

Dear Companions and Sir Knights,

As we gather 'round the holiday hearth with visions of sugarplums dancing in our heads (or, more likely, that one uncle's infamous fruitcake), it's time to address a time-honored tradition: the annual debate over whether Die Hard is, indeed, a Christmas movie. While some of us prefer a quiet evening with It's a Wonderful Life, others know the true meaning of Christmas involves Bruce Willis, an office building, and an unfortunate series of events for a group of thieves. After all, nothing says "holiday cheer" like John McClane delivering a festive "Yippee-ki-yay!"

Now, I know what some of you are thinking: "Where are the carols? The stockings? The hot cocoa?" But let's not forget that Die Hard has all the trappings of a Christmas classic. There's a Christmas party (albeit interrupted), twinkling lights (amid gunfire), and even heartfelt moments of love and reconciliation (usually right before McClane dispatches another villain). And really, isn't that what the holidays are all about? Bringing people together—whether it's to celebrate peace on Earth or to foil a heist in Nakatomi Plaza?

So, as we prepare to ring in this most wonderful time of year, let's embrace the diversity of Christmas traditions, whether you're sipping eggnog by the fire or watching John McClane take down bad guys in the name of holiday justice. May your season be merry, your family gatherings peaceful, and your action movies plentiful. Happy Holidays, and remember: Die Hard is a Christmas movie—whether you like it or not!

Yours in festive fellowship,

Sam Whitehead
Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Montana