**One line pitch**

“When Sean leaves college he has friends, a girlfriend, he’s witty and smart, and has no idea what to do with his life.”

“What happens when things don’t just fall into place?”

**Premise and main themes**

A story that encapsulates what it is to be young; leaving college, not knowing one’s place in the world, feeling hopeful about the rest of life, and having an inherent arrogance that ‘everything will just fall into place’. It’s about how life isn’t as idealistically simple as that which is painted in fiction. People’s paths in life aren’t linear, there is no right way to end up doing that which you are meant for. Also, important is the idea that when you leave university, you, for the first time, have to fend for yourself. There is no ‘relaxing’ and the whole of your previous life now becomes unimportant. If you want something, you have to go and earn it. It’s about one guy’s path to finding that which he loves doing, and his active decision to stop being passive, and start being active. It’s about the fact that the end of university is a difficult time for a lot of people, and that you go through a lot of changes personally over that time.

**Short plot**

The film starts with Sean in his final year at university, and his pursuit of a career which he thinks will be right for him, his girlfriend and his father. At first he has trouble getting a job, but eventually manages to get one. Through his job (on a training weekend) he actually meets a great girl, Emma, who ultimately will be his love interest (although he doesn’t know it yet). It then covers Sean’s fall from grace after he realises that he is completely mis-suited to what he thinks is ‘the rest of his life’. He leaves his job without an idea as to what to do next, and loses his girlfriend soon afterward. He goes to live in a stoner friend’s shit apartment, and spends his days in pyjamas pining after Vicky. He bores his friends with chat about her. He begrudgingly ends up going on a date with Emma, at the behest of his friends. She then sets him on a path, working as a runner on movies, which will ultimately lead to him becoming a screenwriter. Alongside this there is the parallel narrative that is to do with Sean and Emma’s relationship, which is transforming into a romance. This takes a nose dive after Sean misses a PR event which Emma has organised, perhaps to do something with Vicky. There is then a pivotal scene with his Dad, and later with his friends, actually maybe the other way around. In these scenes he realises that his new found success and joie de vivre is solely due to Emma. This culminates with a climactic scene where he gets her back with the help of his friends.

**Plot**

The story picks up in the remnants of the final year at a West coast university. Sean is trying to persuade anyone that will take him that he’s worth having. The film starts with Sean attending interviews at a variety of different places, and, although he’s personable, he has a lot of growing up to do.

There is a scene with Sean in his university house with his friends. Talk of each others’ Dads fucking each others’.

Scene where Sean goes to visit the university careers office. The careers advisor he is assigned should be similar to the role of Kristen Wiig in Knocked up.

He ends up getting a job at a firm that he thinks will look good on a CV, and will demand kudos from his friends and family. He has to fend off questions from his friends who are all surprised that he’s deciding to go down that career path. He takes the job at the behest of his girlfriend and father. Perhaps acting against his better judgement. Sean kids himself into thinking that his job will be interesting to him, and that he is doing it for all the right reasons. He thinks that he will actually be good at it.

End of university party.

Sean starts work. The company takes the new starters on a weekend away for training and bonding. Sean initially tries to get on with some of them. He only seems to get on with the least confident, most likeable of the bunch; a guy called Steve. Steve has led a bit of a sheltered life, and actually lived at home whilst at university, where he did really well academically. Due to this lack of life skills, Steve is prone to over-drink, and treats the company away weekend/week as more like a Freshmen year. His heart is in the right place, and he just ‘gets on’ and does what he has to. Sean ends up caring for Steve after nights out; taking him back, putting him to bed. Steve and Sean have a shared, geeky love for movie quotes, and this is what initially bonds them, and separates (at least Sean) away from the rest of the group. He meets at the hotel however, a really cool girl, Emma, who is there with family; a trip they make every year together. They end up staying up all night talking, drinking. There is definitely something between the two of them, but because Sean is in his relationship, and is ‘happy’ he fails to see it. They part ways, although Sean gets her number.

Sean goes to work. Hates it. Montage scene with him getting home from work and just collapsing repeatedly.

Sean’s boss is a nice guy, but someone he definitely doesn’t want to be like.

Sean then makes the decision to quit his job. There’s a scene where he tells Vicky over dinner that he is going to leave his job, and he doesn’t know where next he’ll go. He just knows that working in the job is killing him. She doesn’t take it well.

Sean can’t make the rent on his apartment, so goes and stays on his stoner mate’s floor. When he thinks things can’t get any lower, he goes round to Vicky’s to celebrate their anniversary, and she breaks it off. To Sean it seems out of the blue, but to Vicky it has been a long time building. I think it is important that Vicky is not painted as a bad person; that would be easy, and an oversimplification to make. They just want very different things from life.

Sean hits rock bottom. He can’t understand why his ‘love of his life’ is not interested in being with him anymore. He finds it hard living on his stoner mate’s floor, and putting up with his stoner mate’s housemate everyday. Even his stoner mate seems to be getting on better with his work than he did! Every time he meets up with his friends, they emphasise how much they are loving their jobs. He bores his friends silly with talk of getting back together with Vicky.

He eventually decides to get in contact with Emma (at the behest of his friends), and meet up with her for a beer. Asides from not being anywhere near being over Vicky, he is afraid that she will think him some sort of failure; similar to Vicky.

He meets up with her. He learns that she works in movie PR (a fact he neglected to find out before since he was so wrapped up in himself). She says she knows about a production company looking for a runner, and thinks she can get him an interview. He’s not sure whether he will just fuck it up just like any job.

Sean finds it hard initially in his job as a runner. He is literally in at the lowest level, and has to do all manner of shit, meaningless jobs for overpaid actors, and directors. This will make for good cameo scenes. He isn’t sure that this is exactly for him. He has a lot of doubts. He’s not sure about whether the movie industry is for him. The whole idea is that life isn’t idealised. We don’t just ‘know’ that we are onto a good thing.

He eventually gets his opportunity to run errands for the script writers for a comedy, and has some ideas which get noticed. Everyone on the script writing team is pro him, with one, quite obviously (and amusingly) jealous guy. They agree after a while to give him a try. I’m not sure whether his confidence is so low at this point that he doesn’t notice his talents, or whether he just goes for it, hammer and nail.

He works really hard as a script writer and it seems to be paying off. He takes his work home with him; is always trying out new scene ideas. This would make for a nice date scene between him and Emma.

Emma and Sean’s friends end up getting along really well. She is completely accepting of them, in contrast to Vicky. They all really like her.

Running parallel with Sean’s new work, there is obviously a spark between him and Emma. They start going on a few dates. Sean stops to talk about Vicky with his mates. Things are going along smoothly. There is a scene where they end up kissing.

Something happens which disrupts his relationship with Emma. It would be easy to make the ‘something’, something to do with Vicky. Perhaps she gets back in contact. Perhaps he meets up with Vicky, and she says that she is really proud of him, and that she wants to get back together with him. Is this too obvious? I think it might be, and is a little too predictable, and simple. Not indicative of real life. What else could happen? It has to be something with Vicky. Maybe he ends up not going to a PR event that Emma has been planning for months. She confronts him about it, and he says something derogatory about it only being PR for a stupid movie. The idea that is trying to be conveyed by this is that Sean still has a lot of growing up to do. Everyone has their own ‘best job’, and he is being just as condemning as Vicky originally was about him going into movies.

There’s a scene with his Dad, where to Sean’s surprise his Dad is actually ok with him going to work in movies. His Dad thought about going to work as a winery owner. He never went through it because of his father. Always regretted it. He doesn’t want to see his son go through the same thing. His Dad just tells him straight that, life isn’t easy, and when you start working you literally start all over again, right from the bottom of the hierarchy. Sean cursorily mentions that he has had a ‘bust up’ with Emma, about her taking her PR work too seriously. This is a defining moment where Sean’s Dad knocks him down.

Sean sees his friends and they call him a ‘dick’ for the way he has treated Emma. Sean realises that he has fucked up, and that he has to do something to get her back. Sean comes to the realisation that the reason he is actually now back on track in life is solely due to Emma. Emma has always said that she loves a certain movie. Something quirky, and a cult classic. Sean realises that this may be the way to get her back. It also needs to be something that is linked to her work in PR. It can’t simply be a case of him winning her over with a romantic gesture. He needs to do something concrete to demonstrate that he values her choice of work, and respects it. Whatever he does it will involve all of his friends, and is the climactic scene of the film. I like the idea of the Gooney’s as being the film that she loves. It is a very nostalgic film for a lot of people, and would make for an excellent ‘pirate ship’ final scene.