DARK SIDE OF THE CANDLE

Feature Film Treatment

Genre: Supernatural Thriller / Psychological Horror
Setting: New Orleans and Los Angeles, California
Tone: Seductive, mysterious, suspenseful, visually striking, with moments of unsettling horror.

LOGLINE

A young witch from New Orleans relocates to Los Angeles, where she finds work at a bath-and-oils boutique and falls for a man who promises more than he can deliver. When she discovers his dishonesty, she uses her extraordinary magic to create an alternate personality that turns his double life into a supernatural game—one whose terrifying truth neither he nor the audience sees coming.

THE STORY

ACT I — A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAGIC

Los Angeles is a city of reinvention. People arrive every day hoping to become someone new, leave their past behind, or find the life they believe they deserve.

For a young woman from New Orleans, reinvention comes naturally.

She has grown up with knowledge of a world most people dismiss as superstition. Witchcraft is part of her heritage, her instincts, and her understanding of the world. She knows the properties of oils, herbs, fragrances, and other natural ingredients. She also possesses abilities that go well beyond anything that can be explained through ordinary craftsmanship.

She has learned to keep those abilities to herself.

After relocating to Los Angeles, she finds employment at a boutique specializing in bath products, essential oils, handmade soaps, and candles. The shop is an ideal setting for her talents. She understands how ingredients interact, how fragrances affect the senses, and how to turn ordinary products into extraordinary creations.

But her gifts extend beyond creating beautiful products.

Her soaps and candles can come to life in ways that defy explanation. Objects respond to her intentions. Flames behave unnaturally. The atmosphere around her can shift from inviting warmth to something deeply unsettling.

She doesn't advertise these abilities. To the outside world, she's simply a talented young woman with an unusual understanding of her craft.

Her life in Los Angeles begins to take shape. She works, establishes a routine, and becomes open to the possibility of romance.

Then she meets a man who captures her interest.

Their attraction develops into a relationship. She enjoys his company, finds herself drawn to his personality, and begins to imagine what a future together might look like.

But she makes one thing clear: she's willing to work through disagreements, misunderstandings, and the ordinary complications that come with a relationship.

There is only one condition.

Don't lie to her.

It's a simple request, delivered without theatrics. She isn't demanding perfection. She isn't asking him to agree with everything she says. She is asking for honesty.

He has no idea how seriously she means it.

ACT II — THE CANDLE GOES DARK

Early in their relationship, the man tells her a lie during a telephone conversation.

The lie may seem insignificant to him. He has his reasons for telling it, and he expects the conversation to end without consequence.

But something extraordinary happens.

Nearby, a candle burns quietly.

As he lies, the flame goes out.

A thin line of smoke rises from the wick.

The moment passes. The woman remains composed. Nothing about the scene suggests that the man has just crossed a boundary far more consequential than he realizes.

After some time, the candle lights again.

This time, the flame is purple.

The supernatural event marks a change in the woman. Her original personality gives way to an alternate personality she has the magical ability to create and control.

This is not possession. No spirit has entered her body, and she has not lost control of herself. She remains fully aware of everything happening and retains complete command of the alternate personality.

She remembers every conversation and every encounter. The alternate personality is her creation, and she knows exactly what she is doing.

The man, however, knows nothing about the change.

Neither does the audience.

From this point forward, the alternate personality can emerge when particular circumstances trigger her presence. The purple candle flame serves as a visual indication of the shift, although its significance remains unexplained to the audience.

The woman has established a secret that will shape the rest of the story.

And the man has unknowingly become part of it.

ACT III — TWO WOMEN, ONE MAN

As the relationship progresses, the man begins to behave inconsistently.

There are moments when he avoids opportunities to spend time with his girlfriend. He has explanations for his absences, reasons for changing plans, and excuses that seem plausible enough to prevent immediate confrontation.

Whenever he avoids a moment to see the main character, the other woman appears.

She is attractive, engaging, and different in her manner and personality. The man experiences a different chemistry with her, and their interactions develop into a separate romantic relationship.

At least, that is what he believes.

The audience sees the two relationships unfold as though two distinct women are involved. Each appears to have her own place in his life. Each encounter seems to confirm that he is juggling two romantic partners.

The man becomes increasingly comfortable maintaining both relationships. He compartmentalizes his time, his conversations, and his explanations. He believes he can manage the situation as long as neither woman discovers the other.

Meanwhile, the main character remains aware of everything.

She understands his behavior, remembers every excuse, and knows exactly what he has been doing. Her alternate personality is not acting independently or making decisions behind her back. Every appearance is part of a deception she controls.

The audience is not given that information.

Instead, the film continues to reinforce the apparent existence of two women. Changes in personality, tone, mannerisms, and romantic chemistry help establish the distinction. Scenes are structured to make their separate identities seem unquestionable.

The candle occasionally provides glimpses of the supernatural mechanism behind the deception. A flame may extinguish, smoke may curl upward, or a purple glow may appear at a moment whose significance isn't yet clear.

These details are clues, not explanations.

The boutique also provides opportunities to deepen the film's supernatural atmosphere. Handmade soaps, oils, and candles can exhibit uncanny behavior, suggesting that the heroine's gifts are extensive and that the candle is only one part of a larger world of magic.

As the man continues his double life, his confidence grows. He believes he is controlling the situation.

In reality, he is operating inside a situation he doesn't understand.

ACT IV — THE DINNER INVITATION

Eventually, the main character invites the man to her home for dinner.

The invitation seems ordinary. They have reached a point in their relationship where a private evening together should feel comfortable and intimate.

The setting offers a contrast to the deception unfolding around them. The table is prepared. The atmosphere is warm. Candles provide soft illumination. Everything appears designed for a pleasant evening between two people who care about one another.

But there is something different about this encounter.

During the evening, the woman leaves the room to use the bathroom.

While she is away, the man receives a text message from the other woman.

The message reinforces the illusion that the other woman exists independently and remains an active part of his life. The audience has no reason to question what it sees. If anything, the moment strengthens its understanding of the situation: he is still communicating with the woman he has been dating behind his girlfriend's back.

The main character returns.

The evening continues until she confronts him.

She brings up the other woman directly. She gives him an opportunity to explain himself, to acknowledge what he has done, and to tell the truth.

He denies it.

Despite everything that has happened, he chooses another lie.

The woman remains composed. She doesn't immediately erupt in anger or launch into an explanation of what she knows. Instead, she allows the moment to develop.

The audience expects a familiar confrontation: a betrayed woman confronting a cheating man.

But this is not an ordinary relationship drama.

The candles become part of the tension. Their flames flicker in the stillness. The atmosphere shifts. The familiar warmth of the room becomes uncomfortable.

The man continues to deny the affair.

Then the truth emerges.

The woman sitting across from him is the same woman he believes he has been dating on the side.

The two women are one.

The main character has been controlling both sides of his romantic life through her magically created alternate personality. Every apparent encounter with the other woman, every separate interaction, and every moment that seemed to confirm the existence of two individuals must now be reconsidered.

The audience finally understands the significance of the purple flame.

It was never simply a supernatural effect. It was the visual indication that the alternate personality was present.

The clues were there from the beginning.

The audience simply misunderstood them.

ACT V — THE DARK SIDE

The revelation transforms the dinner confrontation into something far more disturbing than a conventional discovery of infidelity.

The man realizes that the woman he thought he knew has been operating according to rules he never imagined. His attempts to manage two relationships have brought him face-to-face with a supernatural deception that has been unfolding around him all along.

The woman, meanwhile, has never been confused about who she is or what she has done. She remembers everything. She has remained in control throughout the relationship, and the alternate personality has always been a deliberate extension of her own magical abilities.

Her original warning now carries a different weight.

She told him she was willing to work things out as long as he didn't lie to her.

He repeatedly chose to lie.

Yet the situation raises a disturbing question: what does honesty mean when one person has secretly constructed an entire illusion around the other?

The film's final moments should allow the audience to sit with that contradiction. The heroine's actions may be understandable in the context of her demand for honesty, but the methods she has used are anything but ordinary.

The candles burn.

The purple flame returns, or perhaps an ordinary flame quietly resumes its place. The exact final image will depend on how we choose to resolve the confrontation and what we want the audience to feel as the credits begin.

The story ends with the revelation of the heroine's secret, leaving the audience to reconsider everything it has witnessed.

In *Dark Side of the Candle*, the most frightening discovery is not that witchcraft exists.

It is that the person sitting across from you may be far more complicated than you ever imagined—and that the truth can remain hidden even when it has been burning right in front of you.

VISUAL AND TONAL APPROACH

Dark Side of the Candle is designed as a visually driven supernatural thriller in which practical candlelight, atmospheric lighting, sound design, and carefully timed visual effects establish the film's identity.

The candle motif: The extinguished flame, rising smoke, and subsequent purple flame form a recurring visual language. The effects should feel deliberate and consistent rather than decorative.

The boutique: Oils, soaps, wax, glass, botanicals, and fragrance create a distinctive environment for supernatural events. Ordinary products can become sources of wonder, unease, and horror.

The dual performances: The actress must create two recognizable personalities without suggesting that the main character has lost control. Small changes in posture, voice, facial expression, rhythm, and romantic behavior will help distinguish them.

The misdirection: Editing, scene transitions, phone calls, text messages, and carefully framed encounters should encourage the audience to believe two women exist. The film must conceal the connection without contradicting what is ultimately revealed.

The horror: Rather than relying entirely on conventional scares, the film builds unease through unnatural occurrences, unexplained changes, and the growing realization that the heroine's abilities have been operating beneath the surface of an apparently ordinary romance.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Dark Side of the Candle combines supernatural spectacle with an intimate story about trust, deception, and control. Its central mystery is embedded in the structure of the narrative itself, allowing the final revelation to transform the meaning of earlier scenes.

The candle becomes the signature image of the film: a small, familiar object capable of revealing a darkness that no one else can see.

The flame is the clue. The personality is the deception. The dinner is the reveal.