

# Sea Turtle

A One Act Play by Bo Anderson

Robert “Bo” Anderson  
8750 North Douglas Hwy.  
Juneau, Ak 99801  
(907) 463-2566  
[playwrght.bo@gmail.com](mailto:playwrght.bo@gmail.com)  
[www.bo-o-rama.com](http://www.bo-o-rama.com)

## List of Characters:

- Phil:** A man between worlds.
- Tom:** An office employee.
- Candy:** A very attractive woman that works with Phil and Tom.
- Susan:** A wealthy attractive woman who was saved by sea turtles.

## Setting:

There is a computer work station with at least one cubicle wall upstage of it. This is the area where Phil works, behind the wall is where Tom works. There is also an area where employees can go to mingle and drink coffee. There needs to be a bed, when the bed is first used it is Candy's bedroom, the second time is for Phil's. A projection screen can be used to show the slides at the top of the show and the movie in Candy's house, or the computer monitor at Phil's work station can be used for both.

## SCENE ONE:

*In which we see Phil at work.*

*Lights up on Phil*

*He is seated so we can see him in his cubicle at work*

*He is on the phone*

### PHIL:

Oh. Yeah. Hold on. One second.

*Phil puts the phone down*

*Images from the story are projected behind Phil on a large screen*

A woman once stood at the stern of a cruise ship, thought sad things, and then dived, head first, into the open ocean. The warm Caribbean Sea currents hurried her away until she was as far away from anything as anyone can be. Just before she grew too tired to swim or stay afloat a sea turtle swam up from the oceans depths and carried her back, miles and miles, to an inhabited island. She could have simply let go of the turtle, she could have easily swum back out into the ocean and drowned, but no, that was behind her now. The turtle didn't just save her life; it gave her a new one. So now this woman, let's call her Susan, devoted the rest of her life to protecting sea turtles and their habitat.

*Phil goes back to his desk and picks up the phone.*

It's a beautiful story.

(on the phone) Yes, hello, is this Susan's Save the Sea Turtle Refuge hotline?

-Well, who do I talk to in order to get off of your mailing list?

-Yes, that is correct. I would like it very much if your company would stop-

-No I don't want to give you my credit card number; I want you and your stupid little company with all its stupid problems to stop harassing me!

-Yes, I'll hold. Of course I'll hold.

*Tom peaks his head over the cubicle wall.*

**Tom:**

Save the sea turtles?

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Tom:**

Still harassing you?

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Tom:**

Did you modify your in-box Spam filter like I told you?

**Phil:**

Yeah, that blocks most of them.

**Tom:**

But some are still getting through?

**Phil:**

Yeah, and they're still calling me at home and mailing me fliers. I don't know what to do, every time I call them; they just put me on hold indefinitely.

**Tom:**

That sucks.

**Phil:**

What really sucks is the music.

**Tom:**

Where is this turtle refuge anyway?

**Phil:**

I don't know, the Caribbean somewhere.

**Tom:**

Like the pirates, ARRR!!!

**Phil:**

Yeah, just like the pirates.

**Tom:**

Hey, are you calling long distance?

**Phil:**

What?

**Tom:**

The phone call, are you calling long distance on a company phone?

**Phil:**

So what if I am?

**Tom:**

Screw 'em that's what! We're getting screwed selling our lives in here, so screw them right back I say.

*Tom gives Phil a hearty thumbs up and disappears behind his cubicle wall*

**Phil:**

Screw it. I'm going to get coffee, you want any?

**Tom:**

What?

**Phil:**

Coffee, you want any?

**Tom:**

No thanks.

*Phil leaves the phone off the hook and leaves to get coffee.*

**SCENE 2**

*In which Phil gets coffee*

*Candy is in the Coffee room*

*Phil enters*

**Candy:**

Hey Phil, how's it going?

**Phil:**

Hey Candy, it's one of those days.

**Candy:**

That's what coffee's for right?

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Candy:**

You look tired?

**Phil:**

Thanks.

**Candy:**

Still can't sleep?

**Phil:**

I sleep. I just don't like my dreams.

**Candy:**

Still dreaming about tortoises?

**Phil:**

Sea turtles.

**Candy:**

I thought tortoises, is that the right plural, tortoises? Tortoises, sounds weird doesn't it? Tortoises, tortoises, tortoises. Anyways I thought tortoises were sea turtles.

**Phil:**

Nope.

**Candy:**

Oh.

**Phil:**

Well, I really should get back to-

**Candy:**

--Well, do you want to come over to my place tonight; I've rented the latest Ben Stiller romantic comedy?

**Phil:**

Oh, well-

**Candy:**

-You'll love it.

**Phil:**

Ok.

*Candy takes Phil by the hand and leads her to her house*

### **SCENE 3:**

*At Candy's house*

*Candy sets the "TV" up and turns it on*

*Phil and the audience see stock footage of sea turtles*

*Phil is scared of the sea turtles*

*Candy, however, is watching the movie and enjoying herself*

**Candy:**

(Laughing) I love it, I love it, oh wait, wait, this is my favorite part!

*Candy laughs and laughs, but Phil does not*

**Candy:**

What's the matter, you love this stuff.

**Phil:**

No, it's uh, very funny. I'm just distracted I guess.

**Candy:**

Well as long as you are enjoying yourself.

**Phil:**

Oh, yeah, sure.

*Phil tries to laugh, it sounds forced*

*Candy continues to laugh at the movie*

*Time passes*

*The Sea Turtle footage ends*

**Candy:**

I think that might be my new favorite Ben Stiller movie!

**Phil:**

Yeah, it was, uhm, great, it had it all.

**Candy:**

What was your favorite part?

**Phil:**

Well, uhm...

**Candy:**

Mine was when he tripped over his lunch box and fell down the stairs.



**Phil:**

Yeah, me too.

**Candy:**

I knew it!

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Candy:**

So are you going to spend the night?

**Phil:**

Well... I...

**Candy:**

Oh good, I knew you'd say yes! Let's go to bed.

**Phil:**

Ok.

*They walk to the bed and fall into it together  
Time passes and then Susan enters, and she is wet*

**Susan:**

I tried to fill my lungs with warm salt water  
To fill the emptiness I felt inside  
To taste the blue of the ocean  
Drifting  
Floating  
Boats only move forward, like big sharks  
But the current moves everywhere  
All at once  
To be lost  
With uncertain direction  
In something big  
In something really really big...  
Wake up! Wake up!  
We have to save the sea turtles!

**Phil:**

I'm sleeping.

**Susan:**

No you are not-

**Phil:**

-Get out of my house!

**Susan:**

This is her house, not yours, now get up you lazy bastard.

**Phil:**

You're not real.

**Susan:**

But the sea turtles are, and we have to save them!

**Phil:**

I don't believe in sea turtles.

**Susan:**

How can you say that, how can you say that to me, a sea turtle saved my life you know.

**Phil:**

Yes, yes, so you tell me all the time. Who cares? So a turtle saved your life, so what?

**Susan:**

YOU STUPID MAN!!!

*Susan Exits the stage and slams a door*

*Phil wakes up in bed screaming*

**Candy:**

(Half asleep) Tortoises?

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Candy:**

Go back to sleep.

**Phil:**

Yeah, sure.

*Phil stays awake*

#### **SCENE 4:**

*Back at work*

*Phil is at his desk on the phone*

**Phil:**

This is completely unacceptable; I don't ever want to get another e-mail, phone call, or flier from your company again, ever. Yes, I'll hold.

**Tom:**

Hey, what's going on?

**Phil:**

I'm just on hold again.

**Tom:**

Hey Phil, you have to come see this video.

**Phil:**

What video?

**Tom:**

It's a compilation of all of these construction workers jumping off of the Olympic stadium in China; apparently they weren't getting paid, so they were protesting by jumping off of the top of the building. Somebody edited all of the jumps together-

**Phil:**

-Yeah, no thanks.

**Tom:**

Come on, has a sweet techno beat, you'll love it.

**Phil:**

I'll pass.

**Tom:**

Your loss, hey you don't look so good.

**Phil:**

Thanks.

**Tom:**

I'm not even kidding. It looks like your morning bowl movement beat you up, stole your clothes and came to work in your place.

**Phil:**

Yeah, thanks.

**Tom:**

What you need my friend is a coffee break.

**Phil:**

Coffee, yeah, that's a good idea.

**Tom:**

Yeah, and while you're at it you can get me one too.

**Phil:**

You want me to get you coffee?

**Tom:**

Yep.

**Phil:**

Why don't you get me coffee?

**Tom:**

I'm busy.

**Phil:**

Since when are you busy?

**Tom:**

What can I say; I've got work to do.

**Phil:**

Fine, I'll do it, cream or sugar?

**Tom:**

Yes please!

*Phil leaves to get coffee*

## **SCENE 5:**

*Phil and coffee again*

**Candy:**

Hey.

**Phil:**

Hey.

**Candy:**

We need to talk?

**Phil:**

Are you pregnant?

**Candy:**

Oh, god no, no, nothing like that.

**Phil:**

Oh thank god!

**Candy:**

No, no, it's just that things aren't working out between us.

**Phil:**

Ok.

**Candy:**

Maybe we should see other people.

**Phil:**

Yeah, ok.

**Candy:**

Ok, great, great, we can still be friends of course.

**Phil:**

Sure, sure.

*Susan Enters, she is wet  
She kisses Phil  
Phil spits out a mouth full of water*

**Phil:**

Oh, gross, that was salt water!

**Susan:**

She was cheating on you.

**Phil:**

So?

**Susan:**

She was cheating on you with Tom.

**Phil:**

Maybe.

**Susan:**

Maybe? Maybe? Are you blind? He makes you get him coffee, she's here waiting for you. It was a set up from the start. What are you doing?

**Phil:**

I'm getting coffee.

**Susan:**

You're getting Tom's coffee for him?

**Phil:**

Yeah.

**Susan:**

Wow. Just wow. You should at least spit in it.

**Phil:**

He asked for cream and sugar, not spit.

**Susan:**

I'd spit in it.

**Phil:**

You're too busy saving the sea turtles.

**Susan:**

That's right, I am, and I should get back to that. Every minute that you live and breathe, a sea turtle dies for your sins. Did you know that?

**Phil:**

No, I didn't know that, that's a new one.

*Phil exits Coffee area and returns to his work desk.*

**Phil:**

Hey Tom, here's your coffee.

*A Sea Turtle Puppet or stuffed animal appears over the cubicle wall*

**Turtle:**

Tom's not here, can I take a message?

*Phil screams in terror and throws the coffee mugs at the turtle*

*Tom Screams in pain, the turtle puppet falls onto Phil's desk*

*Tom appears holding his hand in pain*

**Tom:**

Ouch! OUCH!!! HOT!!! HOT!! The coffee is hot, it is burning me, hot, hot, hot!

*Tom screams, runs, and jumps around in pain trying to cool his hand*

*Phil moves the sea turtle so he can look into its eyes*

*He sits and stares at the turtle for a long time*

**Phil:**

Did you know that Candy was going to break it off with me?

**Tom:**

No, she did, that sucks, and you two were so good together.

**Phil:**

Did she break up with me to be with you?

**Tom:**

Well, uh, did she tell you that?

**Phil:**

No.

**Tom:**

Well, I was going to tell you, but you've just been so out of it lately.



**Phil:**

Yeah. You're right.

**Tom:**

I don't mean it like that, look, I'm sorry. It just happened...

**Phil:**

I have to go.

**Tom:**

Yeah, ok, sure, take the rest of the day, I'll cover for you, see you tomorrow.

*Phil grabs the turtle and exits*

### **SCENE 6:**

*Phil at home*

*Phil enters his house*

*He checks his answering machine*

### **SUSAN'S VOICE:**

Hello Mr. Anders I am calling from Susan's Save----

*Phil skips ahead on the answering machine*

-For pennies a day, you could save the life of a sea—

-A sea turtles grace and intelligence have been compared—

-What have you done that could possibly compare with the majestic grace of the sea turtle—?

-Hello Mr. Anders I'm—

*Phil screams and throws the Answering Machine across the room*

*Susan appears from beneath the covers on Phil's bed*

*She is less wet than before; perhaps only her hair is wet*

**Susan:**

Phil, is that you, what's the matter?

**Phil:**

Nothing.

**Susan:**

How was work?

**Phil:**

It sucked.

**Susan:**

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

**Phil:**

No you're not. What are you doing in my bed?

**Susan:**

I've been waiting for you.

**Phil:**

Me? What about your precious sea turtles.

**Susan:**

The turtles will be fine; they're a very resilient species you know. What do you have there?

**Phil:**

What? Where?

**Susan:**

Right there in your hand, is that a sea turtle? Did you save him for me?

**Phil:**

This isn't a sea turtle; it's just a bad joke.

**Susan:**

I don't get it.

**Phil:**

Me either.

**Susan:**

Phil, talk to me, what's wrong?

**Phil:**

I don't think I belong here.

**Susan:**

That's just silly, of course you belong here.

*Phil sits on the edge of the bed*

**Phil:**

No, this isn't enough. There's nothing here but emptiness.

**Susan:**

There are sea turtles.

**Phil:**

Not for me.

**Susan:**

If sea turtles were to become extinct, the negative environmental impact on beaches and the oceans would be catastrophic resulting in a worldwide reduction of consumable bio mass that the oceans could sustain.

**Phil:**

So what?

**Susan:**

You don't mean that, you're just being mean because you've had a rough day. You just need to relax.

*Susan massages Phil's shoulders*

*Phil almost relaxes*

**Phil:**

Please stop.

**Susan:**

But you like it when I massage your shoulders. Just relax and enjoy it.

**Phil:**

I can't.

**Susan:**

Why not?

**Phil:**

I have to go.

**Susan:**

What? Where?

**Phil:**

I have to go to the beach.

*Phil stands up and puts on a clean shirt and tie  
He continues putting on new dress clothes*

**Susan:**

Now, but it's late.

**Phil:**

I have to go. Do you know where my dress shoes are?

**Susan:**

They're under the bed. Don't go, please, don't.

**Phil:**

I have to go.

**Susan:**

Don't. Please. Don't.

**Phil:**

No, I think I have to.

**Susan:**

Don't go to the beach, I've been there, it's not safe.

**Phil:**

Not safe? What are you talking about?

**Susan:**

Beaches are dangerous.

**Phil:**

They are not.

**Susan:**

They are neither land nor sea, but the places in-between... Stop, just stop, you're not listening to me!

**Phil:**

You're not making any sense.

**Susan:**

The sea turtle didn't save me on purpose. It was probably just a random statistical anomaly that we were at the same place at the same time. The turtle probably didn't even know that I was there. She was probably just following some biological instinctive migration pattern, and I hitched a ride.

**Phil:**

I know.

**Susan:**

Listen to me; I'm trying to tell you, there simply aren't enough sea turtles to save every idiot who jumps into the ocean!

**Phil:**

I'm going to the beach.

**Susan:**

Don't!

**Phil:**

Goodbye.

Phil finishes getting dressed  
Phil looks into a mirror to straighten his tie  
He *kisses Susan on the forehead*  
He *leaves for the beach takes the turtle puppet with him*

**SCENE 7:**

*Phil at the beach*

**Phil:**

A man stood knee deep in the ocean  
He was dressed for a funeral  
He let go of the stuffed sea turtle he brought with him  
The turtle floated away and never once looked back  
The man took off his coat  
Slowly unbuttoned his shirt  
And tried to undo his skin and become a sea turtle  
But he couldn't find the zipper  
So he stood knee deep in the ocean and waited  
Time passed and the man cried

*Phil cries*  
*There is the sound of waves crashing and seagulls squawking*  
*Black out*  
*End of play*