

H O U R T L E .

By

Jasper Spicero



HOUSE

EXT. HOUSE

AERIAL SHOT the sun is rising over an industrial looking house surrounded by a forest of dead trees. The rooftop features a large square skylight and an exposed ventilation system. Lenny, a 1940s pick-up truck, drives toward the house.

CLOSE UP a lady bug crawling in the driveway. The bug passes an envelope addressed to TURTLE. We see the tread of Lenny's front-left tire roll over the envelope and flatten the lady bug.

Grey leaves fall into the frame and cover the scene.

ON SCREEN

T.U.R.T.L.E.

NOTE: The font is from the novel 'Room' by Emma Donoghue. The periods are bolt heads. The last bolt unscrews leaving a hole.

CUT TO:

INT. TURTLE'S ROOM

Light fades into the bedroom from a tall rectangular window. It is a mostly empty room with a large bed and a night stand. The covers on the bed are unmade. At first it appears that no one is here.

TILT DOWN

We see TURTLE, eyes closed, at the foot of the bed on the floor.

CUT TO:

STORAGE

EXT. ROADWAY - DAY

TURTLE walking in the shoulder of an empty roadway. A starling flies through the scene from the branch of a nearby tree.

CLOSE UP Turtle's face with long stretch of road behind him. The sun is falling to the horizon.

He follows a trail of footprints just off the road. They lead into the woods toward a large rectangular object.

FADE TO:

EXT. STORAGE CONTAINER

Next to the storage container is a tree with a flock of starlings resting on the dead branches. Turtle approaches the container causing the starlings to disperse. It begins to rain.

INT. STORAGE CONTAINER

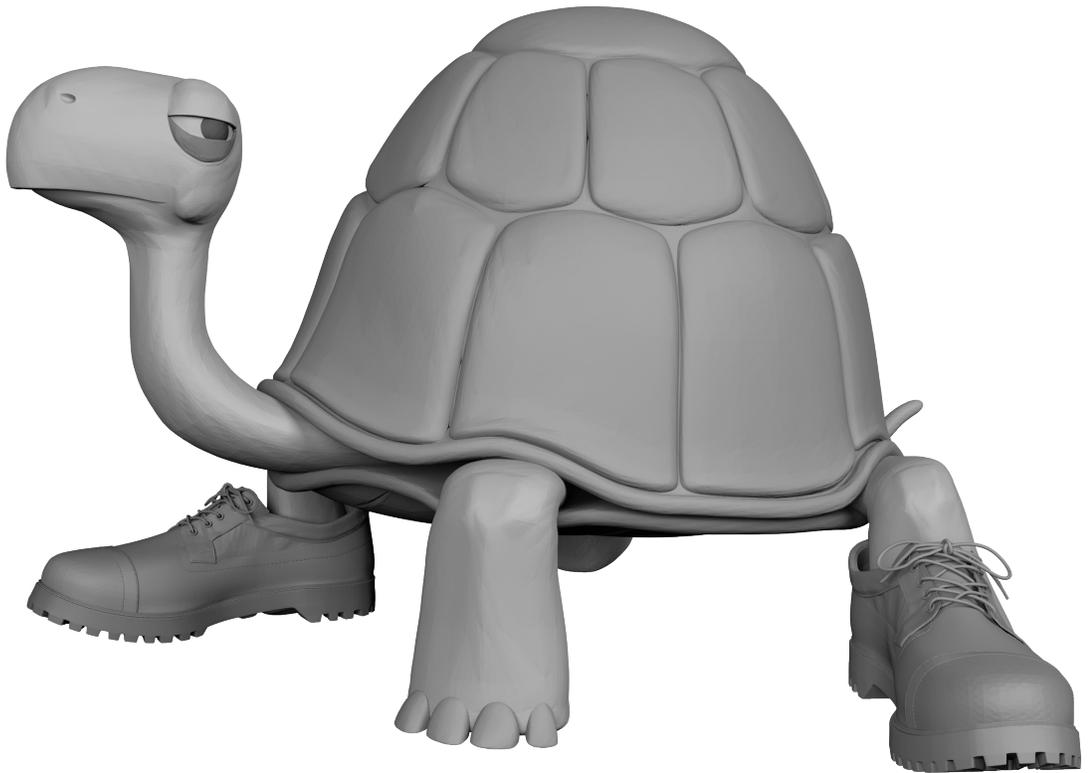
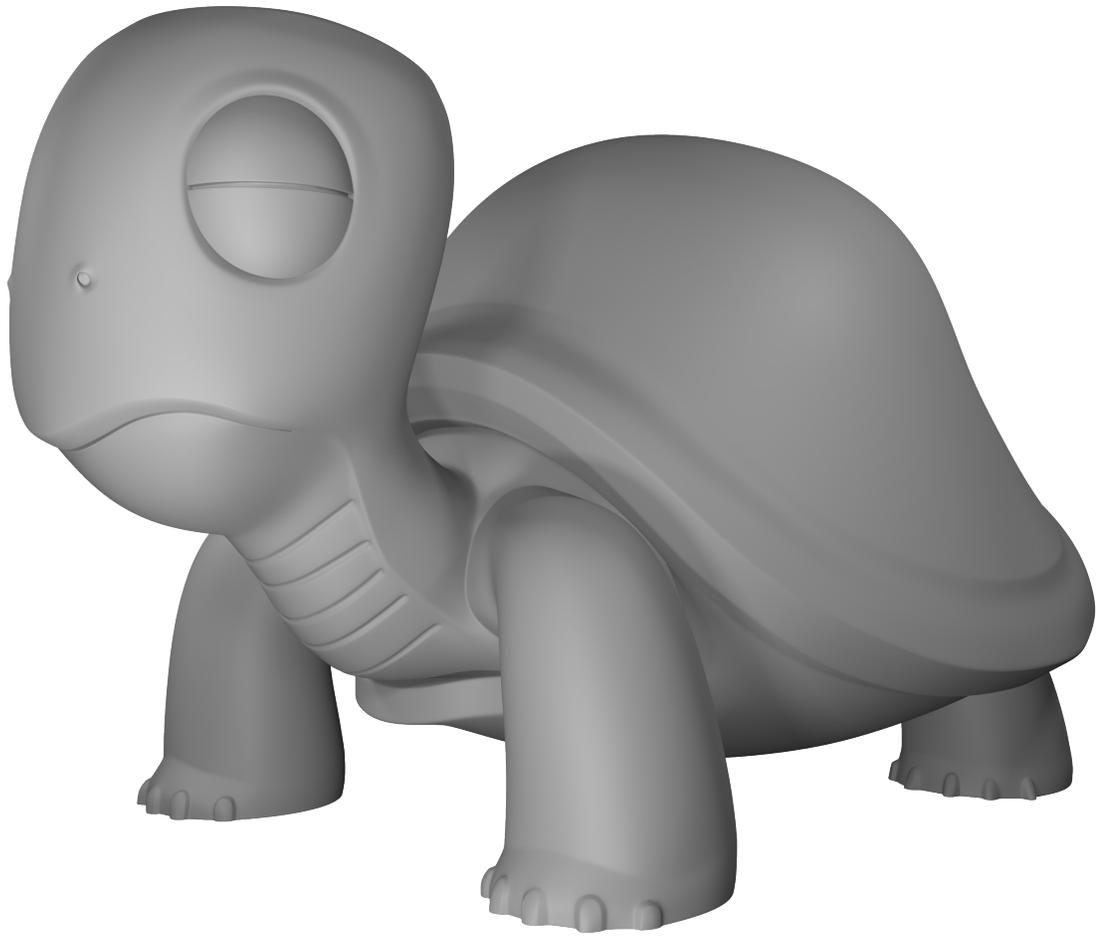
It is pitch black. We hear the sound of muffled raindrops. The container doors open from the outside letting in a flood of light. Turtle stands in the doorway. The interior is many times larger than it appears from the outside. Stacks of evidence boxes are everywhere. Old newspapers litter the floor. Turtle enters.

MONTAGE

Turtle sitting at a desk pushed to the far wall of the container. He is sorting through the evidence boxes. Items and documents appear and disappear from the surface of the desk: distressed backpack and arithmetic text book, copy of sea turtle conservation news letter, various newspaper clippings. Stacks of folders pile onto the desk. The montage ends when Turtle finds an automobile magazine with Victoria on the cover.

She is parked in a foggy construction site. Through the tinted windshields we see a shadowy figure in the drivers seat.

FADE TO:



ROOM

INT. VENTILATION

Moving through a ventilation system toward an under eave opening. Bars of light shine onto a pair of scissors. The scissors are lying flat weighing down a distressed sheet of paper with illegible writing. We pass through the opening of the ventilation system and enter GORDON'S ROOM.

INT. GORDON'S ROOM

Papers cover the floor like leaves. Hand drawn Designs for concept vehicles are screwed into the wall. More designs crumpled on Gordon's desk. Some are carefully drawn others could belong to a child. Half empty glasses of water have been abandoned everywhere.

MONTAGE

Panning across Gordon's shelf. DESIGNER'S BOWL FROM WINTER with a grey orchid propped carefully within an opening of the broken porcelain bowl. A series of concept vehicles sculpted from plastic clay. Aging flowers are scattered over the vehicular models.

CLOSE IN Gordon's work desk. An ash tray supporting a single null cigarette mostly ash.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK PLACE

A spot light illuminates an ashtray supporting a full cigarette burning. Smoke rises. Beneath the ashtray is a drawing of TURTLE smiling with his eyes closed and stars around him.

FADE TO:

GUILT

INT. GARAGE

Victoria is nowhere to be found. In her usual place is an oil stain. Drops of oil lead to the garage door.

Lenny and Kline are parked side by side. They move forward together. We follow them into a dark section of the Garage.

PAN FROM LENNY TO KLINE showing the front of the vehicles. Lenny's frame is bent making a slight frown. Headlights flicker and turn on. The garage is revealed to us.

Bellow them are several items carefully organized on the floor: pants, a sock, button up shirt, pair of boots, keys, scissors, watch, wallet and a piece of note book paper with writing on it: SG1371U

Lenny drives forward placing himself above the arrangement of items.

Kline follows.

CLOSE UP Gordon's watch. It is out of batteries. The time reads 4:27:52. Kline's front and back tires roll over the watch crushing it into pieces.

Kline and Lenny rev their engines and spin their back tires in place. The burnout blackens the clothes and shreds them into pieces.

Gordon's wallet is thrown across the room landing on Victoria's oil stain.

CLOSING IN ON THE OIL STAIN we see a small rectangular photograph next to Gordon's distressed wallet. It shows Turtle with a patchwork blanket draped over his shell. Oil seeps through the image.

CUT TO:

SKYLIGHT

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

FIRST PERSON walking down a street with abandon houses on either side. Further along the road is GRAM, a tractor with flattened tires. A flying crow cuts through the scene.

We follow the crow. She raises her head upward and gains altitude guiding us toward dark clouds. We fall from her side gracefully to one abandon house with a caved in roof.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDON HOUSE

Turtle in the center of the room. A ladybug is crawling on his shell. Light shines onto Turtle from the caved in roof. In one corner of the room is a tent made from a blanket and sticks. Turtle turns to the camera.

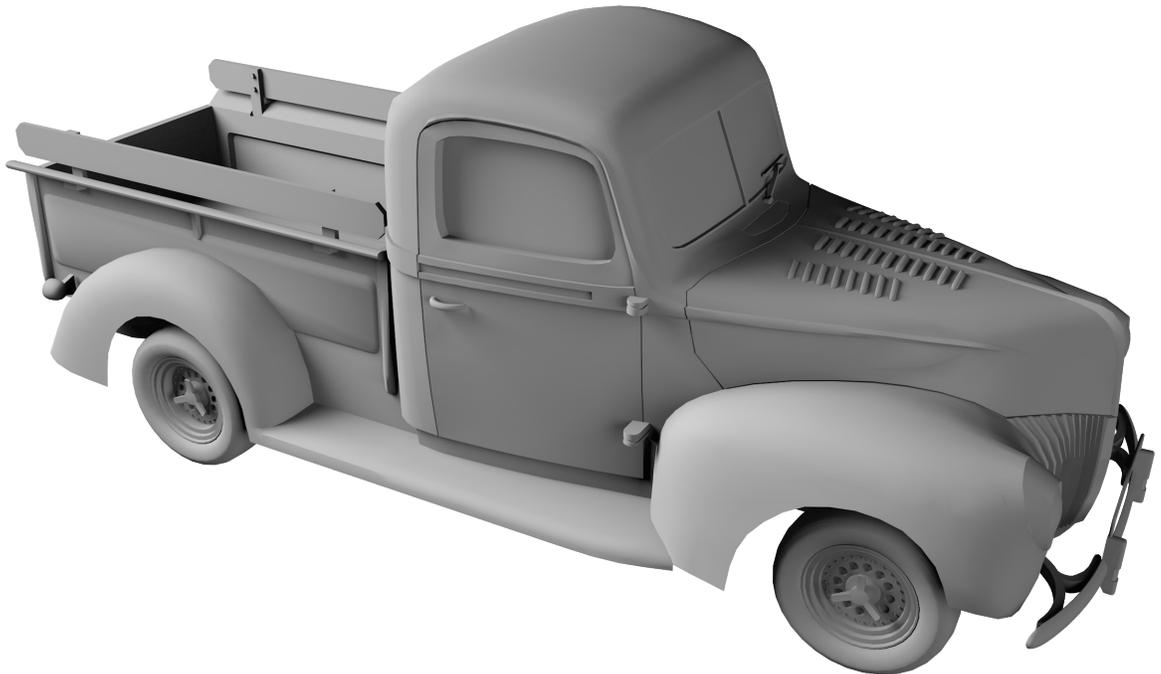
CLOSE UP Turtle's face. Eyes closed. Ladybug crawls onto Turtle's face.

FADE TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD

Gordon's towering legs and Turtle standing next to each other. They are dark silhouettes against a grey sky moving together through the streets of Neighborhood. Gram is with them now. Another set of towering legs enters, closely following Turtle, Gordon and Gram.

CUT TO:



LENNY

EXT. LANDSCAPE - NIGHT

Dead trees scattered across a grey, moonlit landscape. Lenny is driving alone. His tires are wobbling. In his truck bed are several vases of flowers. Arrangements of grey Lillys, Roses and Hydrangeas.

Lenny arrives at Gordon's feet. A ladder is leaning against his leg. There are flowers all around his dress shoes.

FADE TO:

