

*Sex and the City* took proven, beloved characters from the television series and wove them into a classic Hollywood Romantic Comedy for the big screen. The first rule of the TV adaptation is “go bigger,” so they gave all of the women life-changing conflicts to navigate. As in the series, Carrie’s arc is the anchor—she’s the *main* Protagonist in this ensemble piece—and her relationship with Miranda is her most crucial friendship. There’s a lot of ground to cover with so many characters and lines of action, but by utilizing active devices and extending Act Three, the script is up to the task. For the iconic character who always lived for fashion, the climax is the ultimate sacrifice, and a bold choice by the writer, to throw out the couture and get hitched in City Hall.

## **Sex and the City (2008)**

Screenplay by Michael Patrick King

Based on the characters from the book by Candace Bushnell

Directed by Michael Patrick King

136 minutes

### **BASIC STORY MAP**

**PROTAGONIST:** CARRIE BRADSHAW, 40s, newspaper columnist

**Skill:** Loyal friend

**Misbehavior:** Jaded

**Achilles Heel/Flaw:** Blames everyone but herself

**EXTERNAL GOAL:** To get married to Big

**INTERNAL GOAL:** To help her friends, most notably, Miranda

**MAIN DRAMATIC CONFLICT:** Big/ Herself

**THEME:** Don’t give up on love

**CENTRAL DRAMATIC QUESTION:** Can Carrie and Big live happily ever after?

**THE ENDING:** Carrie and Big get married, on their own terms.

**ARC:** Carrie goes from a publicly jilted bride to marrying the man she’s always wanted.

**LOGLINE:** A sex columnist is left at the altar and must learn to forgive and trust in love once again so she can marry her long-time partner.

### **FULL STORY MAP**

#### **STORY ENGINES**

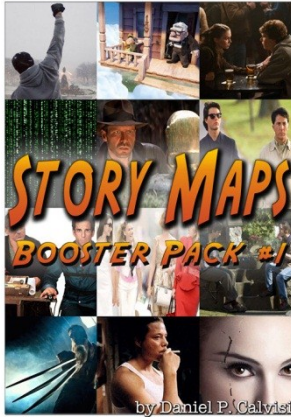
ACT 1: Carrie and Big decide to marry and Carrie leaves behind her old apartment and the single life.

ACT 2A: Carrie plans an excessive wedding and Big backs out, leaving her devastated.

*Sex and the City* Screenplay Analysis by Daniel Calvisi [Act Four Screenplays](#).  
This Full Story Map is available for purchase along with eleven other hit movies in the "Booster Pack #1" of  
the E-Book [Story Maps: How to Write a GREAT Screenplay](#).

ACT 2B: Carrie turns to her friends and her new personal assistant to help her get her life in order,  
and she helps them through their own personal crises.

ACT 3: Carrie owns up to her actions and she and Big reunite and get married.



**This Story Map continues in the  
Booster Pack of the E-Book...**

**Story Maps:  
How to Write a GREAT  
Screenplay**