



# Dan O'Bannon's Guide to Screenplay Structure: Inside Tips from the Writer of ALIEN, TOTAL RECALL and RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD

By Dan O'Bannon, Matt Lohr

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Dan O'Bannon famously crafted his screenplays using a self-designed system which he called “dynamic structure.” This book outlines how O'Bannon’s method differs from those of other well-known screenwriting gurus, and illustrates with examples from classic (and not-so-classic) films how dynamic structure can be applied to craft narrative and character. O'Bannon also includes his insights on subjects such as the logic of the three-act structure, the role of the producer in screenplay development, and the psychological principle known as “hedonic adaptation,” which has a unique effect on the structuring of screen stories.



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## **Editorial Review**

### **About the Author**

Dan O'Bannon was an acclaimed screenwriter whose eleven feature writing credits include the international blockbusters *Alien* and *Total Recall*, as well as *Return of the Living Dead*, which he also directed.

Matt R. Lohr is an award-winning screenwriter, essayist, and critic. His views on contemporary and classic cinema can be found on his blog, "The Movie Zombie." He lives in Los Angeles.

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