

CRACKING YARNS

JUNO – by Diablo Cody

Hero's Journey & [Emotional Journey](#) breakdown by [Allen Palmer](#)

<http://www.crackingyarns.com.au>

1. JUNO IS UP THE DUFF

Super-bright but emotionally cool (ORDINARY WORLD – INCOMPLETE) JUNO, 16, discovers she is pregnant (CALL TO ADVENTURE – UNSETTLED) to sweet but immature (ORDINARY WORLD – INCOMPLETE) BLEECKER and he goes along with her suggestion that they have an abortion. However, a fellow student picketing the abortion clinic (THRESHOLD GUARDIAN) turns Juno off the idea (REFUSAL – RESISTANT). (p20)

2. JUNO'S GOING TO ADOPT THE BABY OUT

Her friend, LEAH, suggests that Juno adopts out the baby to a couple who advertise in the Penny Saver (CALL TO ADVENTURE) but Juno thinks that's tacky (REFUSAL – RESISTANT). However Leah (MENTOR) persists and suggests that MARK & VANESSA LORING look cool enough to parent Juno's baby (AMBIVALENT). Juno bites the bullet (CROSSES THRESHOLD) and reveals to her father, MAC, and stepmother, BREN that she's pregnant and is going to adopt the baby out to the Lorings (COMMITTED) (p30).

3. JUNO MEETS THE LORINGS

Mac goes with Juno to meet the Lorings and, though their home is a little sterile (DISORIENTED) and the wife, VANESSA, a little uptight, (SHAPESHIFTER), JUNO shares a love of music with cool husband, MARK, (SHAPESHIFTER). (p43)

4. JUNO GETS COSY WITH MARK

As high school life goes on for Bleeker, Juno goes to the Ultrasound (TEST) with Bren, who gives the assistant a gobful for making the assumption that the adoptive parents will be better for the child than Juno. (p48)

Juno heads to the Lorings and an attraction seems to be developing between her and Mark (APPROACH) as they bond over off-beat music and slasher films. When Vanessa returns, Mark acts as if they've been caught out and later Bren admonishes her step-daughter over her impropriety (INAUTHENTICITY). (p60)

5. JUNO PUSHES BLEEKER AWAY

Juno visits Bleeker and, despite the disapproval of his mother, he makes it clear he wants to be with Juno (APPROACH), but she rejects him (INAUTHENTICITY) and suggests instead that he hook up with KATRINA DE VOORT. (p61)

6. JUNO BONDS WITH VANESSA

As Mark's enthusiasm for parenthood fails to match his wife's, Juno and Leah run into Vanessa at the mall, and Juno sees that she has a genuine interest in

children (APPROACH). Despite this, Juno calls Mark and seems to continue flirting with him (INAUTHENTICITY). (page 71)

7. JUNO'S ORDEAL

When Juno learns that Bleeker is taking Katrina to the Prom, she bails him up but Bleeker turns the tables (ORDEAL), saying that if anyone has cause to be upset it's him, that she broke his heart and that she would be the meanest wife of all time (CONFRONTED). Despite this, he again reaches out to her but she again rebuffs him. (p76)

Juno heads to the Lorings and, after brushing her hair and putting on lipply, she continues flirting with Mark, and they end up doing a slow dance. But when he says he's leaving Vanessa, Juno has a meltdown (ORDEAL) since this compromises her escape from, as she sees it, the prison of motherhood (CONFRONTED). (p82)

As she goes to leave, Juno runs into Vanessa and it becomes clear that he hasn't shared news of the separation with his wife (CONFRONTED). However, he chooses this moment to reveal the full extent of his disengagement. (p85)

8. JUNO'S MOMENT OF CLARITY

After nearly crashing on the icy roads, Juno is overwhelmed before a light bulb (REWARD - REBORN) comes on and she writes a NOTE on an old receipt. Mark and Vanessa have already called in the divorce lawyers when Juno pushes the note under the door (REWARD - REBORN).

A conversation with her father on the subject of love brings a moment of realisation (REWARD - REBORN) for Juno and she goes to Bleeker's, where, the next morning he finds the mailbox full of his favourite orange Tic-Tacs. (p91)

Juno apologises to Bleeker and admits for the first time that she loves him - not just as a friend but for real and they make out (REWARD - REBORN). (p94)

9. THE BABY IS BORN

When Juno's waters break (ROAD BACK), Bleeker is at a track meet so her lover (and the father's child) isn't present for the birth (DESPERATE). (p94)

10. PAINFUL SEPARATION

However, when the Nurse asks "Would you like to meet your son?", she's talking to the adoptive mother, Vanessa (RESURRECTION - DECISIVE). Mac does his best to comfort Juno but when Bleeker arrives, she bursts into inconsolable tears. (p98)

11. JUNO'S IN A BETTER PLACE

Vanessa's life is now gloriously disorganised as she experiences the blessed of chaos of motherhood (ELIXIR - COMPLETE) and on the wall hangs the framed note that said Juno was still up for their arrangement if Vanessa was. Juno and Bleeker are now an item and we leave them playing beautiful music together (ELIXIR - COMPLETE).