

# The Minute You Wake Up Dead

*The Minute You Wake Up Dead* is a 2022 American noir thriller film directed by Michael Mailer and starring Cole Hauser, Morgan Freeman and Jaimie Alexander.

## Plot

Stockbroker Russ has recently returned to his childhood home, Bare Hollow, Mississippi. Residents have made money from his stock advice, but his latest advice regarding a merger deal does not come through, costing many their savings.

He is renting the house next door to local waitress Delaine, who he had a crush on in high school. They start a sexual relationship.

Local petty criminal Lucius murders Delaine's father, who is battling cancer. Despite her feigned sadness, Delaine has deceived Lucius into a sexual relationship, and had him kill her father for the \$550,000 life insurance settlement.

Sheriff Fowler's investigation quickly leads him to Lucius, so Delaine kills her hapless lover – her second murder. Lucius had planned to use his share of the money to pay off local loan shark Jody, and told Jody everything about the murder after his thug Mace cuts off his toe. When Lucius dies, Jody informs Delaine that she must pay Lucius' debt.

Lucius' body goes missing, and Delaine later finds that Russ has it. He reveals that he overheard Delaine and Russ discussing their crime, and he hid Lucius so that he could protect her from getting caught, and thus become her new equal partner in the insurance settlement. He also reveals that he has killed Fowler for getting too close to solving the original murder. She tells Russ that her father was in pain awaiting his death from stage four cancer, but knew that suicide nullifies his insurance, so he and Delaine staged his murder to swindle the insurance company.

Delaine kills Russ, her third murder, and throws his and Lucius' bodies in the swamp. When they are found the next day, Deputy Sheriff Kane accuses Delaine of being involved, and says he will find the proof. Minutes later Pernie, the secretary for Russ, tells Delaine that Russ told her everything, and demands she now become an equal partner in the insurance fraud. Jody and his thug Mace are still bothering Delaine for the debt Lucius owes, so she arranges for Pernie to murder them both that night, and Delaine murders Pernie the next morning, bringing the death toll to seven in her insurance fraud scheme.

<i>The Minute You Wake Up Dead</i>	
<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Michael Mailer</u>
<b>Written by</b>	Timothy Holland Michael Mailer <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Andrew Stevens</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Cole Hauser</u> <u>Morgan Freeman</u> <u>Jaimie Alexander</u>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Adam Biddle</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	Michael Kuge
<b>Music by</b>	David Wurst Eric Wurst
<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Grindstone</u> <u>Entertainment Group</u> Andrew Stevens Entertainment Milestone Studios
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Lionsgate</u>
<b>Release date</b>	November 4, 2022
<b>Running time</b>	90 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English

Later that morning, Kane arrests Delaine, and is shocked when she confesses everything – against his original Miranda warning and his follow up suggestion that she shut up – confirming the intelligence of a fraudster mass-murdering waitress in Bare Hollow, Mississippi.

## Cast

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- [Cole Hauser](#) as Russ Potter
- [Jaimie Alexander](#) as Delaine Moore
- [Darren Mann](#) as Lucius McFalls
- [Morgan Freeman](#) as Sheriff Thurmond Fowler
- Benjamin Vandermey as Deputy Kane
- Tony DeMil as Jody
- John Dylan Atkins as Mace
- Liann Pattison as Purnie Cannon
- [Andrew Stevens](#) as Dewey

## Production

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In February 2022, [Cole Hauser](#), [Morgan Freeman](#) and [Jaimie Alexander](#) were confirmed as starring in the film.<sup>[2]</sup>

Filming began in [Mississippi](#) in February 2022.<sup>[3]</sup>

In May 2022, it was announced that [Grindstone Entertainment](#) would be distributing the film in North America.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Release

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The film was released in theaters, on demand and digital platforms on November 4, 2022 and was released on DVD and Blu-ray December 13, 2022.<sup>[1][5]</sup>

## Reception

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### Critical response

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), [0%](#) of 9 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 2.7/10.<sup>[6]</sup>

Lukas Spathis of *Voices from the Balcony* gave the movie its least negative review, at one and a half stars out of 5, detailing that "The Minute You Wake up Dead is a weak movie that descends into being a bad one thanks to its insistence on using every trope."<sup>[7]</sup>

### Box office

Primarily a direct-to-video release, *The Minute You Wake Up Dead* had a very limited theatrical release, grossing \$35,162 at the box office.<sup>[8]</sup>

## References

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2. Wiseman, Andreas (February 1, 2022). "Morgan Freeman, Cole Hauser & Jaimie Alexander Set For Thriller 'The Minute You Wake Up Dead' " (<https://deadline.com/2022/02/yellowstone-cole-hauser-thor-blondspot-jaimie-alexander-morgan-freeman-movie-1234923876/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved February 2, 2022.
3. "Morgan Freeman stars in movie filming in Mississippi" (<https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2022/02/09/morgan-freeman-filming-movie-mississippi/6719856001/>). *The Clarion-Ledger*. Associated Press. February 9, 2022. Retrieved February 10, 2022.
4. Kay, Jeremy (May 13, 2022). "Red Sea Media to kick off Cannes sales on Morgan Freeman, Cole Hauser thriller 'The Minute You Wake Up Dead' (exclusive)" (<https://www.screendaily.com/news/red-sea-media-to-kick-off-cannes-sales-on-morgan-freeman-cole-hauser-thriller-the-minute-you-wake-up-dead-exclusive/5170483.article>). *Screen Daily*. Retrieved May 16, 2022.
5. Dick, Jeremy (2 November 2022). "Exclusive Clip: Morgan Freeman Investigates a Murder Mystery in The Minute You Wake Up Dead" (<https://movieweb.com/exclusive-morgan-freeman-in-the-minute-you-wake-up-dead/>). *MovieWeb*. Retrieved November 5, 2022.
6. "*The Minute You Wake Up Dead*" ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\\_minute\\_you\\_wake\\_up\\_dead](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_minute_you_wake_up_dead)). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved 2023-07-16.
7. "The Minute You Wake up Dead (2022) Review" (<https://www.voicesfromthebalcony.com/2022/11/08/the-minute-you-wake-up-dead-2022-review/>). *Voices from the Balcony*. November 8, 2022. Retrieved December 16, 2022.
8. "*The Minute You Wake Up Dead*" (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/title/tt11833408/>). *Box Office Mojo*. IMDb. Retrieved 2023-07-16.

## External links

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- *The Minute You Wake Up Dead* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11833408/>) at *IMDb*

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