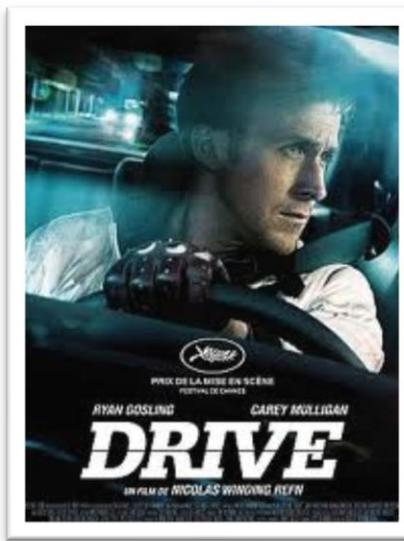
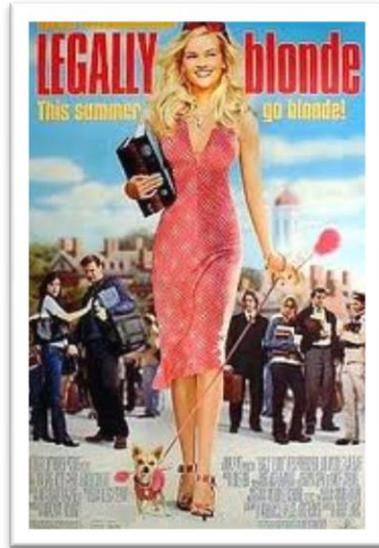


# “Save the Cat” by Blake Snyder 15 beats to a well- structured movie

An analysis of the comedy  
“Legally Blonde” and the tragedy  
“Drive.”

**Comedy:**

MC learns a lesson  
And changes for  
The best.



**Tragedy:**

MC does not learn  
lesson; returns to  
old world.

**Plotting Snyder's 15 beats**

- Opening image: (Pages 1-10) Very first impression of hero's world and his/her wants.  
LB: Elle's prepares for her destiny, marrying her perfect boyfriend.  
Drive: Tough and talented getaway driver does a job flawlessly.
- Theme stated: (1-5) This happens in the first 5 minutes; a presentation of the thematic premise. Philosophical question that story addresses.  
LB: People don't take women like Elle seriously.  
Drive: A driver can always getaway from his problems.

- The Set-up: (1-10) This happens in the first 10 pages; grabs audience; lays out what the MC needs; what's missing in MC's life  
LB: Elle's life is full of superficiality.  
Drive: The Driver has no close personal relationships.
- The catalyst: (page 12) Something profound happens that changes the world of the MC.  
LB: Elle gets dumped by her perfect boyfriend.  
Drive: Driver meets the beautiful but married neighbor.
- Debate: ( 12-25) MC debates whether to act on Catalyst. Doubts themselves.  
LB: Elle wonders if she's smart enough to get into Harvard Law.  
Drive: Driver gets closer to neighbor but still maintains his distance.
- Break Into Act 2: (25) Something big happens that turns the theme upside down; Must happen on Page 25 for a 110-page script.  
LB: Elle gets into Harvard Law on her own merits; Warner has a new "smart" girlfriend and doesn't care.  
Drive: The Driver falls in love.

- B-Story: (Page 30) a break from the main story; usually a love story.  
LB: Elle meets beautician friend; helps friend with legal issue successfully.  
Drive: Driver meets crime boss who invests in a stock car for the driver to race.
- Fun and games: (30-55) Provides the promise of the premise. Movie poster, trailer comes from these scenes.  
LB: Elle adapts and changes into the top law student. She meets a graduate student who sees potential in her legal abilities.  
Drive: The driver takes the neighbor and her child driving around his favorite places; he works on cars; drives his race car.
- Midpoint: (55) either highest point of MC's story or the lowest; things can only get better or worse from here.  
LB: Elle is asked to be on an elite legal team with her professor.  
Drive: The driver falls in love with the married neighbor and son.
- Bad guys close in: (55-75) The bad guys gain on the hero.  
LB: Elle falters in court; other law students think she used her attractiveness to get her position.  
Drive: Husband returns from prison; husband is beaten up in front of his son because of a prison debt; Driver decides to befriend husband and help him pull off a heist so he could repay debt.

- All is Lost ( 75) Opposite of mid-point; whiff of death; “false defeat”  
LB: Elle quits the legal team.  
Drive: Husband is killed during heist; a set-up to murder the husband.
- Dark Night of the Soul: (75-85) right before MC’s digging deep to address the problems; beaten and knows it.  
LB: Elle doubts her legal abilities; wants to quit law school.  
Drive: Driver finds out his boss benefactor was behind set-up by coincidence; Driver tells grieving neighbor about his involvement in death of husband; finds crime boss and kills him.
- Break into Act Three: (85) The blending of A-story and B-story to come up with a solution.  
LB: Elle embraces her true self; helps her sorority sister client.  
Drive: The driver meets with the main boss, kills him. Driver is also stabbed in the stomach during the fight.
- Finale: (85-110) MC learns lessons; wrapping up for A and B stories; a new world replaces the old; bad guys are killed off.  
LB: Elle wins the court case for sorority sister. New love interest with grad student; valedictorian of law school graduation class.  
Drive: Driver leaves message saying his time with her and her son was the best thing in his life.

- Final Images (110): opposite of opening image to reflect change.  
LB: Elle's gives advice about self-esteem and following dreams no matter what others say.  
Drive: Driver heads into the night, bleeding from his wound. An unknown future ahead of him.