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# THE PHANTOM HEADLIGHT

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Animation Pitch



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## **Table of Contents**

**Concept Statement – page 2**

**Short Premise – page 2**

**Six Sentence Story – page 2**

**Expanded Premise – page 3**

**Characters – pages 4-5**

**Script – pages 6-7**

**Storyboard – pages 8-12**

**Concept Art– page 13**

**Concept Statement:**

Be careful what you wish for

**Short Premise:**

A man must deal with a haunted car.

**Six sentence story:**

A man is in a new car and the headlight starts flashing. He stops it. It flashes even more, revealing its nature. A police officer makes him pull over for it. The man is asked to explain himself. He does and at a terrible cost.

**Expanded Premise:**

The phantom headlight is a 2D animated short film for general audiences About a man trying to drive in a haunted car and avoid trouble.

It is the 1950s in Middle America, an era where now classic cars are common. A man, Ernest, is on his way back from the car dealership. He is out of his element lately as he wife has died in a car crash. Something is wrong with his car. We will find that there is a special connection between him and the car.

The Phantom Headlight will be 2D animated and show 50's style with the clothing and car designs, in a way that fits the story, the headlight design at the time being perfect for showing a trapped ghost.

It will be haunting in many ways, showing how we don't always really mean what we say. Do we really want to be with the our departed loved ones in that way, or should the dead be let to move on?

**Characters:**



Ernest- Ernest hasn't been the same since his wife died. He is a bit of a wreck and misses her greatly. He wants her back. He is not very confident and looks glum.



Constable- A no nonsense police officer. He wants to get the job done correctly. He is confident and serious.

Ghost- She is shy and cryptic. She won't speak and is disruptive.

**Script:**

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF DEALERSHIP

A young man, ERNEST, has never felt the same since his wife died. He is desperate. He buys a car, a Chevy Fleetmaster with a dent in it.

ERNEST stares into the distance. There is a flashback and he sees his wife's face. Back in the present, he sighs.

MEDIUM SHOT of driving

On his way home he notices the headlight flickering. He pulls over and fiddles with the headlamp.

MEDIUM CLOSEUP OF HEADLAMP

He gives it a kick and it stops, and keeps going on his way. It starts up again. The man goes out to inspect the front of the car.

CLOSEUP OF ERNEST'S FACE

He looks at the headlamp and swears he could see a shape moving around in it.

CLOSEUP OF HEADLAMP, FACE-ON

It stops after a while, ERNEST is driving again on the road. All of a sudden it starts strobing violently. As he is driving the police officer calls him to pull over.

TWO SHOT

CONSTABLE: Pull over, young man, something's wrong with your headlight.

He gets out of the car

CONSTABLE: Now tell me what's wrong with that headlight.

ERNEST: I swear, I just need a chance to--

As they are talking, a silhouette moves across the headlight. Thrashing about

ERNEST: Did you see that?

CONSTABLE: Now Stop playing games, son.

Ernest: Something moved, in there.

CONSTABLE: Now, get to the point already.

ERNEST: but, wait, look

The silhouette starts to calm down slightly and appears to be huddling in a corner of the headlamp. ERNEST is staring at it intently. Then the silhouette turns around and blinks at him. The officer moves towards EREST but then stops too.

CONSTABLE: Now what's going on? Care to explain yourself?

ERNEST: It's my wife. She died in a crash with this car. I would give anything to be with her.

CONSTABLE: oh.

The car shudders and then turns off. The ghost slides out of the headlight and swirls around.

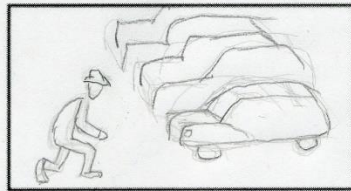
Constable: What in-

The ghost surrounds ERNEST and then drags him in with her they are both sucked back into the headlight. He is with her forever.



PRODUCTION

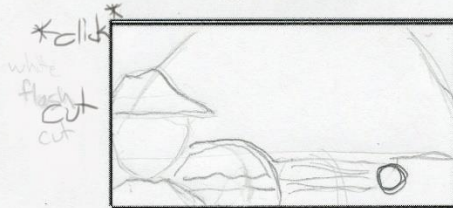
STORYBOARD - ASPECT RATIO 1:85 PAGE# 1



Scene # 1 Shot # 1  
Ernest goes up to car



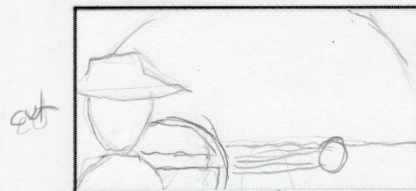
Scene # 1 Shot # 2  
opening door



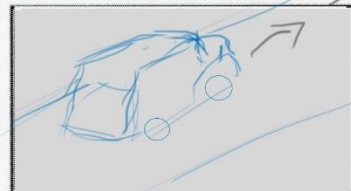
Scene # 1 Shot # 3



Scene # 1 Shot # 4  
Flash back



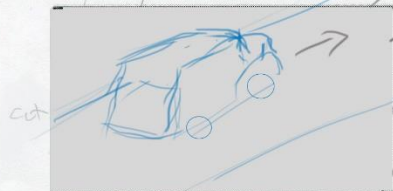
Scene # 2 Shot # 5  
Ernest sighs



Scene # 2 Shot # 6  
camera pans  
car moves



Scene # 2 Shot # 6  
light flickers



Scene # 2 Shot # 6  
turn camera

PRODUCTION

STORYBOARD - ASPECT RATIO 1:85 PAGE# 2



Scene # 2 Shot # 6

still flickering



Scene # 2 Shot # 7

establishing shot



Scene # 2 Shot # 8

Ernest fiddles with headlight



Scene # 2 Shot # 8

Camera turns  
He kicks in off

Scene # 2 Shot # 9

clean entrance



Scene # 2 Shot # 9

tracking movement  
flickering starts

Scene # 2 Shot # 9



Scene # 2 Shot # 9

clean exit



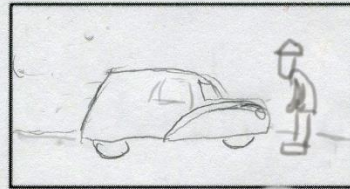
PRODUCTION

STORYBOARD - ASPECT RATIO 1:85 PAGE# 2



Scene # 2 Shot # 9

Ernest exits the car



Scene # 2 Shot # 9

two shot



Scene # 2 Shot # 10

car stops  
He stares at the car  
bewildered



Scene # 2 Shot # 11

A shape swirls around  
the headlight



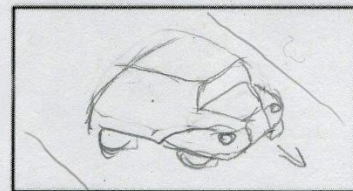
Scene # 2 Shot # 11

It turns off



Scene # 2 Shot # 12

Ernest is confused



Scene # 2 Shot # 13

car is driving  
again, normally

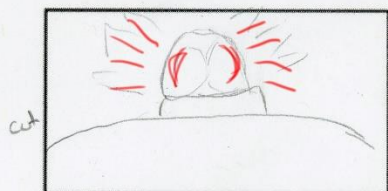


Scene # 2 Shot # 13

lights strobing  
violently

PRODUCTION

STORYBOARD - ASPECT RATIO 1:85 PAGE#4



Scene #3 Shot # 14

police light flashes red



Scene #3 Shot # 14

camera tracks down  
police asks Ernest to pull over



Scene #3 Shot # 15

cop exits car



Scene #3 Shot # 15

camera tracks forward then stops  
car stops still strobing  
cop walks forward



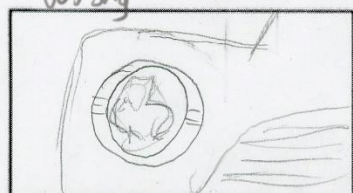
Scene #3 Shot # 16

cop lectures, asks whats  
wrong



Scene #3 Shot # 17

"I swear I just need  
a chance to..."



Scene #3 Shot # 18

silhouette thrashes about



Scene #3 Shot # 19

Ernest: "Did you  
see that?"



PRODUCTION

STORYBOARD - ASPECT RATIO 1:85 PAGE# 4



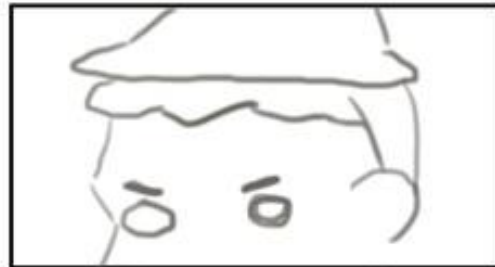
Scene # 3 Shot # 20  
"Now get to the  
paint already"



Scene # 3 Shot # 21  
"But wait, look"



Scene # 3 Shot # 22  
headlight  
closeup



Scene # 3 Shot # 23  
off screen "Now what's  
going on"



Scene # 3 Shot # 24  
"It's my wife. She  
died in a crash with  
this car"



Scene # 3 Shot # 24  
"I would give anything to  
be with her."



Scene # 3 Shot # 25  
"ghost wraps around  
Ernest"



Scene # 4 Shot #  
They are trapped  
in the headlight  
forever.

## Environment Art:



## Roadside



## Car Dealership

