**Study questions #1: Die Hard (1988)**

1. Reviewing the readings and lecture notes, write up a character analysis of Sgt Powell. Is Powell a coherent character, as coherence is described by Corrigan and White? What are his goals, desires and values? What important functions does Sgt Powell serve in the narrative? List at least two. Is there a visual or narrative detail or action that you felt renders his character particularly well. Lastly, is he an official or outlaw hero or some combination of both?

* Corrigan and White breakdown character coherence in terms of values, actions and behaviour. A coherent character is said to have certain core values that they’re defined by, actions that follow and are in line with said values and behaviours that fit the social context surrounding them. Sgt. Powell meets all three of these assumptions. His primary values are camaraderie, bravery and loyalty as can be seen in the action he takes in scenes where he’s defending John to the other officers, standing up for him and providing support to him. Powell’s behaviour also mirrors the societal and historical beliefs prevalent among police officers during his time. His mannerisms and approach are all rooted in a sense of duty.
* Powells main goal and desire as a police officer and character is to ensure safety, restore justice and help John.
* Powell’s often serves as a moral compass of sorts to John and the audience. He provides John with encouragement over the radio boosting his morale and determination, helping him get the terrorists at the end. He acts as a key communication link between the outside world and Nakatomi plaza, connecting the two storylines. He also reminds the audience of Mclane’s humanising elements, by revealing Mclane’s struggles and fears, making him a more relatable character and highlighting the different between the evil terrorists and the outlaw hero Mclane.
* Powell’s admission of guilt over accidentally shooting a child in the line of duty humanizes him and shows the burden police officers have to carry. This vulnerability adds depth to his character, making him relatable to the audience. Powell's hesitant yet courageous actions in overcoming his fears and confronting the terrorists portray a powerful narrative arc.
* Sgt. Powell predominantly fits the archetype of an official hero. He believes in objective legal action, adheres to due process and procedure, values collective action and compromise, and eschews violence whenever possible. However, there might be moments when he takes unconventional routes or decisions, hinting at some traits of an outlaw hero. These instances, though present, do not significantly outweigh his overall adherence to the law and his commitment to official protocols.

2. Die Hard take place in the late 1980s in a Century City high rise, owned by a Japanese corporation, whose upper floors are still under construction. How does that space shape the narrative? Why, for example, is it important that it is unfinished? What do you see as Nakatomi Plaza’s historical, ideological/political, psychological and possibly symbolic significance?

* The unfinished building serves as a tangible representation of vulnerability and instability. It helps build an atmosphere of unpredictability. The fact that it’s unfinished also provides several different ways for John to hide, escape and see the terrorists, which add to the game between John and the terrorists.
* The historicial significance of a Japanese corporation owning the building reflects the rise of the global markets against the US and the threat that follows with it.

3. What narrative patterns of time do you notice in Die Hard? Use at least three terms concerning narrative temporality (e.g. chronology, deadline, duration, frequency, etc.) from Corrigan and White to answer this question, using details from the film to illustrate.

* The movie primarily follows a linear chronology. The events happen sequentially, creating a sense of real-time urgency. It also has a deadline structure. The terrorists, led by Hans Gruber, have a clear timeline to access the vault, this deadline adds tension to the story. The ticking time reinforces the sense of urgency and suspense throughout the film.
* The narrative duration only a night, which amplifies the intensity of the events. Although the film spans just a few hours, its action-packed.

4. Die Hard focuses extensively on John McClane/Bruce Willis’ body. How does his body fare in the film? Describe a moment or situation when the film invites our identification with his body and how you felt in that moment.

* Throughoutthe movie McClane's body undergoes significant wear and tear. He's bruised, bloodied, and battered, highlighting his vulnerability yet also showcasing his resilience.
* One notable moment that helps the audience identify with McClane is whe he has to walk over broken glass in his bare feet. The viewers can almost feel the sharp pain and vulnerability of being shoeless amidst shards of glass. The focus on his bloodied feet afterward, juxtaposed with his determination, reinforces his human vulnerability and evokes sympathy and admiration.