**One line pitch**

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

**Premise**

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, but not having any idea what there is to be hopeful about. It covers the story of Sean, a man at home at university, yet misplaced in professional life. He’s never thought too hard about work, just assumed that it would all fall into place. The film covers Sean’s pursuit of a career, his dissolution with work, and him and his friends’ attempts to make their way in life for the first time.

**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 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.

**Background**

Sean has a number of friends, whom he really considers his chosen family, around which he bases his life. He has a cool sister, who’s really supportive, and normal, who he loves. He’s got his heart in the right place, just has a lot of growing up to do.

Simon: An Irishman devoid of moral scruples. Good looking, over-confident, prone to bullshit when under pressure.

Dan: A stoner. Not a hard worker. Addicted to Facebook. Seems to always come out ok in the end though. Dan has been at university a long time. He is now older than the majority of teaching staff, and on first name terms with them all. His loves in life are getting high, and prosciutto. Decent hearted person, although not dependable, and generally vacant.

Girlfriend: a nice enough girl, but prickly. Her and Sean are different. He’s really easy going, she’s got more of an idea that she is going to live in a big house, do well in business. She’s a lawyer. Sean sort of forgets to think about her, as he’s just always seen her as part of his life. Think Sarah Marshall girlfriend. She will end up splitting up with Sean and thus begins/ends Sean’s spiral. Although Sean’s friends will never say it they don’t actually like Vicky that much. And she is passively aggressive about his seeing his friends, whom she regards as time wasters.

**First scene: Split screen between Sean at job interviews, and living in his student house wearing his pyjamas smoking pot, drinking**

The scene starts out with Sean seeming to do ok with his interviews. There is a gradual deterioration of the search effort, with a gradual crossing out of companies. Until he’s left in an interview for some undesirable company, spouting shit. Montage scene with credits.

**Job interview**

Sean: I think I like advertising because of psychology. You know, how you influence people without knowing it? Like one minute I see a picture of Mischa Barton drinking Mountain Dew, and the next thing I know, I’m out of the house, down the 7-11 buying a soda. I mean, what is it about Mischa Barton that makes her make me wanna drink soda? I don’t even like those sort of fakes sodas, the ones that taste like ants smell, the stuff that when you leave it on the table it just ends up all…sticky. But there I am in a store, only got $5 to spend and I’m just there spending it on her….produce. Not that she produces it, obviously, I can’t imagine her being capable of that, but by proxy, yeah.

Sean: I guess no one really thinks about water. I mean you do when you swim, or you go outside and you’re like, ‘Damn it’s raining’, but I guess that’s just it. It’s everywhere, but nowhere. To be a part of the ‘rain men’ [gesticulates with fingers to make a quotation] that bring water to people’s houses, into their hoses, their bathrooms, errm that would be a pretty cool experience.

Sean: You know, I love the internet, I mean, how many times have I seen that dog that talks like a man, trying to get food off his dick owner. You know it? [No answer] You know, it’s the one where the dog is just looking at the owner, all sad, and then this food comes into sight, and he’s like really excited. And he’s like ‘oooooowwww’ – no? Don’t know it? Ahem. Yep. It’s good. I’ll send you the link if you want it? I mean…… Can I get a Mickey Rourke? You know a startover. I don’t think I meant what I said.

Sean: Yeah. I watch aaaa loooottt of TV. You know, like biggg timmme. I mean – The Walking Dead, Game of Thrones, like even 24 sometimes. I mean Keither Sutherland is pretty kick-ass, like much more than say, Sean Bean. You imagine the scene where the castle gets raided in GoT if Jack Bauer was in charge? He’d be like…