

“Skyscraper”

By Helen Lutz

Our society is just getting to be way too ‘smart.’ My husband and I have a Ring doorbell. It comes in real handy when someone is at our door and I can look at my phone and see who’s there. I can even talk to them. This is nothing compared to our kids’ houses which are really connected with door locks and thermostat controls, etc. There are some ‘smart homes’ which can almost serve coffee in the morning as they open the blinds and turn on the news. Technology comprised of sensors, monitors, interfaces, appliances and devices enable the automation of lighting, heating, hot water systems, curtains, refrigerators, televisions, garage door openers – you name it; and our homes are not the only recipients of the new technological advances.



In the new action thriller “Skyscraper” Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson portrays Will Sawyer. Sawyer’s background includes being a decorated Marine and a highly skilled FBI negotiator. We watch a flashback in Sawyer’s life as he works to defuse a domestic dispute. The dad has the baby, wife and a gun – and is at his wits end. Just as Will thinks he might have a breakthrough the dad turns – he’s wearing a bomb and everything goes downhill from there. Will barely survives the explosion losing a leg and much of his confidence.

After recovering from his injuries, Will works as a private security consultant. His specialty is the security of buildings. Just how safe are they should they come under attack? Are they eligible for insurance? His new contract takes him to Hong Kong along with his wife, Sarah (Neve Campbell) and his children Georgia and Henry (McKenna Roberts and Noah Cottrell) to check out the new tallest building in the world, The Pearl built by billionaire Zhao Long Ji (Chin Han). A self contained city, The Pearl is 3500 feet (240 stories) tall and magnificent filled with every security and safety measure imaginable. The trip is a bit of a holiday for the Sawyers.

In order to be successful, many times people find it necessary to pay an underworld piper. Pay up and you’re left alone, stop payments and who knows what might happen. It’s unfortunate that when the payments stop and Zhao decides to stand his ground, the bad guys led by Kores Botha (Roland Moller) decide to wreck havoc with the new building proving that knowledge of the layout coupled with a very talented hacker can breach even the best security systems.

With total disregard for life Botha’s thugs invoke terror, violence and bloodshed at every turn. The Sawyer family is supposed to be away enjoying a sight-seeing tour which is cut short causing them to return unexpectedly to their hotel suite; a suite which is just above the floor where a treacherous fire is started. It’s tense and interesting as the terrorists use the building’s safety systems to cause a raging, uncontrollable fire – water only feeds the flames.

Suffering betrayal and not knowing who to trust Will learns that his family is in danger. That’s all it takes for “The Rock” to spring into action. He is able to do amazing things with only one leg and lots of duct tape. “Skyscraper” keeps us on the edges of our seats as Will races to save his family and the day. An amazing room of mirrors at the very top of The Pearl provides a captivating chase scene reminiscent of the old carnival fun houses. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Skyscraper” TWO 1/2 HARTS. It is best seen on the big screen with its wall-to-wall action; but you’ll need to just go with the flow to enjoy it – don’t stop to analyze the possibilities/probabilities.