

WORKING IT OUT

feature film screenplay
based on Nicola May's novel

written by Sabrina Semidei

GENRE

An upbeat and modern self-discovery romantic comedy.

IT WOULD FEEL LIKE... A career-oriented What's Your Number? with the passion (but not ALL the tears) of Love, Rosie in the buzzing London of today.

LOGLINE

After being sacked from her unchallenging yet well-paying marketing job, a complacent 30-year-old embarks on a Herculean journey of 12 jobs in 12 months in the hopes of finding her dream career.

SETTING

It's the modern, crowded, fast-paced London of today, with quick escapades to vibrant Dublin, the picturesque South of France and the magical Lake District.

WRITER'S NOTE

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" - An easy, lovely, dreamy question to answer when you're a child. A cringe-ish one when you're a teenager. Clearly, one that feels outdated once the letters HMRC make sense to you. Dreams don't have to expire - but it's our job not to let them. That's what I found the most inspiring when first reading Working It Out: with drive, just the right amount of crazy and a great bubble of support, one can once again chase the dreams that have been smothered by adulthood and, on the way, make peace with the reasons why it happened.

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STORY SUMMARY

It's Christmas time when happy-go-lucky RUBY ANN MATTHEWS experiences one of those days that is going to change her life forever... But not like in Love Actually, nope that's for later. Right now, Ruby is desperate because she's lost her high-flying-yet-soul-crushing, boring-arse marketing job. That is a problem for two reasons: one, she's as good with money as Isla Fisher's character in Confessions of a Shopaholic; two, she has to face the fact that she's an unemployed 30-year-old with no dream to chase. Thankfully, her vibrant workaholic best friend, FIONA DONAHUE is as resourceful as she is dedicated to helping her friend find happiness.

As the New Year strikes, Fiona and Ruby come up with an infallible plan for her dream-career hunt: 12 jobs in 12 months. Now that the stakes are high, it's up to Ruby to outgrow her habit of setting the bar too low and truly challenge herself. As the job selection is monitored by Fiona, Ruby's only task is to dive into these different worlds to try

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and figure out which one she wants to belong to. But the best-laid schemes...

That's right, because on top of her career search, her complicated relationship with her mother and the recent loss of a friend, Ruby has to fight the urge to fall unprecedentedly and insanely in love with GEORGE STEVENS, her 23-year-old neighbour with the body of a Greek god and the heart of an angel. He sees her the way she is – as opposed to the way she'd want to be – and that is, of course, the highest level of sexy. But Ruby won't allow herself to fall into something that she sees as doomed to fail. Not anymore.

Instead, she gets caught up in an infernal loop of hypocrisy – pretending she's okay with George dating the despicable Candice, with Fiona's suck-up work attitude, with her mum's emotional unavailability and even worse, that her life is right on track now that she's with Adam...It takes one too many bubbles for Ruby to snap. Aside from confronting her mother, fighting with Fiona and dumping Adam, she confesses her love to George but it's too late. He's engaged. Game Over.

This avalanche of bad news could almost bury Ruby but no. She won't allow herself to wallow in her misery anymore. She gets back to the plan and finds jobs on her own. In doing so, she realises how, by playing her cards right, Ruby could find a job in the field she worships the most: fashion. After applying to London Fashion School, she makes peace with her loved ones and when the yearly clock ends, it's the same old world, but one that feels full of hope again – with trendy bags by the newest aspiring designer in town, Ruby A. Matthews!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nicola May is the author of sixteen romantic comedies, all of which have appeared in the Kindle bestseller charts and sold over a million copies across all formats.

Working it Out was Nicola's first novel and became an instant Amazon bestseller.