

KEVIN PRUFER

THE VILLAIN AND HIS HELICOPTER: POSSIBLE MOVIE RENTAL VERSIONS

In the simple, VHS version
the blasted helicopter
falls into the sea
and disappears just before
the credits scroll
the picture away. On DVD,
a commotion in the pod
is visible, the rotors
scurling up smoke, the helicopter
tilting dangerously into
the sea. In the Digit-L Letterbox
Limited Release, the villain presses
his white face to the glass
and groans, the helicopter's
rotors grinding and coughing
smoke. In the Director's Cut
you can hear the sound his fingers make
against the glass, like little
suction cups. In D-Lux
Dolby Stereo, the engine
dies in slow motion, every
gear grinding perfectly away,
the villain mouthing these words:
tell my wife . . . my son . . .
In the Premier Unrated DVD
you can just discern a flashback
to the villain's past, his mother
singing him to sleep.
In the Wide-Screen, Criterion Edition
a single tear streaks his flushed cheek
as the helicopter smiles,
like any good machine,
into the senseless, reflecting sea.