

PLOT BREAK DOWN OF "GOOD WILL HUNTING."

By: Travis Haan

Original screenplay by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck

CHARACTERS

Hero:

Will

Hero's signature strength:

Genius

Hero's signature flaw:

Won't leave his comfort zone

Hero's life goal #1:

Stay in a state of arrested development

Hero's life goal #2:

Be genius

Hero's antagonist:

Lambeau

Hero's mentor:

Sean

Hero's best Friend:

Chuckie

Hero's love interest:

Skylar

One-off bad guys:

Clark: An opponent who thinks he has more of the hero's signature strength than the hero does, but the hero proves his mastery of their signature strengths is greater.

Judge: An authority figure who has the power to punish the hero for his signature flaw and is in a position to be swayed by the Antagonist.

Bobby Champa: An opponent the hero wants to fight, who is tailor made to receive the wrath of the hero's flaw.

QUEST CHAINS

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development. (61 beats)

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius (14 beats)

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends (25 beats)

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love (31 beats)

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development(19 beats)

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail. (30 beats)

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius (10 beats)

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring (8 beats)

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring (20 beats)

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will (9 beats)

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job. (18 beats)

ACTS

Act 1: Beats 1-12

Introduce all the main characters and give them each a strength, flaw and goal.

Act 2: Beats 13-22

The antagonist hunts for the hero while the hero meets his love interest.

Act 3: Beats 23-30

The antagonist traps the hero, and the hero fights back.

Act 4: Beats 31-39

The antagonist recruits a mentor for the hero, whom the hero rejects while getting closer to his love interest.

Act 5: Beats 40-51

The hero pulls away from the quest he should be on, but he's no longer satisfied with his old life.

Act 6: Beats 52-59

The hero applies himself to his quest but pulls away again when he starts to make progress.

Act 7: Beats 60-73

With pressure mounting, the hero rides the fence and is even less satisfied with his old life. His allies finally help him overcome his signature flaw.

Act 8: Beats 74-83

Denouement

BEAT 1

Summary:

Will and his friends sit at a bar telling jokes and laughing.

Beat Functions:

Prologue

Introduce the hero
Introduce the hero's goal
Introduce the hero's flaw
Introduce the setting
Introduce the hero's allies
Demonstration of character
Metaphor for the hero's life
Begin Quest chain 1.

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 1: Introduction

BEAT 2

Summary:

Will is reading books at home while waiting to get picked up for work by Chuckie.

Beat Functions:

Introduce hero's signature strength (Genius)
Introduce hero's signature weakness (Won't leave his comfort zone.)
Introduce hero's home
Introduce hero's life goal #1 (Stay in a state of arrested development.)
Introduce hero's life goal #2 (Be genius.)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 2: Demonstrate how the hero is accomplishing his goals (Self-study and working a menial job)

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 1: Introduce Will and Chuckie's routine

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 1: Prologue

BEAT 3

Summary:

Lambeau challenges his students to solve an advanced math problem.

Beat Functions:

Introduce the antagonist

Backstory/setup of Quest Chain #1's inciting incident

Begin Quest chain 2.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 1: Introduction

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 2: Antagonist creates an opportunity for the hero

BEAT 4

Summary:

Will and Chuckie goof around at their favorite hangout spot and make plans to go to a Harvard bar.

Beat Functions:

Begin Quest Chain 4.

Character development

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 3: Will's normal life

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 2: Will's normal life

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 1: Prologue/setup to meeting Skylar

BEAT 5

Summary:

Sean sits on his roof looking morose, avoiding going to his college reunion.

Beat Functions:

Introduce the mentor

Establish mentor and antagonist as foils of each other

Begin Quest chain 5.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 1: Introduction

BEAT 6

Summary:

At his class reunion, Lambeau's students tell him someone has solved his math challenge.

Beat Functions:

Progress Quest chain 2

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 2: Setup Lambeau discovering Will

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 3: Will has used his genius secretly

BEAT 7

Summary:

Will and his team goof off and see Bobby Champa, a person who beat up Will in the past. (metaphor for Will's father)

Beat Functions:

Setup to Will's arrest

Demonstrate Will's flaw (misplaced anger)

Introduce a little of Will's backstory of abuse

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 4: Show will's flaw holding him back

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 3: More of Will's normal life

BEAT 8

Summary:

Lambeau tries and fails to find out who solved his math challenge by searching among his students in the hallway of MIT. Then he issues a new challenge.

Beat Functions:

Antagonist fails to achieve his goal. (find the next big genius)

Antagonist creates a new, escalated challenge.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 3: Fail first attempt. Begin second attempt.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 4: Antagonist creates a new challenge for Will.

BEAT 9

Summary:

Will, Chuckie, Morgan and Billy ride in Chuckie's Cadillac talking about first world poor people's problems.

Beat Functions:

Setup Will getting arrested

Character development

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 5: Show will's flaw holding him back

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 4: More of Will's normal life

BEAT 10

Summary:

Chuckie convinces Morgan to backup Will in a fight.

Beat Functions:

Character development

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 5: Chuckie demonstrates he'll do anything for Will.

BEAT 11

Summary:

Will, Chuckie, Billy and Morgan fight Bobby Champa and his crew, ending with Will being arrested

Beat Functions:

Fight scene

Act 1 threshold

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 6: Will demonstrates he can't control his flaw, and it is destroying his life.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 6: Chuckie continues to demonstrate he'll do anything for Will.

BEAT 12

Summary:

Sean sits morose on his roof having skipped his class reunion.

Beat Functions:

Demonstrate mentor's flaw (arrested development)

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 2: Sean fails to confront the past, which is holding him back.

BEAT 13

Summary:

Chuckie picks up Will from the courthouse after being arrested.

Beat Functions:

Begin Quest chain 6

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 7: Will suffers the consequences of his failure at the end of Act 1.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 7: Chuckie helps Will while enabling his self-destructive behavior.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 1: Introduction

BEAT 14

Summary:

Lambeau and his students gather in class to learn who solved the second math challenge. They fail to achieve their goal. Lambeau creates a new goal for Will.

Beat Functions:

Antagonist fails his second attempt.

Antagonist begins new, escalated attempt.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 4: Fail second attempt. Begin third attempt.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 5: Will has used his genius in secret again, and the antagonist creates a new challenge for him.

BEAT 15

Summary:

Lambeau catches Will solving the third math challenge, but Will runs away.

Beat Functions:

Hero's refusal of the call

Antagonist makes progress in Quest chain 2

Antagonist and hero meet for the first time

Hero's flaw negatively impacts his life again (Will feels the need to quit his job.)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 8: Refusal of the call

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 5: Lambeau succeeds at finding his genius, but it's a false victory as Will runs away.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 6: Refusal of the call

BEAT 16

Summary:

Will, Chuckie, Billy and Morgan go to Casey's bar as discussed in Beat 4. Will says he lost his job and Chuckie says he can get him a new job.

Beat Functions:

Progress in all Quest chains present

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 9: Will suffers the consequences of his refusal of the call

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 8: Chuckie helps Will while enabling his self-destructive behavior again.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 6: Will makes it harder for Lambeau to find him by quitting his job.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 2: Travel to where the hero will meet his Skylar

BEAT 17

Summary:

Chuckie hits on Skylar and Lydia at a Harvard bar.

Beat Functions:

Introduce Skylar

Setup for Will helping Chuckie like Chuckie has been helping Will.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 9: Chuckie sets himself up for trouble in a way that Will is perfectly suited to save him.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 3: Introduce the Skylar

BEAT 18

Summary:

Chuckie gets humiliated intellectually by Clark.

Beat Functions:

Introduce a conflict for Will to demonstrate his strength and impress his Skylar

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 10: Chuckie's flaw (ignorance) gets in trouble.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 4: Clark creates an opportunity for Will to impress Skylar.

BEAT 19

Summary:

Will saves Chuckie by humiliating Clark intellectually.

Beat Functions:

Demonstration of hero's signature strength (genius)

State the stakes (Staying in arrested development leads to perpetual poverty.)

Fight scene

Act 2 threshold

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 10: Will glorifies his poverty and is reminded of the consequences

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 11: Will saves Chuckie.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 5: Will impresses Skylar

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 7: Will uses his genius successfully

BEAT 20

Summary:

Skylar gives Will his prize for beating Act 2 threshold beat-antagonist (Clark)

Beat Functions:

Act 2 prize (Skylar's number)

Progress Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 6: Skylar gives Will her phone number.

BEAT 21

Summary:

Will taunts Clark with Skylar's phone number.

Beat Functions:

Victory dance

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 7: Will demonstrates that he's kept Skylar's phone number.

BEAT 22

Summary:

Chuckie takes Will home from the bar.

Beat Functions:

Transit/transition

Demonstrate the quality of Will's life

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 11: Will returns from Harvard to his poverty stricken neighborhood

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 12: Chuckie helps Will by taking him home.

BEAT 23

Summary:

Lambeau looks for Will by talking to Will's previous employer.

Beat Functions:

Chase

Find a clue

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 7: Antagonist searches for Will and finds a clue (Will's parole officer's phone number).

BEAT 24

Summary:

Will fails to argue his court case before the judge. Lambeau intercedes to save and indebt him.

Beat Functions:

Conflict in Quest chain 6

Failure in Quest chain 7

Success in Quest chain 2

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 12: Will doesn't take his court case seriously

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 2: Will fails to win his court case. Lambeau intercedes and creates new conditions for Quest chain 6.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 8: Will uses his genius unsuccessfully due to repeated failures in Quest chain 1.

Quest chain 2: Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 8: Lambeau searches for Will and finds a clue (Will's parole officer's phone number).

BEAT 25

Summary:

Will calls Skylar from jail asking for a date and legal representation.

Beat Functions:

Progress Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Will fails to find an alternative solution to staying out of jail

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 13: Will's flaw (arrested development) has limited his options in life.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 3: Will tries to find an alternative solution to accepting Lambeau's help

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 8: Will contacts Skylar in an unflattering manner.

BEAT 26

Summary:

Lambeau explains to Will the conditions of his release from jail. (Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring and see a therapist)

Beat Functions:

Create two new conditions for Quest chain 6.

State the stakes of Quest chain 6

Begin Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Begin Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Foreshadow conflict in Quest chain 9

Provide hero with resource for next conflict in Quest chain 9 (Knowledge of Henry Limpkin's books)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 14: Will refuses to cooperate with Quest chain 9.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 9: Lambeau finds Will.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 4: Lambeau creates two conditions for Will to stay out of jail.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 1: Introduction

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 1: Introduction/Refusal of the call/Receive useful information

BEAT 27

Summary:

Will tells Chuckie the results of his trial.

Beat Functions:

Restate the conditions of Quest chain 6.

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 15: Will hides his true self from his best friend.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 5: Restate the stakes and conditions.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 13: Will hides his true self from his best friend.

BEAT 28

Summary:

Will reads Henry Limpkin's book.

Beat Functions:

Prepare for conflict in Quest chain 9

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 16: Will prepares to fight to defend his flaw.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 6: Will prepares to do something that will conflict with his goal (to stay out of jail).

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 2: Prepare for conflict

BEAT 29

Summary:

Will meets with Henry Lipkin, who states the stakes and conditions of Quest chain 1, and Will rejects both Henry Lipkin and the message.

Beat Functions:

State the stakes of Quest chain 1 (The pressure Will feels is holding him back)

State the conditions of Quest chain 1 (let go of the past)

Hero's flaw yields false victory

Major conflict in Quest chain 9

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 17: Will uses his flaw again.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 7: Will's flaw causes him to fail to meet the condition of his goal

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 3: Major conflict with false victory

BEAT 30

Summary:

Lipkin storms out of his session with Will, embarrassing Lambeau.

Beat Functions:

Repercussion

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 18: Will is unrepentant.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 8: Will's false failure escalates the stakes and limits his options

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 4: Repercussion of previous beat's conflict

BEAT 31

Summary:

Will and Lambeau work on a theorem. Lambeau states Will's flaw and gives him advice on how to fix it. Lambeau sets up Will's next conflict.

Beat Functions:

Restate the stakes of Quest chain 1

Restate the condition of Quest chain 1

Setup next conflict in Quest chain 9

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 19: Will rejects advice that could help him again.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 10: Lambeau mentors Will.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 9: Will's flaw causes him to fail to meet the condition of his goal

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 2: First meeting

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 5: Setup next meeting/conflict

BEAT 32

Summary:

Will insults and drives off a hypnotist in Lambeau's office/presence.

Beat Functions:

Second major conflict/false victory in Quest chain 9

Setup next major conflict in Quest chain 9

Setup combining Quest chain 5 with Quest chain 9

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 20: Will rejects exploring his past.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 10: Will's flaw causes him to fail to meet the condition of his goal again

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 6: Second major conflict

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 3: Lambeau gives backstory on Sean (Lambeau and Sean were college roommates) and prepares to introduce him to Will

BEAT 33

Summary:

Sean lectures a bored class about the importance of therapists gaining their client's trust, and Lambeau interrupts his class to talk about Will.

Beat Functions:

Progress in Quest chain 9

Character development

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 21: Sean states a condition of Will confronting his past (trust Sean).

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 11: Lambeau searches for another therapist for Will

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 7: Lambeau searches for another therapist for Will

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 4: Sean is a dejected professor who is given an opportunity to confront his own past by the antagonist, who is a bad memory from his own past.

BEAT 34

Summary:

Will and Skylar go on their first date.

Beat Functions:

Foreshadow complication (Skylar is leaving for Stanford at the end of the semester)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 22: Skylar mentions Will's disdain for success and preference for poverty.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 9: Will and Skylar's first date

BEAT 35

Summary:

Sean and Lambeau make small talk and reminisce at a diner.

Beat Functions:

Sean demonstrates his history of arrested development

Introduce background info (Sean's wife, Nancy, died)

Refusal of the call (Sean refuses to see Will but relents)

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 11: Lambeau prepares to enlist Sean's help.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 12: Lambeau prepares to enlist Sean's help

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 8: Lambeau prepares to enlist Sean's help

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 5: Sean demonstrates his state of arrested development and the cause (his wife, Nancy's, death)

BEAT 36

Summary:

Will and Skylar make small talk at a diner and kiss.

Beat Functions:

Escalate Quest chain 9

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 23: Will shamelessly mentions how poor he is.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 10: Will and Skylar's first kiss

BEAT 37

Summary:

Lambeau convinces Sean to be Will's therapist.

Beat Functions:

Sean accepts a cataclysmic opportunity to confront his demons

Sean accepts the role as Will's mentor

State the stakes of Quest chain 1 (Will could be historically significant if he overcomes his fears)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 24: Lambeau restates the stakes (Will could be historically significant if he overcomes his fears.)

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 12: Lambeau enlists Sean's help.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 13: Lambeau enlists Sean's help

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 9: Lambeau enlists Sean's help

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 6: Sean refuses Lambeau's request to help Will but relents

BEAT 38

Summary:

Will meets with Sean for their first session. Will attempts to insult Sean repeatedly until he finds one that gets under Sean's skin. He insults Sean's wife, and Sean chokes/threatens Will.

Beat Functions:

Major conflict in Quest chain 9

Major conflict in Quest chain 5

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 14: Will meets with Sean

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 10: Will meets with Sean for the first time

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 7: Will goads Sean into expressing how emotionally Nancy's death has affected him

BEAT 39

Summary:

Sean tells Lambeau he wants to continue seeing Will.

Beat Functions:

Sean makes progress in confronting his demon Quest chain 5

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 15: Sean will continue to be Will's therapist

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 11: Sean will continue to be Will's therapist

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 8: Sean commits to confronting his past by submitting himself to Will's attacks

BEAT 40

Summary:

Will and Skylar go on their second date, and Will lies that he has a big, happy family.

Beat Functions:

Will's flaw sets up a future conflict in Quest Chain 4

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 25: Will refuses to open up to Skylar and be honest about his life

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 11: Will and Skylar's second date

BEAT 41

Summary:

Sean sits at his small, dirty apartment alone drinking and thinking.

Beat Functions:

Repercussion of conflict

Preparation

Soul searching

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 12: Sean prepares for his next meeting with Will

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 9: Sean confronts his inner demons via personal reflection

BEAT 42

Summary:

Sean lectures Will about being an inexperienced boy and needing to talk about his past.

Beat Functions:

Major moment of truth for Will

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 26: Major turning point.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 16: Will sees Sean again

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 13: Sean cuts Will down to size

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 10: Sean gives backstory about his traumatic life and how it made him stronger.

BEAT 43

Summary:

Will tries to call Skylar but hangs up.

Beat Functions:

Refusal of the call

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 27: Will almost opens up to Skylar but backs out, lying to his best friend also.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 12: Will still hides his true self from Skylar.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 14: Will still hides his true self from his best friend.

BEAT 44

Summary:

Will meets with Sean and doesn't say anything during their session. Afterwards, Sean debriefs with Lambeau.

Beat Functions:

Will goes on the offensive

Refusal of the call

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 28: Will goes to therapy but doesn't participate.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 17: Will goes to therapy but doesn't participate.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 14: Will goes to therapy but doesn't participate.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 11: Sean has found his confidence and is in a power play with Will. Sean refuses to talk/break first.

BEAT 45

Summary:

Chuckie drops Will off from work at night, picks Will up in the morning for work and mentors Will at work doing demolition. It's a dreary life.

Beat Functions:

Montage

Repercussions of refusal of the call

Will is rethinking his life

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 29: Will continues his dreary, poverty-stricken life.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 15: Will is having less fun with Chuckie.

BEAT 46

Summary:

Will, Chuckie and their friends joke at a South Boston bar about women. Will sees his future with his friends and decides to go home early despite protests from his friends to keep living this way.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 30: Will isn't as into his dreary, poverty-stricken night life as he used to be.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 16: Will decides not to spend all night drinking with his friends and chasing trashy women.

BEAT 47

Summary:

Will and Lambeau enjoy solving a math problem together.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 31: Will is moving away from his state of arrested development.

Quest chain 2 : Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 13: Lambeau makes progress mentoring Will.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 18: Will participates willingly in his mentorship with Lambeau

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 3: Will participates willingly in his mentorship with Lambeau

BEAT 48

Summary:

Will opens up in his session with Sean.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 32: Will is moving away from his state of arrested development but retracts at the end.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 19: Will participates willingly in his session with Sean but retracts at the end.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 15: Will participates willingly in his session with Sean but retracts at the end.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 12: Sean accidentally admits he's in a state of arrested development. He can't move on past the death of his wife and allow himself to feel love again.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 13: Will admits he's been avoiding Skylar because he's afraid to get too close and have to open up.

BEAT 49

Summary:

Will sneaks into Skylar's dorm and asks for another date. Skylar reluctantly refuses, saying she has homework to do.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 33: Will commits to pursuing his relationship with Skylar, despite the risks.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 14: Will tries to get another date, but he has to overcome a complication first (Skylar's homework).

BEAT 50

Summary:

Will does Skylar's homework for her.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Display of strength

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 34: Will goes out of his way to use his strength to continue his relationship with Skylar.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 15: Will goes out of his way to use his strength to continue his relationship with Skylar.

BEAT 51

Summary:

Will gives Skylar her completed homework, and she agrees to go on a date with him.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 4 is back on track

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 35: Will completes his task to continue his relationship with Skylar.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 16: Will completes his task to continue his relationship with Skylar.

BEAT 52

Summary:

Will and Sean open up to each other in session, and Sean gives Will advice about relationships, missed opportunities, regret and the cost of living.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Backstory

Setup resolution of Quest chain 4

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 36: Will opens up to Sean.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 16: Will gets advice on love from his mentor.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 20: Will participates willingly in his session with Sean.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 16: Will participates willingly in his session with Sean.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 13: Sean gives more backstory from his love life that applies to Will's life (Regretting doing nothing is worse than suffering the pain that comes with doing something).

BEAT 53

Summary:

Will improves on a famous mathematician's theory in his session with Lambeau.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

End Quest chain 2, leading to Quest chain 10

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 37: Will opens up to Sean.

Quest chain 2: Lambeau wants to find the next big genius

Step 14: Lambeau makes major progress mentoring Will. End Quest chain 2.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 21: Will participates willingly in his session with Sean.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 4: Will participates willingly in his mentorship with Lambeau

BEAT 54

Summary:

Will and Skylar are in a post-coital embrace. Skylar demands to meet Will's friends and/or family.

Beat Functions:

Lover gets closer

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 38: Will reluctantly agrees to let Skylar meet his friends but still isn't honest with her.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 17: Will reluctantly agrees to let Skylar meet his friends but still isn't honest with her.

BEAT 55

Summary:

Skylar goes out drinking with Will and his friends

Beat Functions:

Lover gets closer

Comic relief

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 39: Will reluctantly takes Skylar on a date with his friends.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 18: Will reluctantly takes Skylar on a date with his friends.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 17: Chuckie meets Skylar.

BEAT 56

Summary:

After leaving the bar, Will takes Chuckie's car to drive Skylar home and lies about having 12 brothers again.

Beat Functions:

Setup conflict in Quest chain 4

Regression after progression

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 40: Will continues lying to Skylar after sharing part of his life with her.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 19: Will continues lying to Skylar after sharing part of his life with her.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 18: Chuckie learns Will is lying to Skylar about his true self.

BEAT 57

Summary:

Lambeau makes arrangements at a party to pimp out Will to his colleagues

Beat Functions:

Betrayal

Begin Quest chain 10

The Antagonist shows his flaw

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 1: Lambeau prepares to exploit Will. Backstory shows he's already begun.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 1: Prologue to quest

BEAT 58

Summary:

Lambeau tells Sean he's arranged job interviews for Will, and they argue whether he's ready or not.

Beat Functions:

Restate the stakes (Will become Einstein or the Unibomber)

State the condition of failure (Push Will too hard)

State the condition of success (Give Will time to finish therapy)

Setup conflict in Quest chain 6, 8 and 10

The Antagonist shows his flaw

Catalyst for conflict between Quest chain 10 and Quest chain 1, 5 and 7

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 41: Restate the stakes and conditions.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 14: Reveal conflict with Lambeau from the past. Create new conflict with Lambeau

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 2: Lambeau prepares to exploit Will. Backstory shows he's already begun.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 2: Lambeau foreshadows that he's arranged job interviews for Will.

BEAT 59

Summary:

Chuckie impersonates Will at a job interview and hustles the interviewers for cash.

Beat Functions:

Failure for Lambeau in Quest chain 10

False victory in Quest chain 7

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 42: Will hasn't grown enough to be ready for the next level (getting a real job)

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 22: Will insults the man keeping him out of jail.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 3: Lambeau fails to impress his colleagues with Will

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 19: Chuckie helps Will in a conflict

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 3: Will rejects his need for a real job.

BEAT 60

Summary:

On a study date on the Harvard lawn, Skylar states Will's flaw and implies he should move to California with her in two months.

Beat Functions:

Will and Skylar open up to each other a little more

Lovers get closer

Setup conflict in Quest chains 1 and 4

Will's backstory

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 43: Skylar states Will's flaw and gives Will an opportunity, which he views as a threat because of his flaw.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 20: Skylar states what Will must do to keep her (move), but that requires overcoming his flaw.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 4: Skylar questions Will's refusal to get a real job.

BEAT 61

Summary:

Skylar visits Chuckie at his house and asks why Will is so distant. Chuckie says Will have never liked a girl the way he likes Skylar.

Beat Functions:

State the hero is in love

Lover gets closer

State the conflict in Quest chain 4 (Will is holding back from Skylar and lying to her)

Create a time limit with consequences (Leave with Skylar in two months or lose her forever)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 44: State Will's flaw

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 20: Chuckie helps Will's lover get closer to Will

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 21: Skylar states what Will must do to keep her (move to California in two months), but that requires overcoming his flaw.

BEAT 62

Summary:

Will humiliates Lambeau by out-mathing him, and Lambeau gets mad at will for embarrassing him at the interview. They both demonstrate and state how their flaws conflict and affect each other

Beat Functions:

State Will's flaw (won't fulfill his potential)

State Lambeau's flaws (Arrogance, jealousy and fear of humiliation)

Major conflict between Will and Lambeau's flaws and missions

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 45: Restate Will's flaw

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 23: Will insults the man keeping him out of jail.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 4: Through losing a conflict with Will, Lambeau is forced to reveal his flaws and fears

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 5: Lambeau tells Will he needs a real job.

BEAT 63

Summary:

While sleeping at Skylar's dorm, Skylar asks Will to move to California with her, and Will blows up on her, admitting his past and telling her he doesn't love her.

Beat Functions:

Major conflict between Will and Skylar

Major progress in will opening up, but false victory/refusal of the call

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 46: Will opens up fully to Skylar in anger and tells her he doesn't love her.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 22: Will opens up fully to Skylar in anger and tells her he doesn't love her.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 6: Will tells Skylar he can't move because he has a job he's tied to.

BEAT 64

Summary:

Will goes to a job interview with the NSA and insults the interviewers.

Beat Functions:

Comic relief

Conflict in will getting a job with Lambeau's associates

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 47: Will continues to refuse taking getting a job seriously.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 5: Will continues to refuse taking getting a job seriously.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 7: Will willingly goes to a job interview but doesn't really want the job.

BEAT 65

Summary:

Will hangs out with Chuckie and Morgan at Chuckie/his mom's house and takes little joy in his normal routine.

Beat Functions:

Change of heart

Character growth

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 48: Will participates in his normal life but takes no joy from it.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 21: Will is not taking the joy he once did from his small time friends.

BEAT 66

Summary:

Will calls Skylar and says he's looking for a real job to impress Skylar, but he won't tell her he loves her or move to California with her.

Beat Functions:

Minor progress in Quest chain 1

Major conflict in Quest chain 4

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 49: Will says he's looking for a real job to impress Skylar, but he won't tell her he loves her or move to California with her.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 23: Will says he's looking for a real job to impress Skylar, but he won't tell her he loves her or move to California with her.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 8: Will tells Skylar he looking for a new job.

BEAT 67

Summary:

Over several scenes spliced between cuts to and from Beat 68, Will works with Lambeau in Sean's office.

Beat Functions:

Mince beat (Beats 67 and 68 spliced together)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 50: Will cooperates with Lambeau in their math mentoring session.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 24: Will sees a baseball card on Sean's desk, representative of Sean's marriage. It gets Will thinking about the risk of not living and loving vs coming out of his comfort zone.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 24: Will cooperates with Lambeau in their math mentoring session.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 5: Will cooperates with Lambeau in their math mentoring session.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 15: Will sees a baseball card on Sean's desk, representative of Sean's marriage. It gets Will thinking about the risk of not living and loving vs coming out of his comfort zone.

BEAT 68

Summary:

Over several scenes spliced between cuts to and from Beat 67, Skylar slowly boards an airplane to California.

Beat Functions:

Mince beat (Beats 67 and 68 spliced together)

Dramatic waiting for the lover to show up

Clock is running out to do the right thing

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 51: Will is still deliberating his life while his lover leaves for good.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 25: Will is still deliberating his life while his lover leaves for good.

BEAT 69

Summary:

During their therapy session, Sean gets under Will's skin by throwing his flaws in his face. Will lashes back, throwing Sean's flaws in his face. Sean is the victor in the power play.

Beat Functions:

Major conflict in/between Quest chain 1, 4, 9, 5

State the hero's flaws

State the mentor's flaws

Hero and mentor's flaws conflict

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 52: Will defends wasting his life in his comfort zone.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 9: Sean asks Will why he worked at Harvard and solved puzzles in secret

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 26: Sean lectures Will about how love requires opening up and letting yourself be vulnerable.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 25: Will attends his session with Sean.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 17: Will attends his session with Sean and refuses to leave when Sean tells him to.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 16: Will throws Sean's state of arrested development in Sean's face.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 9: Will defends keeping his old job and life.

BEAT 70

Summary:

While working demolition with Chuckie, Will takes his anger out on a wall with a hammer.

Beat Functions:

Will's will is breaking.

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 53: Will attempts to lead his normal life but is in major conflict with himself.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 22: Chuckie and his lifestyle are losing their hold on Will.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 10: Will's current job is losing its hold on Will.

BEAT 71

Summary:

Will doesn't show up for his mentoring session with Lambeau. Lambeau threatens Sean that he'll revoke Will's parole, but secretly he lies on his probation report and says Will attended the session.

Beat Functions:

False failure in Quest chain 6

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 53: Will doesn't show up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 26: Will doesn't show up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 6: Will doesn't show up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 6: Will doesn't show up to his meeting with Lambeau, but Lambeau doesn't report him and risk losing him..

BEAT 72

Summary:

After a long day of work, Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass.

Beat Functions:

Major conflict in Quest chain 3

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 54: Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 23: Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass.

Quest chain 7: Will wants to use his genius

Step 10: Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 27: Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass, even though it means leaving his friends behind with his past.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 11: Chuckie tells Will to fulfill his potential or he's going to kick his ass.

BEAT 73

Summary:

Lambeau shows up at Will's meeting with Sean before Will arrives and argues with Sean about pushing Will too hard.

Beat Functions:

Major conflict in Quest chain 5

Restate the hero's flaw

Restate the stakes in Quest chain 1

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 55: Repercussion of Will not showing up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 27: Repercussion of Will not showing up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 7: Repercussion of Will not showing up to his meeting with Lambeau.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 17: Lambeau throws Sean's state of arrested development in Sean's face and accuses Sean of being jealous of Lambeau's success. Sean admits he resents Lambeau's arrogance.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 18: Will shows up late to his meeting with Sean.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 7: Lambeau is angry Will's absence is embarrassing him.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 12: Lambeau and Sean argue whether Will is ready for a real job.

BEAT 74

Summary:

Will shows up to his last meeting with Sean. Lambeau leaves. Will opens up completely to Sean, and Sean neutralizes Will's flaw with a hug and telling him his child abuse wasn't his fault.

Beat Functions:

Final showdown

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 56: Sean neutralizes Will's flaw.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 28: Will shows up to his meeting with Sean.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 19: Will shows up late to his last meeting with Sean.

BEAT 75

Summary:

Will walks around town with new eyes. He goes into a business and applies for a job seriously.

Beat Functions:

Montage

Will receives the prize for facing his flaw (a new life)

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 56: Will receives the prize for facing his flaw (a new life)

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 13: Will applies for a real job.

BEAT 76

Summary:

Chuckie gives Will a POS car for his birthday.

Beat Functions:

Prize

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 57: Chuckie rewards Will with a car for getting a real job.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 24: Chuckie rewards Will with a car for getting a real job.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 14: Chuckie rewards Will with a car for getting a real job.

BEAT 77

Summary:

Will says goodbye to Sean, who tells him to only take the job if he really wants it.

Beat Functions:

Conflict between Quest chain 4 and 11

Denouement

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 57: Chuckie rewards Will with a car for getting a real job.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 29: Will sees Sean even though he doesn't have to.

Quest chain 9: Will wants to meet with a therapist for life mentoring

Step 20: Will sees Sean even though he doesn't have to.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 28: Will has to choose between his new job and Skylar.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 15: Will has to choose between his new job and Skylar.

BEAT 78

Summary:

Will runs into Lambeau leaving Sean's office. Lambeau tells Will he's free and to only take the job if he really wants it.

Beat Functions:

End of Quest chain 6

Epilogue of Quest chains 6, 7, 8 and 10

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 58: Will is free of his flaw and walking towards the future.

Quest chain 6: Will wants to stay out of jail.

Step 30: End Quest chain 6. Will is a free man.

Quest chain 8: Will wants to meet with Lambeau for math mentoring

Step 8: Will volunteers to meet with Lambeau again even though he doesn't have to.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 29: Will has to choose between his new job and Skylar.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 16: Will has to choose between his new job and Skylar.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 8: Lambeau stops trying to exploit Will and sets him free.

BEAT 79

Summary:

Lambeau and Sean resolve their differences and become friends.

Beat Functions:

Denouement

End Quest chain 5 and 10

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 18: Lambeau and Sean resolve their differences and become friends.

Quest chain 10: Lambeau wants to exploit Will

Step 9: Lambeau is no longer an ass hole.

BEAT 80

Summary:

Will sits alone thinking next to a river, then gets up and walks away.

Beat Functions:

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 59: Will deliberates working locally vs moving to California to be with Skylar.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 30: Will deliberates working locally vs moving to California to be with Skylar.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 17: Will deliberates working locally vs moving to California to be with Skylar.

BEAT 81

Summary:

With his car packed up to move to California, Will leaves a letter in Sean's mailbox as Sean packs his things to go to India.

Beat Functions:

Mince beat (Beats 81 and 82 spliced together)

Denouement

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 60: Will has decided to take the biggest risk and move to California to be with Skylar.

Quest chain 4: Will and Skylar want to fall in love

Step 31: Will has decided to take the biggest risk and move to California to be with Skylar.

Quest chain 5: Sean wants to stay in a state of arrested development

Step 19: Sean prepares for the next stage of his life.

Quest chain 11: Will needs a real job.

Step 18: Will has decided to take the biggest risk and move to California to be with Skylar.

BEAT 82

Summary:

Chuckie goes to pick up Will for work in the morning and finds he isn't there, which pleases Chuckie.

Beat Functions:

Mince beat (Beats 81 and 82 spliced together)

Denouement

Quest chain 1: Will wants to stay in a state of arrested development.

Step 61: Will took Chuckie's advice and left town.

Quest chain 3: Will and Chuckie want to be best friends

Step 25: Will took Chuckie's advice and left town even though it means the end of their old lives together.

BEAT 83

Summary:

Will drives off into the sunset.

Beat Functions:

Sunset

End of all Quest chains.