

Plotlines - James + music

Theo - Carey

Allie - Charlie

Charlie - James

Friendship - Theo + James

Natalie

The Lessons

DO ANGELS SING THE BLUES?

In the following story beats, I'm also marking the IMPLIED SCENES in parentheses, as well as scenes which are not chronological. These offer possibilities for putting the implied scene on screen, or re-ordering the sequence. I'm also marking the natural acts and turning points.

Story Beats:

VOICE of THEODORE HALEY STONE in his head
Mentions about writing songs with CAREY

SET-UP - the Meeting of Theo and James. Establish their relationship. This first scene could be a Pre-Credit Sequence, and then focus the body of the script on the Senior Year.

Age 10

The Stones move next door
JAMES watches soccer game/he's left out
ALLISON playing soccer
Theo comes, asks him to come with him (p. 4)
(They build a raft/police find them (p. 250))

Age 12

Gets guitar, father is in band
(Implied scene - Show James & Theo listening to father playing?)
Sings with Theo/Takes guitar lessons

High School/Freshman Year

Theo calls - he hears Blues music (p. 10)
Listen to BOOGIE MAN, call James "Boog"
They start their own band (w/ DANNY & KEITH)
Have 1st gig at an 8th grade graduation party (p. 12)

ACT ONE - Set-Up

They find a name for their band - Blues Thing (p. 15)
They win Yardley Beach Club Jamboree
Win 500 bumper stickers with their band's name
(Imply on-going image of these bumper stickers in various states of disrepair throughout the script - a running gag)
Mentions funeral, mentions Theo in his head/hasn't played
(Implied relationship with SHARON)
(Implied on-going dislike of NATALIE)

High School/Senior Year

Meets Carey in Brockmeyer's class (p. 20-21)

Carey demonstrates low self-esteem (p. 23)
Natalie sees Carey (p. 30)
Spends money on guitar collection (p. 36)
(Est. specific love of certain guitars)
Theo and James go on ice route (p. 36)
They practice in garage (p. 39)
James applies to music school (p. 40)
Mother established as journalist, concerned w/rights
Plant dying in kitchen (p. 47)
(Could est. on-going images of dying plants - running gag)
They play at Harvest Dance (p. 53)
Carey takes drink of brandy
Natalie, with ALLAN, confronts Carey with the truth (62)
Est. Backstory of Carey
In class, learn about starvation
Ms. Brockmeyer asks James re CHARLIE (p. 69)
Carey gives unusual answer on quiz (. 73)
James to Anchor House, meets MAC WINTERS
Works with Charlie (p. 80)
~~To Carey's House, meets the BENSONS (p. 85)~~
~~Have afternoon lemonade with Bensons~~
Meet MR. HARRIGON (p. 98)
They play at church (p. 100)

1st TURNING POINT

Consider making a demo tape/discuss money (p. 101)
(Implied Scene - James trying to get gigs at Eastfield
Country Club for Valentine's Day and the Factory)
(Implied Scene - combine all this into need for demo tape
for big contest mentioned on p. 184. If the contest were
mentioned here, this could be an excellent 1st T.P.)

DANNY mentions need for original songs (p. 102)
Carey writes "Midnight Magic" (p. 104)
James tells Charlie he's busy
Charlie comes to James' house/meets ALLIE (p. 107)
On test, Carey writes Yeats again (p. 117)
Band asked to do Natalie's Party (p. 119)
At party, conflict with Natalie/Carey asked to leave
Theo follows her, doesn't return/they don't get paid
Allison and Mom have a fight (p. 125)
James has a fight with Theo (p. 129)
(Implied contrasting scenes of 3 fights - w/Natalie, with
Allie, with Theo)

MIDPOINT SCENE

Carey calls, they go to Devil's Hollow (p. 135)
Have a picnic, hear the music (p. 138)
(Notice - this is a kind of an epiphany scene. This could
be done quite beautifully, perhaps as a midpoint scene)
Carey completes "Midnight Magic" song for James (p. 141)
(Implied M.P. scene since this is when Carey, in a sense,

"joins" the group by adding original music and giving the group a better chance at the contest.)

December, blizzard, Allie and Charlie want to tobaggan
(Implied scenes - Allie talking on phone w/Charlie)
(Implied Scene - making demo tape)
~~They go to Bensons to tobaggan, have cocoa (p. 148)~~
At Christmas, Charlie going home, says good-bye
Goes back to Anchor House to give guitar for Charlie (158)
Goes to Stones' Christmas Party (p. 162)
ELLEN and ERIC home - Carey drunk (p. 164)
Mentions Natalie was there, sings carols
(Implied scene - Natalie there when James is there, or
James arrives as conflict erupts.)
Carey bumps table, drunk (p. 166)
Jan-February, Valentine's Day dance (p. 171)
Carey dances with another guy, leaves with him (p. 173)
James talks to his father
Carey calls (p. 179)
HEADHUNTER announces contest, need for demo (p. 188)
They practice.
Carey late for class - no late pass.
Brockmeyer finds her vodka, Theo lies for her (p. 191)

2nd TURNING POINT

Theo grounded, no band (p. 193)
They talk about splitting up the band (p. 197)
~~Carey calls about Mrs. Benson~~
James gets Dr. Stone/she leaves in ambulance
(Implied Scene - what done with Mr. Benson)
(Implied Scene - it might be that this problem causes the
need to have Benson's children move back in, and
Harrigan's have to leave. It was unclear in the book
whether Bensons had children - but this could work. You
might be able to reorder some scenes a bit, since the need
to move of Harrigans is a good 2nd Turning Point on this
subplot line.)
Band has to change because of Theo (p. 109)
Can't play in contest, demo tape made - ruined by Theo.
James has talk with Allie (p. 212)
James is accepted to college (p. 213)
(Implied Throughline about Saab, getting worse and worse
and giving out about this time)
Carey is flunking/won't graduate (p. 213)
Natalie mentions the new job for Doc (p. 215)
Natalie mentions she's going to Wellesley, Theo to B.U.
They go to Hollow to celebrate beautiful day
Theo jumps (p. 220)
Carey cries (p. 222)
Have farewell engagement after Senior Prom (p. 223)
Carey not around (p. 224)
Allie reports that man back, Charlie perhaps in danger
Gets news about Carey's father, arrested (p. 232)

Goes to Carey's house/~~Benson knocking - Fire (p. 235)~~

CLIMAX

~~Mrs. Benson and Theo die,~~ Carey runs (p. 240)

RESOLUTION

At funeral parlor/~~Carey comes (p. 247)~~

James runs away (p. 248)

Mentions rafting when 10

~~Charlie hurt, he called Carey, she calls~~

~~Goes to hospital, sees Charlie (p. 255)~~

~~Carey had called from Anchor House~~

~~James offers one of their bedrooms (p. 258)~~

~~Gets crate from Stones - a harp (p. 261)~~

He knows it must go to Carey

He got the harp, his voice is back, it's a sign (262)

(Implied through image re harp. Imply more about theme of looking for a sign)