

Hero's Journey Analysis – "Rocky"

ORDINARY WORLD

Heraldic music
 Picture of Christ
 But we are in a boxing ring in Philadelphia
 Low level fight

A guy is knocking Rocky around
 He is limping
 Overweight

You're fighting like a bum

The guy says to move to his left
 Against a southpaw that is not good advice

Guy headbutts him
 Rocky goes wild

Rocky has a smoke as he leaves the ring
 You're a bum, Rocky, you know that
 3:56

Rocky in the locker room with the other fighter

Balboa - \$40.55 he gets
 He fights again in 2 weeks

He walks down the streets
 Stops outside a pet store
 Kisses the dog

He's bouncing a squash ball

Guys singing around braziers (?) in the street

Take it back
 I just call it believing in myself

Rocky has a nice word

6:42
 He arrives home
 Small flat

Has a drink of something
 Says hello to his fish

Rocky Marciano poster on the wall
 Clearly his inspiration

Rehearses something about the turtle food

Looks at a picture of himself as a young boy
Look at himself in the mirror
Doesn't like what he sees

8:48

Gets out some ice for his eye

Music provides the crescendo to the scene

CALL TO ADVENTURE

9:27

Rocky outside the pet store
He comes inside and finds Adrienne
Shy pet store assistant

She has to go downstairs and clean all the cat cages
She doesn't like going
Rocky keen obviously

11:03

He goes to collect money

Fighting again
Yeah, make a million dollars
Foreshadowing

He's a debt collector
He's told he's supposed to break the guys thumbs
Guy offers coat
He won't take it
Softie

12:46

The boss comes to pick him up
Driver has no respect

Rocky has old glasses
Gets his next assignment

13:34

Boss asks him why he didn't break his thumbs
Don't think, Rocky
From here on, do what I tell you

We know that our hero is a decent guy
Down on his luck

15:20

Goes to the gym
 He's been cleared out
 They're getting a younger fighter in

It's been his locker for 6 years
 His bag is on "skid row"

Here we have a change in the situation
 (Like Keating arriving in Dead Poets — the world is
 changing. This is why we are telling this story now.)

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Micky says he's a tomato
 Says the guy he fought was a bum
 His great claim to fame is that he never got his eye
 busted.

Coach says that he should retire

CALL TO ADVENTURE

19:11

Rocky comes into the pet store
 Asks Adrienne to go to the basketball game

Says it doesn't matter about the locker
 He's lying
 It hurts
 Tries to say that it's good because people get to know
 your combination. Must have had \$20 taken in six years.
 Doesn't sound like much but it adds up.

He leaves, she's barely said a word.

20:46

Rocky goes into the bar
 We hear about Apollo Creed on the TV
 Foreshadowing what is about to happen

He finds Pauly
 His sister doesn't talk to him
 He says that she's a freak
 He says she's a loser
 Rocky is 30.

22:25

Pauly wants a job with Rocky's boss
 Says he doesn't think he's hiring

CALL TO ADVENTURE

He invites Rocky over to the Thanksgiving

CALL TO ADVENTURE

The great heavyweight contest for the bicentenary
Apollo Creed is going to fight some guy

24:26

Rocky rescues a young girl

Takes her home

She's smoking

Hey, Rocky. Screw you, creepo.

Who are you, to give advice, Creepo, he asks himself.
26:38

26:44

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Doctor's report

Creed's opponent has broken his hand

He has contractual obligations

Five weeks out from the fight

Can't find a fighter

No ranked contender

He gives an underdog a chance

America the land of opportunity

A local boy a chance

Apollo I like it, it's very American

No, refusal

Could have done with one

29:14

His boss knows he's going out with Pauly's sister

Driver says she's retarded

Boss gives him \$50 for them to have a nice time

Driver says take her to the zoo

Retards like the zoo

30:45

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Apollo is looking for a contender

The Italian Stallion

Rocky Balboa

Who discovered America

An Italian

REFUSAL

He's a southpaw

Don't want you fighting an Italian

CROSSES THRESHOLD

Apollo says he is the one

32:07

It's years since Rocky had turkey

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES

Arrive at home for Thanksgiving

Does Adienne know I'm coming

Clearly she doesn't know

She's not ready

He's tired of her being a loser

Rocky watches TV

It says Creed is looking for an opponent

Pauly takes the turkey

And throws it into the alley

She wants her to get out of the house with Rocky

REFUSAL OF THE CALL

Maybe we better to forget all this

CALL TO ADVENTURE

He goes and talks to her through the door

REFUSAL

This is crazy

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Keep doing what you're doing

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

He asks her out

She is dressed to go out

She comes through the door

36:07

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES

She likes ice-skating

Music tells us this is a romantic passage

37:15

TEST

Ice skating rink is closed

Rocky says the girl is not feeling well

Do me a favour

Ten minutes \$10

How about \$8

\$9

\$10

She puts skates on

He just walks around

She is a shit skater

He says he's a southpaw

Her ignorance allows us to do this EXPOSITION

He explains where the term came from

He dislocated his finger
Old war wound

7 minutes, the guy calls

He has pictures of his fights in his pocket

We hear how he got started in fighting
3 minutes, the guy calls

Father said he didn't have much of a brain
He should be a fighter

Her mother said she didn't have much of a body, so she
should develop her mind

Why does he fight?
Because he can't sing or dance

She falls into his arms
41:47

APPROACH

They talk about her shyness
Why do I bring it up
I'm dumb
You're shy

YOU've got to be crazy to want to be a fighter
He says the worst thing is the morning after
Everything hurts

Nose never been busted in 64 fights
He's proud of that

Why do you do it if it hurts

Want to come inside
He's got rare animals

She gives several refusals

She eventually CROSSES THE THRESHOLD

Classic really

44:49

ORDEAL (for Adrienne)
He takes his shirt off
She averts her eyes

He puts some music on

He asks her over to sit on the couch

She is resistant

Hes' got not no phone
She wants to call Pauly
He might be worried
He leans out the window
And yells it

The room is only temporary

She doesn't think she belongs here
47:36

She doesn't know him well enough
Never been in a man's apartment before
She's afraid

She wants to leave
He stops her
She takes off glasses
Hat

Always knew you were pretty
Don't tease me

REWARD

He wants to kiss her
She eventually kisses him
Gets into it

They collapse to the floor

50:03

Rocky comes to the gym
Micky looking for you

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Some guy here looking for you
Looking for sparring partners for Creed
Wants to know why Micky gives him a hard time
Because you had the chance to become a good fighter and
you became a leg breaker for some a second rate loan
shark.

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Rocky goes in and meets the promoter
52:25

Got representation

No
 He has proposition
 Says he's very available to spar with the champion
 You don't' understand me, Rocky
 Would you be interested in fighting Apollo Creed for the
 world heavyweight championship?

REFUSAL

53:07

No.

I am a ham andegger

Rocky, do you believe that America is the land of
 opportunity?

He picked you, Rocky
 The chance of a lifetime

What do you say

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rocky and Adrienne watch Apollo on the TV
 Rocky is there in the background
 He's shy, awkward
 Where did he

He is getting \$150k

Yo, Adrienne, it's me, Rocky
 They move him off
 Don't bother me none

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES

Pauly thinks he'll be looking for help
 Says he doesn't want any

She thinks Rocky's got a chance

Pauly says to keep out of his freaking help

57:06

Rocky says

You know how I said that stuff on TV didn't bother me
 none
 It did

His boss gives him \$500 to help out

You're in training
 He pulls the cigarette from his mouth

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Micky comes around
Wants to coach him

He says its' freak luck
He's got a shot at the title

He's got to be very careful about this shot
Not going to get a second chance
What he needs is a manager
Been in this racket for 50 years
He's done it all

He says he didn't make it because he didn't have a
manager

Rocky is not listening

I got heart
But I ain't got no locker, do I, Mick?

Rocky is drinking
Says he shouldn't be

1:02:27

Shows a picture of him in his prime
He never had no management
He wants to give it to Rocky
To make sure the shit doesn't happen to him
The fight is set, doesn't need management

Mick, I needed your help ten years ago, you didn't help
I asked for your help, never heard nothing
I'm 76 years old
Rocky is in the can
Micky leaves
Well, opens door and closes it
Rocky thinks he's left
He's come back for his hat
Rocky comes out again
Took you long enough to get here – talking to himself
Micky goes down the stairs.

THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES CROSSED
WITH MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Rocky is upset
A lot of stuff pours out
But then he comes down the street after Micky
Puts his arm around him
Don't' even hear what is said

Shake hands
1:06:27

APPROACH
Alarm goes
Signalling the start of the race
28 degrees

Rocky gets up
Has his eggnog
Runs up the steps
A stitch

He goes in and trains by hitting meat in Pauly's work

Pauly asks about his sister
What's the attraction
Fills gaps
She's got gaps
I've got gaps
Together we fill gaps
You balling her
You don't talk dirty about your sister

Pauly is angry
Punches the meat

Rocky pushes him in the chest
Punches the meat
You're breaking the ribs
YOU do that Creed, they'll put us in jail for murder
Pauly swigs from a hip flask

1:13:10

Rocky is sore
No fooling around
Women weaken the legs
He's not kidding
You sure
I'm sure

1:14:36
Rocky hitting the bags

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR
Micky starts coaching him
Ties string between his legs
If you can move and hit without breaking the string
You got balance

Guys want autographs

Micky pisses them out
 Lay off the pet shop dame
 Women weaken legs

Rocky running down the street

APPROACH

Adrienne waiting outside his apartment

She is wearing a new coat
 Hat
 Heartbreaker
 She has a dog for him
 To keep him company when he runs

1:16:45

Rocky running with his dog

TV station are down here to film him punching the meat

Pauly is pissed

They want to interview him
 No cheap shots
 Pauly cocking it up

Apollo Creed's team watches him punch the meat
 Apollo isn't focussed on the fight, he's focussed on the
 business of the fight

APPROACH

His aide tells him that Rocky can punch
 RECONNAISSANCE

He ignores the advice
 And orders coffee

1:20:46

ORDEAL

Pauly comes home very pissed

Adrienne and Rocky watch a movie together
 Pauly comes in

Says Pauly keeps asking for a job
 Pauly overhears it
 Get out of my house
 Not just your house, she says

It's Christmas

He has a baseball bat
Starts bashing up the place

Mad that Rocky hasn't put him in with his boss

1:22:50

He made her feel like a loser
I'm not a loser

She's busted
Not a virgin any more

Rocky could hit him but doesn't

Rocky comes through

REWARD
Does he want a room mate?
Absolutely

1:24:09

Rocky gets introduced to his cut man
We got a chance says Mickey

Pauly comes to Rocky

1:25:13

Pauly has Rocky's name
Advertising
He knows about that stuff
Says if he can make money off his name do it

APPROACH
Rocky training
I can fly now
1:26:11

Push ups on one arm
Being punched in the stomach
Sit ups
Punching the meat
You're going to kill him

Sprinting past an old navy boat

Climbs the steps
At a run
Raises his arms in triumph

1:28:28

THE ROAD HOME (classic)

A lot of publicity on Rocky's wall
Looks at Rocky Marciano's photo]

Down at the venue
Looks at the picture of Apollo Creed
Climbs into the ring

RECONAISSANCE

Looks at the picture of him in the poster
The promoter is there
The poster is wrong
White pants red stripe, rather than red pants white
stripe
Doesn't really matter does it
Sure you're going to give us a great show

He leaves the empty arena
1:31:25

Back to the apartment
Comes to Adrienne

I can't do it
I can't beat him
I been out there walking around
Who am I kidding?
I'm not even in the guy's league

He lies down next to her
You've worked so hard
Don't matter. I was nobody before.
Don't matter if I lose.
Don't matter if he opens my head.
All I want to do is go the distance

No-one's ever gone the distance with Creed
If that bell ring's and I'm still standing
For the first time in my life I'll know
That I weren't just another bum from the neighbourhood

GREAT SCENE

1:34:15

Rocky and Apollo get ready for their fight

Rocky prays

I'll wait for you here, Adrienne

1:35:10

RESURRECTION

Shamrock Meat Co on the back of his robe
Pauly got three grand

Robe is baggy

His boss is there

The announcers are pointing out that he doesn't have the
record to go the distance

1:36:50

Creed rides in in a boat as George Washington
Tosses money

Creed's carrying on like pork chop

They watch him in his bar

Creed punching Rocky
But Rocky lands a punch
Then punches the crap out of him

Creed keeps punching Rocky
But he doesn't fall
Keeps coming

The rounds keep passing

1:47:25

Round 14
Creed attacks him
Rocky groggy

Rocky knocked down
Micky says stay down
Apollo dances with arms in the air

Adrienne can't look

He's effectively dead

Rocky gets up

A resurrectionds

Apollo looks at him
Rocky rips into him

Final round

He can't see
So they cut his eye

The champ is bleeding inside
Won't let him stop the fight

Both fighters rooted
They look like they've been in a war these two

Apollo protecting his ribs

Rcoky punching the crap out of Creed

Ain't going to be no rematch
Don't want one

Rocky you went the buzzer
Adrienne!

Apollo gets the decision

SHARING THE ELIXIR
But Rocky doesn't care

He gets the girl

I love you
I love you

Frames his crumpled face
Embraced by Adrienne

1:53:00