

Retribution (2023 film)

Retribution is a 2023 action thriller film directed by Nimród Antal and written by Chris Salmanpour. The film stars Liam Neeson, Noma Dumezweni, Lilly Aspell, Jack Champion, Embeth Davidtz and Matthew Modine.^[6] It is the third remake of the 2015 Spanish film *El desconocido*, which follows a brooding man (Neeson) who gets trapped in his car after receiving a threat that it will explode should he get out.

An international co-production of France, Germany, Spain and the United States, *Retribution* was released in France on August 23, 2023 by StudioCanal, and in the United States on August 25 by Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions.

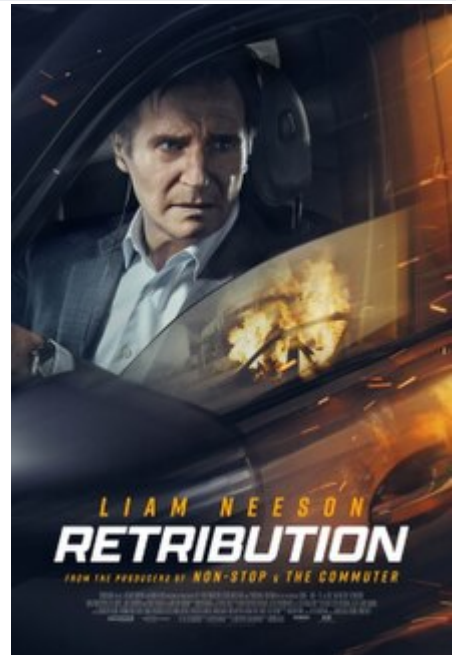
Plot

Matt Turner works as a financier at Nanite Capital under his friend and CEO Anders Muller and lives with his wife, Heather, and two children, Emily and Zach, in Berlin. While driving his kids to school, Matt receives a call from an unknown number with a distorted voice who says that there is a bomb under his seat, which was already armed when Matt sat on it. The bomb is triggered by both pressure plates placed on all the seats and a radio frequency. He also threatens to detonate the bomb if Matt tries to get help. Matt finds the device and is forced to follow the bomber's instructions in order to keep them alive.

The bomber forces Matt to watch Sylvain, the latter's client who is also receiving a bomb threat, being killed in an explosion when Sylvain's panicked girlfriend attempts to escape. The bomber tells Matt to call Heather to retrieve €50,000 from his safety deposit box at the bank and deliver it to him. After Heather retrieves it, the bomber changes the plan by telling her to give the money to a man in a blue suit. When she does, the police arrive and arrest the man.

After seeing the news implicating Matt for the bombing, Europol agent Angela Brickmann calls him; Matt tries to convince her of his innocence and requests that cellular signals be jammed to prevent the remote trigger. The bomber reveals that Matt and Anders have a €208 million slush fund from the clients deposited in Matt's "emergency collateral account" in a bank in Dubai. He arranges for Matt to meet Anders at a power plant. Arriving there, the bomber forces Matt to order Anders to liquidate his collateral

Retribution



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Nimród Antal
Screenplay by	Chris Salmanpour
Based on	<i>El desconocido</i> by Alberto Marini
Produced by	Andrew Rona Alex Heineman Jaume Collet-Serra Juan Sola
Starring	Liam Neeson Noma Dumezweni Lilly Aspell Jack Champion Embeth Davidtz Matthew Modine
Cinematography	Flavio Labiano

account. Despite Anders reluctantly complying, the bomber orders Matt to kill Anders with a revolver in exchange for his life and his children. When Matt refuses, the bomber blows up Anders's car; the shrapnel injures Emily's leg.

After a police chase, Matt is eventually surrounded by them with Angela and Heather arriving at the scene. Once they realize that the pressure plate is only located under Matt's seat, the bomb squad safely removes Zach and Emily, who is treated for her injuries. Interrogating Matt, Angela suspects the bombing might be related to the heist. After talking to Heather for the last time, Matt drives away and evades the police, determined to find the bomber by himself. Matt demands the bomber to meet him in person if he wants the money.

The bomber is revealed to be Anders all along. Anders reveals that he wanted to make Matt the fall guy for the series of bombings to cover up his scheme of embezzling €208 million wired into his crypto account. To end this, Matt deliberately crashes his car, causing it to cling on the side of a bridge. Matt unlocks his seat belt and falls into the river, allowing the bomb to activate and kill Anders. Angela and the police arrive at the scene, with Angela nodding at Matt before allowing him to walk free.

During the credits, the news reports state that the bombings were part of the heist perpetrated by Anders, and Matt cooperates with Europol to resolve the incident.

Cast

- [Liam Neeson](#) as Matt Turner^[7]
- [Noma Dumezweni](#) as Angela Brickmann
- [Lilly Aspell](#) as Emily Turner
- [Jack Champion](#) as Zach Turner
- [Arian Moayed](#) as Sylvain
- [Embeth Davidtz](#) as Heather Turner
- [Matthew Modine](#) as Anders Muller

Production

Retribution is an American, French, German and Spanish co-production by [StudioCanal](#) and [Studio Babelsberg Motion Pictures](#). It was shot mainly at [Babelsberg Studios](#) in [Potsdam](#) and in the streets of [Berlin](#), where the story takes place.^{[8][9]}

Originally announced in 2017,^[10] Neeson was confirmed to be starring in November 2020.^{[1][11][12][13]} In May 2021, it was announced that Champion and Aspell were cast to portray the son and daughter respectively of Neeson's character.^[14] In June 2021, it was announced that Modine, Davidtz and Moayed

Edited by	Steven Mirkovich
Music by	Harry Gregson-Williams
Production companies	The Picture Company <div>Ombra Films</div> <div>TF1 Films Production</div> <div>Studio Babelsberg</div>
Distributed by	Lionsgate <div>Roadside Attractions (United States)</div> <div>StudioCanal (France)</div> <div>Triictures (Spain)^[1]</div>
Release dates	August 23, 2023 (France) <div>August 25, 2023 (United States)</div>
Running time	90 minutes ^[2]
Countries	France <div>Germany</div> <div>Spain</div> <div>United States</div>
Language	English
Budget	\$20 million ^[3]
Box office	\$18.7 million ^{[4][5]}

were cast in the film.^[15] In July 2021, *Deadline Hollywood* reported that Modine completed his scenes that were filmed in Germany.^[16] The film's score was composed by *Harry Gregson-Williams*.^[17]

Release

In November 2022, *Lionsgate Films* acquired the distribution rights to the film for the United States, Canada and India from *StudioCanal* and *The Picture Company*, later collaborating with *Roadside Attractions* in the aforementioned territories and *PVR Inox Pictures* in India under a later deal to release the film.^[18] The film was released in France on August 23, 2023, and was released in the United States on August 25, 2023.^[6] It was released in the United Kingdom and Ireland on October 13, 2023.^[19] Likewise, a October 27, 2023 date was scheduled for the film's release in Spanish theatres.^[20]

Home media

Retribution was released through premium video on demand in the United States on September 15, 2023.^[21] It was later released on *Blu-ray* on October 31, 2023.^[22]

Reception

Box office

Retribution has grossed \$6.9 million in the United States and Canada, and \$11.8 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$18.7 million.^{[4][5]}

In the United States and Canada, *Retribution* was released alongside *Gran Turismo*, *The Hill*, and *Golda*, and was projected to gross \$2–3 million from 1,750 theaters in its opening weekend.^[23] The film made \$1.3 million on its first day, and went on to debut to \$3.3 million, finishing eighth.^[3]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website *Rotten Tomatoes*, 28% of 92 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.6/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Retribution* may prove mildly diverting for hardcore fans of films depicting Liam Neeson as a parent in peril, but in most respects, this thriller is strictly standard stuff."^[24] *Metacritic*, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 43 out of 100, based on 26 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[25] Audiences surveyed by *CinemaScore* gave the film an average grade of "C" on an A+ to F scale, while those polled at *PostTrak* gave it a 54% overall positive score.^[3]

In a mixed review for *Vulture*, *Bilge Ebiri* stated that "Neeson's action movies often turn on his characters' anxieties as a father and/or husband — sublimating his own tragic personal history into the realm of fictional motivation." and that, "Most of *Retribution* consists of three shots: a close-up of Matt, a close-up of his daughter, and a close-up of his son. But out of these simple building blocks and this nothing script, Antal extracts plenty of suspense and even emotion".^[26]

Noel Murray, in the *Los Angeles Times*, found "The script is too flatly functional, weighed down by periodic info dumps where various people try to explain how Matt's floundering business might connect to his current predicament.", adding that "Liam Neeson has done so many variations on the "angry dad"

action hero that we can start dividing those movies into sub-genres." and that "While *Retribution* is far from Neeson's best, it still mostly works, so long as you tune out the dialogue and focus on the hero's twitchy face, waiting to see which will blow to smithereens first: his car or his patience".^[27]

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