

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.

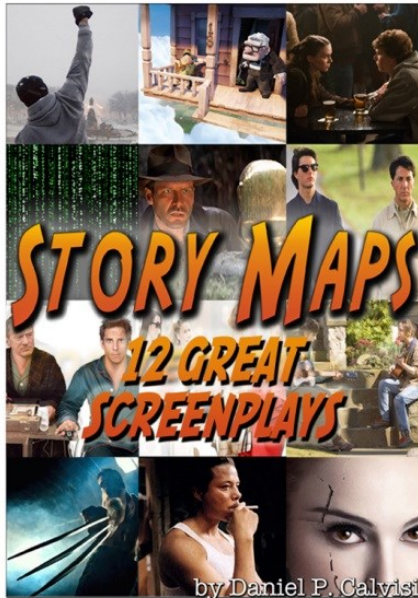
ACT 2A: Carrie plans an excessive wedding and Big backs out, leaving her devastated.

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.

SEX AND THE CITY STORY MAP CONTINUES

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“STORY MAPS: 12 Great Screenplays” E-Book by Daniel Calvisi

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*Note: The e-book does not contain images from the films.