue. (So glad they got that worked out.) The ending is much darker and grimmer than the movie version, but it's still very recognizable.

It's a pretty decent action thriller for it's time, but the film is an action classic and is one of those that has become so much bigger than it's source material that the book has become an afterthought. It's a fun read, but you've seen a bigger and more exciting version in the Bruce Willis movie.

Matthew Cross says

yippee ki yay mother f cker !!!! wow what a book , what a read , also what a great movie adaption bloody fantastic

Dianne says

NOTHING LASTS FOREVER by Roderick Thorp has been re-released with the author's notes that built this over-the-top, non-stop action book! Movie goers, think DIE HARD-this is where it all started!

Joe Leland has flown out to Los Angeles to visit his daughter, an oil company executive for Christmas. He arrives during her company's annual Christmas party and is taken directly to the party. Terrorists take over the building and...start the non-stop, over-the-top action! Its Joe against a dozen terrorists holding hostages, including his daughter.

If you're like me, all of the blood, all of the action, everything Joe did was visualized as actor Bruce Willis doing it! Trust me, this does not take away from the book, it freed my imagination up to crawl right into the pages! The only reason Joe wasn't wearing a super hero cape was probably that it would get in the way!

Joe's character was damaged, during the lulls in action when he was strategizing his next move, knowing it could be his last hurrah, he was reflecting on his life, things that happened, regrets, etc. It made him all the more real, all the more the larger-than-life guy he was. Be warned: This does NOT end like the movie, those final pages held a shocker that I never saw coming—to say I loved it would seem cold—but it was incredibly brilliant and brave on the author's part!

This edition was provided by NetGalley and Graymalkin Media in exchange for my honest review.

rameau says

This review can also be found on Books as portable pieces of thought-blog.

I grew up watching action films with my Dad just as I grew up reading Harlequin novels with my Mum. Until I got older and broke out of the predetermined genre preferences, *Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone* and *Mel Gibson*—before his descend to cray cray—were my childhood. *Die Hard* is one of those films I knew by heart and that has stood the test of time better than most. So, when I saw that the book that had inspired *Die Hard* was available on NetGalley I had to jump on it.

Nothing Lasts Forever was first published in 1979. *Die Hard* came out in 1988. The book focuses on Joseph Leland, a World War II veteran, retired cop, private detective, terrorism expert, and a security consultant, who just gave up flying his own place seven years earlier. Leland is divorced, widowed, and a grandfather of two. He never liked his son-in-law but has patched up his relationship with his daughter after he stopped drinking and is on his way to see her now. John McClane is a youngish married cop from New York on his way to see his estranged wife and two children for the Christmas. And he just happens to be afraid of flying. Both land in L.A., get a limo drive to a high rise and are in the middle of a phone call when the shooting starts.

As I said, I knew the story going in. There wasn't a slightest chance that *Thorp* might surprise me with a plot twist, brutality, or gore. What surprised me was how *Thorp* filled the pages between the action scenes. Where *Bruce Willis* fills the solitary scenes with muttering and talking to himself, Leland in the book recounts his personal history. He reminiscences the war as he maps out the empty floors between 32nd and 40th. He laments over his failed marriage, his slightly skewed priorities in life, and friends he's lost in the war and since the war. And there's no question of which war he's talking about. These passages could have easily been mind-numbingly boring but they're not. They give Leland the room to think and the reader the feeling of time passing. And unlike *John McClane*, Leland is markedly in pain. He's weary, tired and struggling each step of the way.

For all the details that the filmmakers changed—characters, relationships, making the company a Japanese conglomerate instead of an American oil company called Klaxxon (I'll give you a minute to let that sink in)—I was more surprised to see the things that they didn't change. From bare feet to the safe full of money, from the people thrown out the building to the explosions aside from snapped necks and led poisonings, it's all there.

This book really is the bare bones of the film.

The film improved on the pacing and mixed some things up, like the bazooka attack happening much earlier in the film than in the book, but it also took a few steps in the wrong direction. *Die Hard* is a sexist creation and I'm not just talking about the unnecessary scene with a bare-chested woman or the titty pictures plastered on a service tunnel wall. I'm talking about female terrorists. The book has several, the film has none.

The motives and over all causality in the book is much more complex than it is in the film. Aside from the brothers, what motivates the terrorists and Hans Gruber especially is pure greed where as in the book Little Tony the Red has ideological objections to Klaxxon's dealings in Chile. As the book focuses on Leland alone, it's natural that the film adds to the character gallery—all additions men—and deepens a characterisation or two, but I would argue that what Al Powell does in the end of the book is far more complicated than any sob story told over the radio could ever be—and possibly worth an essay of its own.

For all their similarities *Die Hard* and *Nothing Lasts Forever* are two different creations that work well in their own mediums despite their flaws.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Mark Hodder says

Author's Envy! I wish I'd written this book! Here's why: <http://www.mark-hodder.com/authorsenv...>

Dominic says

Warning! This book is chock full of balls. Probably too many balls for you. If you buy this puppy in hardcover and stick it on your shelf, it will be bro-ing it up with *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and impregnating *Wuthering Heights* within 15 minutes. You're going to have to case this sucker in lead and bury it in the garden or your wife and daughters will start growing chest hair. It's like a nuclear bomb of testosterone delivered straight to your brain through your eye-holes. You saw *Die Hard*? That guy was a charter school kindergarten teacher compared to the hard-core-terrorist-killing man-sack that inspired him. You've got two choices. Either avert your eyes from this book and get on with your every day life or buy every goddamn copy you can find and let sheer osmosis turn you into the fire driven mountain man you've always wanted to be.

David says

I can overlook a lot of less than stellar writing when the story is so good and well told, but all the flaws really seem to be in bold type when the story just doesn't work. I almost put Roderick Thorp's novel "Nothing Lasts Forever" down after the first couple of pages, and that was just introducing the protagonist by way of a taxi ride to the airport, but it was just so poorly done. The flaw was in the superfluous character of the taxi driver who is described as a young black man who has a daughter in college son in High School. The only reason

for the conversation is to reveal that the passenger has a daughter with two children and he is going to visit her. A young man who has a son in High School just made me shake my head--I tried doing the math in my head, and even if he became a father at 16, he would still be about 30 to have an 16 year old son--so what did "young" mean, or why was it even brought up?

Quite a few years later I watched Bruce Willis bring the character to life in "Die Hard", and it is one of the few instances where the movie managed to correct something the author should have done with that first chapter. The odd thing is that as I watched the movie, I thought it was very familiar--turns out I had read the book past its shortcoming first chapter and thoroughly enjoyed it. The movie changed some other bits too, like it wasn't his wife he was visiting, it was his daughter, and the terrorists weren't there for the reasons given in the movie.

Sometimes it is worthwhile to get beyond the opening or any faults we may find with it. In this case, I'm glad I did. The story was compelling and well paced. I thoroughly enjoyed the rest of this book.

This would make a good Summer read out on the beach, in a hammock. It is different enough from the movie to make it a fun comparison.

Stylo Fantome says

I'm glad I read it, because now I can say I read "Die Hard", one of the greatest movies of all time :D

They're very, very different. You can tell someone just read the book and went "holy shit, this is a great idea for a movie" and that was about it.

Yes, terrorists seize a tower. Yes, John McClane kicks ass all over the tower. That's about it for similarities, though.

John McClane is a lot older. Divorced, his ex-wife has died, he's a recovering (ish?) alcoholic, Vietnam vet. He's visiting his daughter at the tower, and her two kids, THAT'S who he's ultimately trying to save.

Hans Gruber is nowhere near as big a character (and doesn't have that name), which made me sad, because he's one of my favorite movie bad guys.

This book is a lot more raw, a lot grittier, a lot more intense. No shiny Hollywood ending for this story. It definitely reads more like how that situation would go down in reality.

Three stars because the story was good enough to keep me reading, but the style was kind of choppy to me. Slashed and pieced together, it was odd to read.

Julie says

I got a digital copy of this book from Netgalley, so first of all thanks to the publishers and Netgalley for a chance to read this one.

If you are like me, you have seen the movie Die Hard countless times. I had not read the book so my

husband and I decided to make this one out next "buddy" read.

First of all, this book was published a while back, so there are few dated references. Also, the story is very different from the movie. So, if you see that this is the book the movie was based on, try not to go into it with any preconceived notions.

The action is just as tense, but one thing about a book is that we are able to listen in on Leland's thoughts while he's going through everything.

Despite the trauma and life and death decisions Leland has to make to stay alive and save the hostages, he also turns introspective. He thinks back over his life and his mistakes. He may have a sensitive side, but he is still a kick butt hero.

Overall this is still a model for many of the more modern thrillers we love today. This one gets an A.

Peter Derk says

Woop Woop! Sound the alarm! We have a movie that's better than the book!

The primary reason to read this sucker is because it's the basis for the movie Die Hard, a Christmas Classic (don't fight me on this, just accept).

This is one case where the movie WAY outshines the book.

John McClane is charming. He's an underdog. He's like Howard the Duck: Trapped in a world he never made.

Joe Leland is a dud. Also, he claims responsibility for encouraging stores to put high-theft items like pens on cardboard backing to discourage shoplifting. Seriously? In the middle of a firefight, that's what you're thinking about?

Can you imagine John McClane taking credit for that? Hell, no. If he did something that resulted in that, he'd regret it for the rest of his life, and he'd probably go on a minor bender every time he had to buy a pen at Walgreen's.

There are a lot of the specific little things from Die Hard in the book. Some of the key moments play out nearly the same. But take my word for it, this book is so skippable. The folks who tell you how faithful the adaptation is are folks who skimmed the book, saw the beats, and ignored that the tone and character are so different, and holy shit is it slower.

I'd sooner watch Die Hard's 4-6 (is that how many we have now?) than read this book again. Easy. No contest. Is John McClane crashing a truck into a jet absolutely insane? Yes. Does it really violate the appeal of the first, second, and third movie to make John McClane a superhero? Sure. But fuck it. At least it's entertaining as hell.

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 1 day

Pages - 245

Publisher - Graymalkin Media

Blurb from Goodreads

High atop a Los Angeles skyscraper, an office Christmas party turns into a deadly cage-match between a lone New York City cop and a gang of international terrorists. Every action fan knows it could only be the explosive big-screen blockbuster Die Hard. But before Bruce Willis blew away audiences as unstoppable hero John McClane, author Roderick Thorp knocked out thriller readers with the bestseller that started it all.

A dozen heavily armed terrorists have taken hostages, issued demands, and promised bloodshed all according to plan. But they haven't counted on a death-defying, one-man cavalry with no shoes, no backup, and no intention of going down easily. As hot-headed cops swarm outside, and cold-blooded killers wield machine guns and rocket launchers inside, the stage is set for the ultimate showdown between anti-hero and uber-villains. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good fight to the death. Ho ho ho!

My Review

A Christmas party in a LA skyscraper, terrorists armed & dangerous with a mission to be completed and no qualms about killing their hostages. One man, an ex cop now anti terrorist consultant, visiting one of his family at the party ends up taking on the killers by himself with no shoes and his quick wit and at times banter to get him through.

Sound familiar? Instead of John McClane in Die Hard we have Joe Leland, instead of visiting his wife he is visiting his grown daughter. Otherwise the story paved the way and became Die Hard, Leland is less gun-ho than McClane we see a much softer side and some of his quips mirror one of our all time favourite characters Bruce Willis brought to life on the screen.

The book brings a more human side and lets us get inside the head of Joe, what he is thinking and how the killings of the terrorists affects him, something that is missing in the movie. The pace and tension is very much evident and draws the reader in quickly. Joe, whilst a force to be reckoned with is also very human, flawed and I think that may make the character real because he suffers so much but powers through. The movie took the heart of this book and enhanced and blew it up to a well loved film. It isn't very often I prefer the movie to the book and for its time this story packs a punch and keeps the reader engaged but if you have seen the movie I think the book does pale in comparison. If you haven't seen Die Hard read this book first as you will absolutely love it, then check out the movie. This is the second book in a series, I haven't read the first and don't feel I have missed anything out by reading this but I think I may go back and pick up the first. Murder, mayhem, survival, terrorism, family, love, a smart mouth and fast action is the best way to highlight the main topics of this story.

This has been my longest waiting review book, actually years on my tbr purely because it was my first approval Netgalley book. Back then I had no idea how it worked and by the time I got it the book had been archived and I couldn't access or download it. I bought it as I really wanted to read this, I ploughed through it in one day and had to watch the movie immediately after. I would put this as 3/5 stars, I liked it and I think for its time it has been fabulously done. However seeing the movie prior to reading it and actually loving the changes for the film I debated between a 3.5 and a 4 star rating. If you like action and a story with violence, survival whilst looking at the human aspect of it then you can't go far wrong with this. This was my first time

reading this author, I will certainly be checking out his other work. Thanks to Netgalley for highlighting this author and initially providing me with a review copy, I wanted to read it so much I ended up buying it and can finally remove it from my NG shelve.

Matthew says

Honestly, and with no shame, I knew that my opinion of this book would be tainted by close to three decades worth of the greatest action movie ever - Die Hard! Usually the book is better than the movie, but this movie is better (as expected) so . . . that's just how it is!

Moving on . . .

As an action book, this was decent. It takes place in the late 70s and in some ways it had aged well and in some ways it hasn't. With our modern technology, some people may have a hard time enjoying the CB communication that drives this book. Also, he spends a lot of time lamenting about some of the terrorists being females. I don't think that would be taken as much into consideration anymore - and it isn't really necessary for it to be. If they are terrorists, they are terrorists and male and female shouldn't really matter (it's interesting that they made all the terrorists male in the movie - were they still worried about this kind of controversy in the 80s?)

The writing seemed a bit choppy to me and the general progress of the storyline a bit disjointed. Perhaps this was done to reflect the urgency and chaos of the situation, but it just ended up occasionally throwing my focus for a loop.

Book to movie: a surprising amount of key events and dialogue made it from the book into the movie. Sadly, there was no yippie-kai-yay . . .

Summary - check it out if you are a die hard Die Hard fan (yup, that just came to me - you're welcome). If you are looking for an awesome action book, chances are you may leave this one only slightly satisfied.

Interestingly, I just realized I finished this on the one year anniversary of Alan Rickman's passing - Hans Gruber is much better than Tony Gruber any day!
