

Man on Fire

(original title unknown)

France / Italy : 1987 : dir. Elie Chouraqui : : 93 min

prod: : scr: Elie Chouraqui and Sergio Donati : dir.ph.:

[Jade Malle](#)

Scott Glenn; Joe Pesci; Brooke Adams; Jonathan Pryce; Paul Shenar; Danny Aiello; Lou Castel; Laura Morante

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"International mish-mash of pacifist Glenn, hired as young Malle's bodyguard, who turns into a minor-league Rambo when she is kidnapped. Good cast wasted. **BOMB** "

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"Action-man heroes are generally given a decent moral side so that their outrageously violent behaviour can be justified. Here, in an often unintentionally funny mix of big-blast set-pieces and patently ludicrous plot shenanigans, Scott Glenn plays a former CIA agent turned pacifist who becomes a Rambo-style avenger when the 12-year old girl in his charge is kidnapped. Alongside Glenn, Jonathan Pryce, Danny Aiello and Joe Pesci are confounded by the mediocrity of the project. Contains swearing and violence. * "

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"A thriller without a spark of imagination. As he is zipped into a body-bag, ex-CIA agent Creasy (Glenn) recalls how he was hired to babysit Sam (Malle), 12-year old daughter of an Italian businessman. Sam's a cute kid, but she reminds him (in slo-mo flashback) of a dead child in war-torn Beirut. So he wants out, but things pick up when she compares him with Lenny in Steinbeck's *"Of Mice and Men"*, then serenades him with *"Someone To Watch Over Me"*. Of course she gets kidnapped by reptilian criminals anyway; but with a subtlety typical of the film, he crashes a cement-mixer into the kidnappers' hideout and dies – or does

he? – in his rescue bid. Borrowing wholesale from Scorsese, this inept thriller adds insult to injury with a risible voice-over, a sickly soundtrack, atrocious dubbing (though filmed in English) and corny freeze frames. Video: Vestron VHS VAI7008 "

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"Quite watchable for most of the time, this is all too often a ponderous and portentous thriller, with an exaggerated sense of its own weight, that looks like a Chuck Norris cast-off. Scott Glenn even assumes the Norris mien of bearded unkemptness as the soldier of fortune whose relationship with the 12-year old daughter of a rich American family in Italy leads him into a crazed vendetta when she is kidnapped for a million dollar ransom. Jade Malle (daughter of director Louis) is quite winning as the girl, but the film is weakly scripted and put together in such a way as to remind you that directors in films no longer have a studio at their shoulder to tactfully suggest, at some stage in the rushes, that they might be making a hash of what is basically a quite workable concept. The opening and kidnap scenes are striking, but Glenn has little chance to impress his personality on the vengeance-seeker and little else in the film suggests the imagination necessary to bring the project to life. ** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Scott Glenn plays an ex-CIA agent hired to protect the daughter of a wealthy American couple. Glenn is the film's only redemption.

Rated "R" for language and graphic violence.
TURKEY ”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information available pending a further view. Adapted from a novel by A. J. Quinnell. Not to be confused with the 1957 Bing Crosby film of the same name. Chiefly of interest here in that, beneath all the plastic heroics and derivative macho business, the relationship which develops between young Jade Malle and her taciturn minder (if you can cope with an ex-CIA pacifist!) is rather unusual for a film of this kind. From the moment she gets kidnapped it reverts to its bare knuckle roots, but at any rate it's worth a second look. Nothing else is known of Louis Malle's daughter, but she obviously didn't get cast on merit alone. There's still an unhealthy degree of nepotism in the film world.

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