

Hero's Journey Analysis – "When Harry Met Sally"

Step 1- Ordinary World

It had to be you plays

Old couple talk about how they met  
I am going to marry that woman

University of Chicago  
Harry Burns (Billy Crystal)  
Kisses a girl  
I love you  
I love you

Sally Albright (Meg Ryan)  
Clears throat as they kiss

Then barps the horn  
2:43

Sally has worked out where they can change shifts  
She doesn't want a grape  
Becausee she doesn't like to eat between meals  
CONTRAST

Story of my life?  
Nothing's happened to me  
That's why I'm going to NY  
To become a journalist  
So you write about what happens to other people?

Amanda mentioned you had a dark side  
When Harry buys a new book  
He turns to the last page so if he dies no how it ends  
He spends hours thinking about death

In the meantime you're going to ruin your whole life

You're wrong  
Of course she wants to stay  
I don't want to spend the rest of my life

They drive up to a diner  
Harry argues for Ingrid Bergman staying with Humphrey  
Bogart at the end of Casablanca  
She says she'll leave

5:48  
Inside a diner  
You think this because you haven't had good sex

I have had plenty of good sex

I

With whom

Sheldon

Harry doubts Sheldon would be the purveyor of great sex

Income tax, root canal

She is very picky in ordering her meal

Why did she break up with Sheldon

Days of the week underpants – this says a lot about her

7:49

She calculates their share of the bill

More character

CALL TO ADVENTURE

He looks at her

Amanda didn't say you were attractive

REFUSAL

Amanda is my friend

So you're coming on to me

No, I wasn't

Can't a man say a woman was attractive without it being a come on.

I take it back

You can't take it back, it's already out there

Just let it lie

Want to spend the night in a motel

9:50

He says they can't be friends because the sex will get in the way

Here is the controlling idea of the film

Men and women can't be friends

IMPORTANT SCENE TO SHOW – WHAT IS THE FILM REALLY ABOUT?

11:16

They farewell one another in NY

Another old couple

12:25

Sally is now the one kissing someone

It's Joe at the airport

Harry walks past  
Joe, I thought it was you

I'm with a firm of political consultants  
Awkward conversation

Used to live in the same building

Harry recognises Sally but can't place her  
Sally says it was the longest night of her life

I said we could just be friends  
Men and woman could never be friends

Do you agree with that?

No

Do you have any women friends who are just friends?

No.

I love you  
You do?

On the plane  
Harry looks at her

Bloody Mary mix  
Her usual particular style

Now he knows who she is  
Did she look this good?  
Did they ever?  
Sit together?

We didn't make it because you were such good friends  
I never considered not sleeping with you a sacrifice

YOU were going to be a gymnast  
Journalist

You've been together, what, three weeks?  
Four  
Because you only take someone to the airport at the  
beginning of the relationship.  
Because later you won't and you don't want them to say  
you don't take me to the airport any more

Harry is getting married  
She thinks it's surprising

It sounds optimistic  
But then he says that he's over the whole dating thing

After sex  
How long do I have to lie here with her  
(We are going to use this later)

Off the plane  
18:02

Would you like to have dinner  
Just friends  
Never said that  
That's right  
Unless they are both in relationships  
Then he says that doesn't work either  
Men and women can't be friends  
(Third time we've heard it)

Old couple

21:00

Carrie Fisher (Marie) knows that her guy is not going to leave her husband

Joe and Sally have just split up

Marie tries to get her to start dating again

23:25

Harry and Jess watch a NY Giants game

Harry and his wife, Helen, have split

Mr Zero knew before he did

She is in love with somebody else

He followed her

I knew the whole time that one day she would kick the shit out of me

Infidelity just a symptom

That symptom is fucking my wife

25:57

Marie's lover is not going to leave his wife

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Sally runs into Harry in the bookstore

6 years since she's seen him

He's cute

REFUSAL

She says he was obnoxious

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

She says that this is just like the movies

He finds out Joe has left

She finds out he has split

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

They go to a restaurant

Find out why she left Joe

She wanted a family

He didn't

29:20

She is sure she is over him

29:33

Outside walking together  
 He says how you find an apartment in NY  
 She laughs

He says when they met  
 He didn't like her  
 She's much softer now  
 I just didn't want to sleep with  
 You wrote it off as a character flaw  
 Statue of limitations on apologies

Would you like to have dinner with me some time  
 Are we becoming friends now?  
 A woman friend?  
 You know you may be the first attractive women I have not  
 wanted to sleep with

Old couple interview

TEST, ALLIES & ENEMIES

Harry is sad

They talk to one another in their separate beds  
 Watching Casablanca  
 She denies ever saying that she should go with Victor  
 Laszlo

Montage of them leading their lives  
 Having dinner  
 Mailing stuff  
 Her at aerobics

He is missing Helen

Split screen  
 33:49  
 They both watch Casablanca

Ingrid Bergman is low maintenance  
 You're high maintenance  
 On the side is a very big thing for you  
 Louie, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful  
 friendship

IMPORTANT

He thinks he has a tumour  
 Good night Harry

35:00  
 Walking down the street

Famous scene visually  
 They are walking in Central Park in the fall  
 He has a dream about being judged for sex  
 Faceless man rips her clothes off is her dream

#### APPROACH

They are in a museum  
 For the rest of the day we are going to talk like this

This is flirting  
 Harry asks her to go to the movies  
 She has a date

Really?  
 She felt strange about it  
 They've been spending so much time together  
 He says he thinks it's great

He thinks she should wear skirts more  
 She says he should get out there too  
 He says he's not ready

37:55  
 They talk about their horror dates  
 But Harry slept with his

39:19  
 In the batting cage  
 Jess doesn't understand this relationship  
 You enjoy her company  
 You find her attractive  
 You're afraid to let yourself be happy  
 They can talk about relationships with one another  
 He doesn't have to lie because he's not thinking about  
 getting into their pants

#### DINER SCENE

41:12  
 How do you get up in the morning  
 She says he is a human affront to all women  
 He says that they have an OK time  
 How do you know they aren't faking orgasm  
 They haven't faked it with me  
 I'll have what she's having

44.11  
 Winter  
 Christmas  
 They buy a tree together  
 Walking in a winter wonderland

45:10

New Years Eve  
 He has shaved  
 They dance together  
 Next NY's eve if neither of them is with someone they  
 have a date

Cheek to cheek  
 Clearly it is going to another level  
 46:03

How to make two lovers become friends is the song

Want to get some air  
 They go outside  
 Happy New Year  
 Should old acquaintance be forgot

CALL TO ADVENTURE  
 They look at one another  
 Chaste kiss

REFUSAL

Old couple

47:50  
 Harry and Sally have set up each other with Jess and  
 Marie  
 But they don't get on with one another  
 However Jess and Marie hit it off

Old Japanese couple

ORDEAL

Harry and Sally try to buy a housewarming gift for Jess  
 and Marie

Karaoke machine  
 Surry with a fringer on top

Helen comes in with Ira  
 Really knocks him

56:18  
 Jess and Marie fight over the Roy Rogers coffee table

Harry shares the benefit of his "wisdom"  
 Six years later you find yourself singing "Surry with a  
 fringe on top" in front of Ira  
 He says they will soon be fighting over possessions  
 Put your name in your books



58:03

She says he can't share his emotions like this  
 He says she is Miss Hospital Corners  
 Nothing bothers you  
 You never get upset about anything  
 How is that possible?

She hasn't slept with anyone since Joe  
 She will make love when it's making love

Are you finished

REWARD

I'm sorry  
 They hug  
 1:00

APPROACH

Pictionary  
 They are both seeing other people  
 But both are jealous

Harry looks at her kissing his handsome tall guy  
 Sally is jealous as Harry kisses his girl

Emily a little young for Harry

Ted Kennedy was shot

ORDEAL

1:03:14  
 Could you come over  
 Joe is getting married

She is crying  
 First emotion

Why doesn't he want to marry me  
 I'm too this I'm too that  
 He defends her

They hug and then kiss  
 Harry could you just hold me a little longer

REWARD

They sleep together

REFUSAL

Harry wakes up and we know what he's thinking

He leaves early  
 But asks to see her for dinner

Kiss on the forehead  
Sally knows what's up

They separately call Jess and Marie  
Split screen  
1:10:00

They talk about what happened  
They did it

They have dinner  
Last night was a mistake  
Sally says they never should have done it  
But she doesn't really think that

They don't talk over dinner  
1:12:09

Loud salad munching

1:12:52  
Harry and Jess  
Talk about it  
Maybe you get to a stage in a relationship where it's  
just too late to have sex

1:13:29  
Marie in her wedding gown  
Is Harry seeing anyone?  
Thin, pretty, big tits

Marie, it's just beautiful  
Tear in Sally's eye

Wedding of Jess and Marie  
Harry and Sally at the Best Man and Bridesmaid  
They can't look at one another  
1:14:48

Reception  
Harry tries to make small talk  
But Sally is not having it  
Can't we get over this  
Forever?  
It just happened  
Three weeks ago  
Uses dog analogy  
Who is the dog  
You are  
She drags him to the kitchen

1:16:40

You want to act like what happened didn't mean anything  
 We both agreed it was a mistake  
 What are you saying?  
 You took pity on me  
 Fuck you!

She slaps him  
 1:17:30

SLAP SEQUENCE that's common in ordeals

1:18:00  
 Sally buys a tree by herself  
 In contrast to the previous year  
 She is struggling

Montage to Christmas carol  
 Harry is trying to make up  
 Leaves message on answering machine  
 She's not having it

1:19:00  
 Sally typing  
 Harry calls again  
 Asks her to pick up  
 His humour is tempting

He says he's through out of making a schmuck out of  
 himself

Then he leaves a karaoke track  
 "Just call me"  
 She picks up

What do you want Harry?  
 She's still upset  
 I'm sorry  
 Ok

But he doesn't' follow up  
 Wait a second

ROAD HOME  
 He doesn't' have a date  
 I am not your consolation prize  
 1:21:03

So Sally is saying they can't go back to being friends  
 It's lovers or nothing

RESURRECTION

Sally is at a party

He walks the streets

A lonely man

Looks at a couple laughing

Sally is bored shitless at the party  
1:22:15

Sally says she's going home  
You'll never get a taxi

It had to be you is playing

They're playing songs of love but not for you

It had to be you

He replays  
Men and women can't be friends  
Over a montage of their time together

It had to be you  
Picks up pace

He runs to Sally

Sally goes to leave the party

But Harry comes in

Harry comes to her  
She's resistant

I love you  
How do you expect me to respond to this

REFUSAL

It doesn't work like this  
How does it work

He loves all the crazy things about her

You see that is just like you Harry  
You make it impossible for me to hate you, Harry  
I really hate you

SHARING THE ELIXIR  
They kiss

1:27:05

Auld lang syne is playing

Anyway it's about old friends

So we have resolved our central question  
Can men and women be friends

Harry and Sally are interviewed  
They had sauce on the side of the wedding cake