

# Annotated Screenplay Example

# CELTX

One domestic scene demonstrating sluglines, action, dialogue, pacing, subtext, and restrained parentheticals.

## One-Pager

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is tidy but unfinished. One cupboard door still hangs loose.

Slugline grounds us in an interior, everyday setting

SARAH (30s) works at the sink. The house is quiet in the way that feels intentional.

Action establishes visual detail without emotional commentary

Sarah scrubs a mug too hard. Ceramic clicks against stainless steel. She stops. Listens.

TOM (40s) leans in the doorway, unseen by Sarah. He's already changed into pajamas.

Tom is introduced through behaviour and timing, not description. His presence shifts the power balance of the scene

SARAH  
You didn't have to wait up.

Dialogue avoids the real topic.

TOM  
I wasn't asleep.

This is a deflection framed as courtesy

Sarah turns off the tap. Dries her hands carefully. Still doesn't look at him

Introducing an

off-screen character

escalates stakes

without adding new cast

SARAH  
Mum called.

TOM  
(after a beat)  
And?

Parenthetical clarifies timing and the beat lets tension breathe

Sarah opens the loose cupboard door. Tightens the hinge with a screwdriver already inside.

SARAH  
She says hello.

Tom exhales – almost a laugh. He steps fully into the room now.

TOM  
That's progress.

The cupboard door sits straight. Sarah checks it once more – then finally faces him.

SARAH  
Don't make me defend her.

Continue to escalate tension through action and little dialogue. Allows subtext to help tell the story

Tom nods. Accepts this. The space between them remains.