

Hero's Journey Analysis – "Body Heat"

ORDINARY WORLD

2 mins credits with nothing on screen but titles

FIRE

SMOKE

Sweat on Ned Racine's back (William Hurt)

My god it's hot, says his casual lover

Sets the THEME for the film

Like the TITLE

This is about heat and passion

A building is burning somewhere in this Florida town

Someone has torched the place, he says

Probably one of his clients

Immediately we get a sense that he's a character playing with the dark side

She teases him about having used her for sex

As she gets back into her flight hostess uniform

Goes back to bed with her

Hurt is in court

Working for some scuzzy client who's embezzled the county

Hurt happy to take a plea

4:27

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Judge Costanza says that the next time Ned comes to his court he needs either a better defence or a better class of client

So our HERO is a crap lawyer

Lazy, undisciplined, unscrupulous

An electric fan reminds us how hot it is

Chips go into the frying fat

FORESHADOWING what's about to happen to our HERO

We meet LOWENSTEIN (Ted Danson)

Assistant District Attorney

A school band plays some music

Matty Walker (Kathleen Turner) walks out

Splits in her skirt

Sexy as hell

Ned follows

8:00

CALL TO ADVENTURE
Tries his lines her

REFUSAL OF THE CALL
Says she's married

He persists
You're not too smart are you
I like that in a man

BRILLIANT MEET

Says she looks like Pine Haven
Clearly a salubrious area

She spills something on her chest
Says he'll wipe it off
You don't want to lick it?

Goes into the toilet to get a paper towel
Rent boy in there

She's gone when he gets out
11:30

Matty is a SHAPESHIFTER and a TEMPTRESS
Ned thinks that he is in control
Little does he realise ...

He drives into Pine Haven
CROSSING a THRESHOLD

Goes back to where he met her – not there

He sleeps with another girl in uniform

Goes into Pine Haven Tavern
12:30

WATERING HOLE scene

How hot it is

There she is
He makes out that he's not that keen
She knows better

She says her temperature runs a little high
Again this theme of the heat

A lot of guys sit opposite
Not happy with Ned
They've all tried what he's trying
14:24

She goes to leave
He says he'll drive her
She has a car
I'll follow you

She says that he can only come to hear the chimes

She wants him to leave ahead of her
Ned says they won't be fueled
She slaps him
He leaves
He follows her home

Massive house
16:08

His car is a RED CORVETTE
Hot

She gets out of her car
A red skirt

They go into the house
He jokes that it's just like his place

He follows her upstairs
Tension in the air

He comes out and hears the chimes

He points out the Boat house
FORESHADOWING
It's going to be important
18:01

She thinks he should go
REFUSAL

He goes out the door
She says she shouldn't have let him come
Brief kiss
She breaks it off
Goes back in and locks the door

Ned goes back to his car
He thinks
The Chimes are going crazy – a bit like his head

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

He comes to the door

It's locked

She is looking at him from inside

He throws a chair through the door – a TEST

And grabs her

20:06

They make love

Ned has now crossed into the SPECIAL WORLD

21:32

He wakes up with her

Another of his clients is in his office

Ambulance Chaser

His career is on the skids

He stands up sweating in the boat house

Having made love to Matty

23:40

She says she's never wanted it like this before

She strips the bed of the sheets

Is smoking his brand of cigarettes

No-one must know

She is being very cautious

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES

25:20

He talks with LOWENSTEIN (Ted Danson)

Hasn't seen him for a month

Wants to hear his tales

But this time he won't tell

OSCAR, a cop is at their table

When it gets hot, people get killed

FORESHADOWING

Lowenstein is an ALLY

Oscar will be an ENEMY

William Hurt takes her from behind

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Says her husband is coming back
He's small, mean and weak

APPROACH TO THE INMOST CAVE
Ned comes to Matty's home
Sees the husband's car outside

Lies alone in his bed
Waiting for the phone to call

He drives back to Matty's

Sees who he thinks is Matty
Hey, Lady, you want a fuck?
But it's another woman
MARY ANNE

Their resemblance is going to be important later

She leaves
An old friend

31:37
Says she saw the will once
They talk about all the property that he owns
She says they shouldn't talk about it

CALL TO ADVENTURE
She says she wishes he would die
He likes the idea

REFUSAL
She says don't think about it

He says it won't just happen
He's not going to die
It won't just happen
FORESHADOWING

33:11
Ned goes to see a client in prison
He hears the door slam
REFUSAL
This is a reminder of the danger
FORESHADOWING

She signed a pre-nuptial agreement
So she can't just divorce him
Makes it clear why they have to murder him
He says it doesn't matter
34:30

He said earlier that sometimes the shit comes down so heavy he feels like he needs a hat

She's bought him a hat
A DARK HAT

Ned looks at himself in the black hat in the mirror
He looks like a Gangster

This is the APPROACH
He's trying it on
A new MASK

Matty's husband doesn't seem so bad

Matty's niece, HEATHER, 10, comes to the house

Ned comes to the house when the niece is still there
The niece walks in while Matty is going down on Ned

APPROACH
At a restaurant
Ned runs into Matty and her husband
She's more demurely dressed tonight - SHAPESHIFTER
He invites Ned to join them
39:09

He's a lawyer too
He's now in finance, investment capital
They own the Breakers property

Her husband, EDMUND, says he's crazy about her
If he thought she was having an affair
He'd kill the guy with his bare hands
41:00

How he met her
Guy brought a proposition
Like a lot of guys
Want to get there with one score
They're not willing to do whatever is necessary
Ned admits to being a lot like the guy they despise

Ned has confronted his RIVAL here
Very common in the APPROACH phase
He's sizing him up

APPROACH
Ned runs
Then pulls out a packet of cigarettes
As he looks at The Breakers
RECONNAISSANCE

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Matty is in his office

43:11

His secretary didn't see her

He makes it clear that she shouldn't phone him

No phone records

Says that he's going to kill him

44:31

Ned has crossed a NEW THRESHOLD here

If we're not careful ...

APPROACH

Ned is at the Breakers

Checking out when the police go past

He checks out inside

Sees something hanging down

Matty isn't happy about only getting half of the estate

The other half is going to Heather, the niece

Matty wants Ned to alter the will - CALL TO ADVENTURE

Ned says no - REFUSAL

If they get greedy - they'll BURN

48:25

She says he's right but ...

Ned works on making something that will blow up

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

TEDDY (Micky O'Rourke) says Ned shouldn't be doing this

Ned has kept him out of jail

He recites advice that Ned gave him

Don't do it he says - REFUSAL

And he thinks it's just arson

This is part of the APPROACH

Preparation and a reminder of the dangers

51:43

Ned and Matty lie in bed

Next time I see you, he'll be dead

I'm frightened

See his car on a bridge

He's crossing over

Ned goes to see a Real Estate agent

Looks at a property

Hires a rental car

Sees a CLOWN drive past in a red car
PORTENT

Matty has a bath — the TEMPTRESS

Ned takes luggage out of his car

Matty is in bed
1:15

Edmund gets up
Is going to go downstairs
She seduces him to keep him upstairs
She will do whatever is necessary

When she says she wants more sex (just to keep him there)
You trying to kill me?, he asks

54:25
Edmund has heard something
He has a gun
She didn't know he had it
RAISE THE STAKES

ORDEAL
Edmund comes downstairs with his gun

Matty comes out and says "He has a gun"
Edmund grapples with Ned
The gun goes off
Hits Edmund over the head with a block of wood
Kills him
56:17

Ned puts the body in the back of the rental car

HEAVY FOG
That's what Ned is living in now

He hits a branch
If he has an accident now he's in deep shit
Nearly hits another car
A truck

TENSION IS INCREDIBLE

Ned carries the body into the Breakers

Sets up the device

Sets it up to look like something has fallen on Edmund's
head to cause the head wounds

Matty is there to meet him
 A cop car cruises past
 He says – we won't talk for a long time

Ned looks at himself in the mirror
 He's changed

The device explodes
 FIRE

Fire engines
 Matty listens
 Surrounded by fog
 1:00:18

THE ROAD HOME
 Miles Harden a lawyer from Miami calls
 They represent Edmund Walker
 Mrs Walker has submitted the new will you wrote up there
 So she's done what he told her not to do

Frankly, Mr Racine, I think we have a problem

They arrange a meeting
 Mr Walker's sister, ROS, will be there
 Matty

Ros is there in black

Lowenstein is there
 He's handling the inquiry into the murder
 The lawyer is surprised about the new will

Confusion over the problem with the will
 Which has been witnessed by Maryanne
 Who is in Europe

The wording in the will is poor
 Mr Racine has done this in the past
 It means the will is invalid
 Matty gets everything

Lowenstein shifts in his chair

Ned questions how she has done it
 She stole his letter head when she came to the office
 Faked the signatures
 Wants him to come to the house
 He hopes she hasn't done them in

Lowenstein dances in the background

He did this in an earlier scene – a trademark

1:08:44

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Lowenstein and Oscar are waiting in Ned's apartment

Oscar asks how he got involved

Ned pleads innocence

Oscar says Walker was murdered

The sister has some ideas

But she's waiting to see what she gets out of the will

Oscar and Lowenstein say Ned should stay away from her

He says he can't do that

He admits that he's keen

And that he's going to go out there

She just killed her husband

She won't inherit anything by killing me

Oscar says that Ned is a fuckup

But he's been smalltime

But Matty is bigtime trouble

REWARD

1:12:42

Ned and Matty lie in bed

She tells a story about how she learnt about how to make
the will invalid – worked in a lawyer's office

Says she would never have used it if she'd known about
his case – she's lying

SHAPESHIFTER

THE ROAD HOME

The sister and the niece, Heather come in to see

Lowenstein

Questions are being asked

The glasses were missing

He was killed somewhere else and dumped

1:16:19

The niece is here to tell her story

The guy she saw with Matty

ORDEAL

Ned is worried – this could be it right here

He's told he can leave by the back door

But he walks up to the sister

He looks straight in Heather's eyes

She doesn't flinch

He's made the bold approach

And survived

1:19:10

REWARD

Lowenstein tells what Heather saw
Didn't see the face
Was focused on the penis
Never seen one angry before
They laugh
But Lowenstein knows that Ned has done it

1:20:55

Ned wants to know where the glasses are
Matty does a convincing job
They hug

Oscar sees where Ned stayed
And can see how he got out
Goes to the rent a car company

1:23:42

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Lowenstein does his dancing
Ned comes in from his run

Lowenstein says that Walker was a bad guy
Thinks it's a good thing he's dead
He doesn't care
But Oscar wants to do the right thing
He's in pain
Because he likes him
They found Maryanne's place but she was gone
Someone is putting you in deep trouble

THE ROAD HOME

Someone kept calling your hotel on the night of the
murder
You didn't pick up

Someone is trying to give us Edmund's glasses

Has no ideas for him

1:26:52

THE ROAD HOME

Ned runs into a lawyer who was involved in the previous
case where he fucked up

He tried to make it up him
 He met Matty at a party
 Gave her your number
 So she knew
 She chose him specifically

He drives out to her place
 Does some wheelies

TEDDY (Mickey Rourke) has been picked up
 Broad came to him last week
 Has got another of the devices
 He showed her how to rig it up
 They've also been asking questions about the Breakers

The NOOSE IS TIGHTENING

She's not answering
 Matty calls
 She's in Miami
 She says everything is going to be all right
 She has the money

Betty had the glasses (the housekeeper)
 She has bought them from Betty
 She's left them in the Boat house

His cigarette is almost totally burned down
 A bit like his life

ORDEAL

Ned goes to the Boat House
 He looks at the door handle
 Is it rigged?
 1:33:29
 He can't go in
 He can't not go in
 He looks in and sees the wire hanging down
 She has booby trapped it

He's been tricked

Oscar and Lowenstein
 Oscar says that he better go get him

RESURRECTION

Ned goes in to the house
 Finds Edmund's gun

He sits outside the boathouse
 Drinking heavily
 The gun at his side

He is going to commit suicide

A car pulls up outside
Looks like Matty
But we're at distance
It is her

She says it's all over
Yes, it is
She is still trying to maintain the pretence
1:37:35

Oscar comes through the gate

She says she planned it
But then she fell in love
Matty, why don't you go down and get the glasses?

Oscar arrives
She says she'll go and look for them
Ned, no matter what you think, I do love you

She walks to the Boat house
He has second thoughts
No, Matty!
It explodes
1:39:00

It appeared Ned was going to die
But now it appears Matty has died
He was stupid, naïve, and got conned
Finally, here, he had regained his senses
Too late to save himself from jail
But at least he saved his life
In this way, Ned has been resurrected

Ned is in a cell
He wakes up
She's alive!
RESURRECTION
We thought she was dead – she's alive

SHARING THE ELIXIR

This is also referred to as the Denouement – the untangling of the ends. Ned explains how Matty pulled it off and why.

Oscar says they found a body in the boat house
Ned thinks it was Mary Anne's body
Dental records match Matty's
Ned thinks Matty was wasn't Matty
That Matty was actually Mary Ann

She had stolen her friend's identity
Ned speculates that real Matty found her identity was
being used, may have wanted money
Matty worked out a way to get everything she wanted
Get rid of them all

Oscar says he can't find the money
But that that doesn't mean anything

He finally understands
Matty was the kind of person who could do what was
necessary

Ned gets something delivered
Yearbook from Wheaton High
Ned now has a beard
1:43:51

Picture of Matty Tyler — it's Mary Ann
Picture of Mary Ann — It's Matty

Ned was right
He has a clarity now
It has brought about his demise
But the web has been untangled
The TRAGIC demise of an ANTIHERO

1:44:49
SHARING THE ELIXIR
Matty sits on a beach with a cocktail - ELIXIR
The guy she's with says something in a foreign accent
What
He repeats in English: It's hot.

It begins as it started — with HEAT.