

1.) What is the purpose of breaking down a script?

A script breakdown is needed before anything can be budgeted. (Each scene is divided into eighths and the following are identified: speaking actors, stunts, extras, special effects, props, vehicles/animals, and sounds or music needed on-set.)

2.) At what stage in the production process is a script broken down?

Scripts are broken down going into pre-production. This typically happens as the producer reviews a finished script, marking certain elements that need to be handled before going into production.

3.) Write a 500-1000 word synopsis of your finished script.

Jo Andrews, a thirty-something, feisty, urban professional meets Ben O'Harris, a thirty-something blue-collar, Irish business owner. They fall in love and have a happy time together. He proposes, she agrees. A year later, Ben is diagnosed with stage-four terminal cancer. Prognosis; receive barbaric treatments that won't cure, but buy a few months, riddled with significant health issues, or seek hospice and die on his own terms, as comfortably as possible. He chooses the latter. They are both devastated, but bond together to make the best of it.

Ben redacts the marriage proposal for personal reasons he doesn't readily share with Jo. Ben asks Jo to caretake him and fulfill his last wishes after he's gone. Final wishes include spreading ashes at his favorite beach in Ireland, hosting a drunken celebration of life in his honor, discard all of his belongings, and move on with her life once all obligations are met. Jo blindly agrees out of love, a deep desire to soothe and offer Ben comfort, and a sense of her personal duty. Upon his passing, the obligations taunt her and she obliges begrudgingly in fulfilling them. Simply because she promised.

The celebration of life goes off without a hitch. The house is filled with antiques and a never ending discovery of more items to purge. Surrounded by constant reminders of the one she loved takes a toll on her mental and emotional health until she has a breakdown in a public setting at a park, with children and adults bearing witness to her eruption of internal struggle. Jo finds no solace in discarding his items, nor does she find support and community in her time of grief. Instead she is faced with enveloping sorrow and constant disappointment from those around her, in her time of need. Jo's dearest friend steps in and arranges for Jo to execute Ben's final wishes of spreading his ashes in Ireland at his favorite beach. Jo gives in

and takes the trip, but detours to Warsaw, Poland to see her other dear friend first. She seeks comfort and escape from the hurt in her heart. She intuitively knows that spreading his ashes will bring his passing to a finalizing reality. And with that knowledge, she will be forced to let go and move on. Jo's personal journey is filled with constant obstacles and her sense of self and what she is made of is constantly tested; defining what unconditional love is, advocating for someone who is helpless via navigating a broken medical system, impending mortality, internal struggle of admitting how deeply someone affects you and the impact of their passing has on your psyche and heart, customs confiscated luggage ending in ash disposal and interrogations, TSA damaged electronics, missed flights and connections, reconnecting with old friends that offer tough love, and coming to terms with grief in all its beauty, glory, and agony, re-defining and learning self-trust and self-love, flat tires, intense storms and flooding and detours, meeting the family of the deceased, relying on the kindness of strangers, and the surprising peace upon arrival at the final destination.

Through her grief and deep loss, she experiences many lessons; difficult and endearing. She finds herself, the courage to move on, a renewed belief in humanity, and ultimately, love.