

GOOD GUY VS BAD GUY OVER STAKES

The climax of every well-told story is the protagonist in pitched battle against the antagonist over the stakes of the story. I've seen films where the final battle is handed to some subordinate or minor character, and you can feel your brain rebel while watching. In your story, make sure it is your main character who has to get his hands dirty, not someone else. Your main character might get some desperately needed help, but choices and action belong to your main character.

In romantic comedies, this can be a seemingly small moment right at the very end of the story, because after all, when the boy gets the girl, it's all over.

- Brody is on the sinking *Orca* and squares off against the shark to save Amity. (JAWS)
- Jack fights Barbossa to save Will and Elizabeth. (PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL)
- Sam finds Jonah at the top of the Empire State Building, almost misses Annie, but finds her when they come back to retrieve Jonah's backpack. (SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE)
- Luke destroys the Death Star and saves Leia. (STAR WARS)