

NO OTHER CHOICE
(Eojjeolsuga eobsda)

27th
Year!

Spring
Season
2026

Release: 2025
Cert (UK): 12A
Country: South Korea
Language: Korean with English subtitles
Runtime: 2 hour 19 mins
Director: Park Chan-wook
Written by: Park Chan-wook, Lee Kyoung-mi, Jahye Lee
Cinematographer: Kim Woo-hyung
Cast: Lee Byung-hun, Son Ye-jin, Park He-soon



Park Chan-wook's latest is the South Korean entry for the Oscars this year. He has brought us some great thrillers - *'The Handmaiden'*, *'Decision to Leave'* - and this is no exception, but this one is charged with comedy as well.

We start off seeing what a wonderful life Man-su and his family are living - lovely house, lovely family, even TWO golden retrievers. But then it all goes wrong; his company is taken over by an American one and he is 'let go' - 'We have no other choice'. Gradually everything in his life begins to go - first the car, then the house, then... and he keeps failing interviews. In desperation he comes up with a plan - eliminate the opposition - literally! He, of course, thinks he has 'no other choice'.

So out comes his father's North-Korean-made revolver... This plan might have some sense if he could become adept at killing people but, as in *'The Mastermind'* last season, he is just not cut out for his chosen way of life; bring on the comedy. *'But while the crime spree may be inept, Park's filmmaking is as elegant as ever, in a wildly enjoyable picture that balances psychological tension against giddily hilarious comic set pieces'* - Wendy Ide, Screen Daily.

'Beneath the broad comedy and satire, however, is a minor key refrain. The film is extremely amusing, certainly, but it's simultaneously a poignant study of the desperation of the long-term jobless and the needless cruelty of the corporate world. It's also a warning. As AI chews increasingly large chunks out of the job market, we could all be Man-su. The question is, who will be the one holding the North Korean service revolver when the time comes?' - Wendy Ide again.

