

Studio Story Notes

Title: *****

Submitted by: *****

Written by: *****

Type: Screenplay

Genre: Suspense

Development Executive: 1000

Registration Number: 0018

LOGLINE: When a star athlete encounters a girl who looks exactly like her, she discovers that she is a clone, and both girls are being used by a maniacal doctor bent on killing one in order to give the other a heart transplant.

This new draft is the best to date as it showcases improvements in all of the key areas including plotting, characterization, and dialogue. By changing Sydney into a villain and extracting the search for a birth mother, the script has derived more tension and can now clearly be perceived as a thriller. Another improvement concerns streamlining the roles of the doctors and not making them the main villain. This had given prior drafts a B-movie feel. Now that the script has effectively restructured the plotting and amped up tension, the process of polishing characterizations and the focus on sustaining momentum can be easily achieved. The script is uncluttered and much easier to grasp. This allows for room to

weed out unnecessary plot details or repetitive plot points and replace them with tension building moments. Also in need of further development is Madison's role as the victim. The script hasn't quite achieved an inroad to her turmoil and needs to work on making her accessible and sympathetic. She's still a bit stiff, but that's not to say that she hasn't come a long way from prior drafts. She's serviceable, but in order to grab attention from potential buyers, she needs to leap off the page with passion and vulnerability. The reader needs to feel as if they are going through everything Madison is experiencing in order to feel like they are truly with her on this harrowing journey. Sydney has been cleverly retooled as the villain and there is thankfully no rehabilitation for her, but the script could work to make her truly riveting and unpredictable.

In terms of broad strokes, the STORYLINE could push for a greater sense of dread as Madison's life goes from normal to terrifying. Much of this can flow from amplifying Sydney's role as the villain and making her a bit more unpredictable and eerie. Every moment that she is on the page must be devoted to making her appear volatile and dangerous. There should be the sense that this beautiful girl is quelling some darkness within as she tries to act normal. The script has effectively held back the revelation about the cloning experiment and shifted the focus primarily on the

characters. In so doing, it has cleverly given Drew an added purpose beyond just being the love interest. When every bit of dialogue is focused on either character or driving plot intrigue, the script will have reached its pinnacle. There are still many scenes that can be trimmed in favor of using the time for deriving greater tension and more exhilarating action. It definitely feels like the writing is conscious of finishing up every one of Madison's plot revelations with a threat from the bad guys, but more could be done to make these scenes particularly filmic.

In the FIRST THIRD, the mention of the cloning news might flow more naturally if it comes from someone watching the tennis match and reading it in the newspaper. They could be commenting on Madison or Sabrina's talent and saying "wow, wouldn't it be neat to have two of her?" Either choose to do something like this (and delete the first news bite about cloning), or allow Alicia and Corbin to introduce the news. It's not necessary to state plot points twice. Corbin's opening line gives us good plot reveal, but needs to be more natural. It feels a little forced and this could be improved by splitting the plot points up a bit.

Madison's longing for a family might play out more naturally if she watches Corbin get a visit from her mother who says she'll be in the stands rooting for her. Instead of banging the sympathy drum so loudly, Madison

might just look longingly at Corbin's exchange and wish it for herself. Maybe make one comment about Corbin being lucky to have someone out there that cares about the game.

The script needn't include shot of the airplane landing. Establishing the girls at airport is enough. After the game, Corbin and Madison's conversation effectively reveals personality traits about Madison (i.e. she has no time to date). There is too much made of the half-price seats, and it's not necessary to repeat it with the airport agent conversation. The script needs to be reviewed once again to make sure that plot points aren't being repeated, since repetition is easily cited as a reason to pass (it's a sign that the storyline is thin on either plotting or character development).

As Madison spots Sydney at the airport, there should be a greater sense of her internal strife over seeing this anomaly. The scene needs greater tension and a sense of consequence. There's nice irony in Drew teasing Logan that his perfect girl wouldn't be human. After Madison learns about her twin, it's effective that her game is thrown, but the tension would be boosted if there were a championship game on the line. When Sabrina asks Madison if there is a problem that the team needs to know about, it should be revealed that some championship title is resting on Madison's shoulders.

When Drew says "there is one more tennis game until the season's over," it presents another opportunity to state that Madison can't be thrown off her game at such a crucial time (this stuff comes later, but too late in the second act). It could even be stated that sports scouts will attend the game and Madison's professional career rests on this pivotal game. It should be noted that as the plot progresses, all concerns about Madison's impending game are dropped. This needs to be sustained in a subtle manner. Sydney's conversation poolside with Sean feels a bit abrupt. The line about her needing a heart doesn't feel like a choice way to hint at her health problem. There might be a better opportunity to reveal this later, or instead of saying she needs a heart to care about a game, show that she can't swim with Sean because of her heart trouble. Sydney's excitement over Madison "taking the bait" works much better in launching the script with intrigue.

Madison's "snowflake play" story is a nice way to draw sympathy for her plight. In the MIDDLE ACT, it's finally revealed that Madison is working toward sustaining her tennis title, but this should be moved up. As Madison goes about hunting down Sydney and getting sidetracked, there should be the sense that her game is being sacrificed. When she gets the message from Sydney, Madison should skip a practice. The scene where Madison decides to go to California a week before her game gives the script the

tension it has been lacking, especially now that Sydney is clearly being portrayed as a villain, and Madison the innocent "lamb to slaughter." Drew is effectively utilized as the naysayer. Although Madison's visit to Sydney's house is filled with intrigue and danger, it seems implausible that Sydney would be so ill prepared for the visit after spending so much time luring Madison there. Essentially, Madison shouldn't be able to get away so easily. This moment could provide a harrowing confrontation between the sisters, and firmly establish Sydney as a villain. It could become the most memorable scene of the script if there is a great catfight. It might also show Sydney's health weakness as Madison overcomes her. Madison's escape would become more riveting. At this point, moviegoers should feel a strong attachment with Madison and be able to feel her confusion and fear. It's vague as to how Madison is feeling about all of these ominous developments. Sure, she's in denial, but she seems too much in a dream world as Corbin insists they are leaving town. Sydney's turn from normal person to psycho should follow some of the beats found in a flick like "RED EYE."

As the LAST ACT gets underway, the script is deriving much more tension from having saved the revelation about the cloning experiment (it might even be best to stall this even further). One of the action scenes cleverly employs Madison's swinging arm to defeat Lawrence. There's palpable tension in this

scene as Madison escapes Lawrence's clutches. While trapped in the research lab, Madison's monologue (while reading the research paper) reveals much needed plot details, but it feels a bit unnatural. Perhaps it can be revealed in snippets as Madison is on the run. On a minor note, the Santa Barbara Hospital is labeled Jamaican Hospital (assumedly left from prior drafts). Instead of Logan showing up for some R&R, he should have come "to save the day" after doing research and finding something strange about Sydney. Although the plot is progressing steadily, the tension begins to dissipate at the hospital. These scenes need to be bone chilling, with non-stop tension to sustain momentum leading up to the climax. The Jack and Drew connection is cleverly handled. This scene clearly explains why Madison and Sydney were separated without overcomplicating the matter (a nice improvement from prior drafts).

The CHARACTER work could still use some tweaking. The script presents a fantastic opportunity for an actress to play dual roles, but the project won't be attractive unless both parts are top notch. Take a look at some classic screen vixens to try and mold Sydney into this template more effectively. This is a great role because there is complexity in that she is evil for survival purposes. We assume that Sydney has always known she had a spare and just decides to use Madison now that her heart is

failing, but this angle could be played up in terms of Sydney's personality. The script might show that it made her into a monster because she was able to live on the edge always believing there was a spare waiting to fix her excesses (in terms of health and risk taking). Madison's role is much more substantive, but she is still a bit bland and reactive rather than proactive. It's a great victim role, but Madison should have a better strength of character and not be so mopey about not having a family. If it is mentioned, the script should talk about it in terms of how it has strengthened Madison's character and made her more ambitious. The bedside scene with Sydney is a bit didactic (and could be toned down), but the sentiments nicely reveal Madison's character transformation.

DIALOGUE has been improved across the board and is beginning to reveal character voices. Madison's voice still needs some humor and warmth to give her role vibrancy. We're still not getting a picture of her in our minds.