

A H O L D O F G E T T H E T H I N G S T O

a film by Daniel Jacoby

Act #1

AHOLD OF

A field, next to the road. Night.
The only light comes from a car's headlight.
If possible, under the rain.

UNN is letting herself fall backwards
as had a bullet hit her.
She lies still on the ground for around 5 seconds
and then stands up again.
She lets herself fall backwards again.
The camera takes the same action several times
from the same angle but from different distances.
This will be edited as a stepped zoom-in effect.

LUCA

“There was once a square girl
who fell in a round hole.
And when she got out from the other side,
she was... round.”

She began like this
The made-up characters...
The allegories...
By the time I found out about the Lie, it was already too late.

I was the one to kill her.

She didn't belong here anymore.

I warned you.
I warned you from the very beginning.

LUCA is sitting next to a swimming pool. It's dark.
We don't see the pool, but water reflections on his face.
He's talking to someone outside the frame.

Quotes someone. Smiling.

Nostalgically laughing.

Crime scene: Fabrics floating on the water. No body.

Back to LUCA sitting by the pool.

Act #2

Unless otherwise noted, the camera moves smoothly, slowly and as far as possible without stop. The whole Act happens as one long shot, but divided in 25-second capsules (according to film spool length) with discrete jump cuts.

GET

		Camera start at the door, right hand side wall. Camera travels along the wall, close-up climbing holds.
		→ Keyframe: a climbing hold.
		Camera travels along the wall, close-up climbing holds. Camera turns in the corner.
		→ Keyframe: a climbing hold.
		UNN, LUCA and NIELS are next to the bottom back window. They are standing static. Camera discovers LUCA. Camera discovers NIELS.
LUCA	There is no such thing.	
NIELS	What such thing?	
LUCA	There's a Whale.	
	There's a Tortoise.	
	There's a Parrot.	
	Unn wrote an ending for this.	Camera discovers UNN.
	But she was ashamed to share it with us.	
	I think it said something about vampires.	
	Sucking blood, you know.	
	Sucking life.	
	Perhaps it wasn't life that she meant.	
		→ Keyframe: part of UNN's neck.
NIELS	So we move on.	They leave their static positions. They walk past the camera. Camera pans 180°. They move around and find another static position. They are between the small window and the doorway.
		→ Keyframe: hold in black tumour.
	Look at her.	NIELS changes position, close to UNN.
	Imagine us.	
	Here.	
	Together.	
	Think about the infinite.	
	There.	
	<i>All the time.</i>	

UNN	<p>There was once this girl. A cute, little <i>square</i> girl. She jumped inside a hole in the ground. A hole that was <i>round</i>. And when she escaped. Guess what was her shape?</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: Luca's head from the back. UNN sings.</p> <p>UNN touches hold.</p>
NIELS	<p>I was obsessed with her. But I couldn't figure her out.</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: fluorescent NIELS relaxes. Walks away through the doorway.</p>
UNN	<p>Have you ever thought of the infinite as the impossibility of a lie? In a limitless timespan, everything is potentially true. But what a dreadful conviction that is. The Lie or the infinite?</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: rope / ladder. Camera turns around to find LUCA and UNN still static.</p>
NIELS	<p>Well, both and neither one of them.</p>	
LUCA	<p>The Condition, he wants to say.</p>	
NIELS	<p>He always had better answers for her. Not necessarily true ones. But for sure logical. Or so they seemed.</p>	<p>LUCA relaxes. Walks away to where they came from. UNN follows him.</p>
UNN	<p>"In seeking absolute truth we aim at the unattainable – we can only get ahold of broken portions."</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: a climbing hold. We listen to UNN behind the wall. Camera moves along her voice. UNN comes out from behind the other end of the wall. Finishes the sentence in front of camera. UNN raises the <i>whale mask</i> to cover her face.</p>
NIELS	<p>Now, this is what's going to happen: The conversations will get drowned out by the music. The faces, though, will become more expressive.</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: whale mask on UNN. 🐳 NIELS takes off the whale mask. NIELS climbs up the blue stairs. 🧑</p> <p>There's music in the narrow room. LUCA wears the <i>tortoise mask</i>. UNN wears the <i>parrot mask</i>.</p>
	<p>Glances here and there. Shy smiles.</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: step. Focus on masks. Camera walks around LUCA and UNN.</p>

	<p>The nervous laughter will overpower the giggling. Signs that suggest the characters' feelings.</p> <p>Eventually, Unn and Luca will fall in love. That's the point of the film when everything starts to get wrong.</p>	
ALL		<p>→ Keyframe: whale mask on the floor. Camera walks away. NIELS walks past it. Camera stays in the little window. NIELS observes from the balcony. NIELS continues to walk towards the opposite exit.</p>
NIELS	<p>It could as well have been me and her. But it didn't happen. With him, things will develop fast. So fast, that they'll dangerously forget about the Condition.</p>	
		<p>→ Keyframe: hold next to the little window.</p>
	<p>Without their noticing, fears will rise inside of them. Things will start to get messy. Until all of a sudden an incident occurs. We won't see any blood but a cinematic device will inform us of a murder. ↓ We won't know which one of the two it is, though.</p>	<p>NIELS observes from the balcony.</p> <p>Fabric is thrown from ground floor in front of camera. 🌀 Camera follow the fabric fall down. 🌀</p>
		<p>→ Keyframe: fabric on the floor.</p>
	<p>The murderer. The dead. Or whether there's a third party involved.</p>	
UNN	The Killer stands up ↑ to confess:	Camera moves up to find NIELS standing on the boulder.
NIELS	I was the one to kill her. ↓	<p>Crime scene: UNN is dead, among the fabrics. Camera looks down to find UNN in the ground floor.</p>
		<p>→ Keyframe: crime scene.</p>
UNN	It feels good to be lying here.	
NIELS	How strange!	NIELS comes in walking next to UNN.
UNN	Yes, a real killer never admits his crime.	UNN speaks from the floor.
NIELS	An anomalous feeling indeed.	
LUCA	We were <i>said</i> to be anomalous. ↑ ←	<p>Camera moves back up to find LUCA next to it. LUCA climbs up the metallic stairs. 🌀 Camera follows LUCA.</p>
	Heteroclite.	

	Of unprecedented qualities. Queer, if you want.	
		→ Keyframes: step.
	The descriptions were poetic and evasive. We were odd. We were <i>meant</i> to act odd. It was expected of us (to avoid bold associations).	In the second floor, UNN is sitting on the floor. Camera looks down to find three objects.
UNN	There's a Whale.	→ Keyframe: whale object.
	There's a Tortoise.	→ Keyframe: tortoise object.
	There's a Parrot.	→ Keyframe: parrot object. LUCA moves one object of position. The objects still form a triangle.
		→ Keyframe: triangle.
N + U	There's a Novelty. There's a Lie. There's a Death.	
LUCA	The story takes place in a distant future, where people live immeasurably long.	Camera follows LUCA. Camera behind LUCA. LUCA observes the wide space from the balcony.
NIELS	Maybe even forever.	NIELS behind him.
LUCA	Without going into the whys and the hows,	
		→ Keyframe: LUCA's face.
	we'll just say that the permutations have been exhausted. Life happens as a book you've already read. Full of repeated dialogues, rehearsed movements and déjà vu(s).	
		→ Keyframe: camera movement.
	A choreographed life.	UNN, NIELS and LUCA dance in the ground floor. UNN exits the choreography and rushes upstairs. 🌀 NIELS and LUCA continue to dance. UNN appear in the back of the camera.
		→ Keyframe: UNN's face.
UNN	They're talking about a film by a Bulgarian film director who signs work under the pseudonym of Kostenurka. Meaning tortoise.	Camera turns around to frame UNN. UNN raises the tortoise mask in front of her face.

<p>LUCA NIELS</p>	<p>It's a surrealistic science-fiction film. ← But the story focuses on a love triangle.</p> <p>There's a Whale. → There's a Tortoise. → There's a Parrot. ← ← Now I wonder about the vampires.</p> <p>A parrot or... a <i>bat</i>?</p> <p>ASSIST. A parrot, I seem to remember.</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: tortoise mask on UNN. 🖱️</p> <p>They appear in the top floor. Camera turns left to frame NIELS.</p> <p>NIELS raises the whale mask in front of his face. Camera turns right to frame UNN with tortoise mask. Camera turns right to frame LUCA with parrot mask. Camera turns left twice to frame NIELS once again.</p> <p>Camera turns left/down to discover the ASSISTANT.</p>
	<p>We're inside a shelter. There's another shelter identical to this one just a few kilometres from here. On the road connecting the two, there's also a tortoise that distracts our attention. The other shelter is a mirror to what is happening here.</p>	<p>ASSISTANT looks towards window. LUCA walks away in the background with the tortoise mask.</p>
	<p>→ Keyframe: mirror.</p> <p>There's a Whale. There's a Tortoise. There's a Parrot.</p> <p>They look the same and behave likewise. The same movements. The same words. The same speed. An unequivocal replica in space and time. The only difference is that the others <i>think</i> their actions are unrepeatable.</p>	<p>Camera pans towards the empty space.</p>
<p>LUCA</p>	<p>The film is mysteriously titled <i>The Hold</i>. Mysteriously, because there's no explicit reference to a hold – nor any representation of it – throughout the entire film.</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: wide shot of the main climbing space.</p> <p>LUCA has the parrot mask on. LUCA puts down the mask. Camera follows LUCA.</p>
<p>UNN</p>	<p>Yet again, in the spectator's mind, <i>everything</i> becomes the Hold.</p> <p>The Novelty. The Lie. The Death.</p>	<p>The objects are again on the floor.</p>
	<p>→ Keyframe: object in LUCA's hand.</p>	

NIELS	<p>There's a female character. The one that the Whale, the Tortoise and the Parrot are speaking about. They're wondering what she stands for. Desire? Or perhaps sin. Probably novelty, they think.</p>	<p>Camera turns to frame NIELS. UNN, NIELS and LUCA standing in a triangle.</p>
LUCA	<p>They're arguing about how her femininity makes her a symbol for something. Or whether that's a sexist assumption to make. But all of the characters are subject to the same Condition. They're all equally abstracted.</p>	<p>UNN falls dead as had a bullet hit her. ☹️</p>
<hr/> <p>→ Keyframe: UNN falling.</p>		
NIELS	<p>Except Unn. She's an outsider.</p>	
LUCA	<p>A Whale? A Tortoise?</p>	
UNN	<p>Rather a Parrot.</p>	<p>UNN speaks from the ground, with the parrot mask.</p>
LUCA	<p>One coming from a place where people get the chance to die. She's a lucky one.</p>	<p>LUCA walks towards the cargo platform.</p>
<hr/> <p>→ Keyframe: LUCA's face.</p>		
		<p>🕒 Camera descents over the rope. 🕒</p>
		<p>On the way down, camera frames UNN and NIELS. NIELS is standing on the green boulder. UNN is ??????????</p>
<hr/> <p>→ Keyframe: tortoise mask on the floor.</p>		
LUCA	<p>There <i>is</i> a connection between their real lives and their acting. But they don't seem to realise it.</p>	<p>All the text is off the frame.</p>
	<p>In the film, I mean.</p>	
<hr/> <p>→ Keyframe: a climbing hold.</p>		
	<p>I was walking down the path the other night. The path leading from this shelter to the other one. It was dark and empty. Halfway there, I spotted an elderly man in the distance. He was whispering something. Something nobody knows.</p>	<p>All the text is off the frame.</p>

	<p>Something <i>everybody</i> wants to know – I somehow knew. Although I could see his lips moving, I couldn't hear his voice. He came closer and closer, until I could even feel his breath on my face</p>	→ Keyframe: LUCA's face.
UNN	<p>But his voice remained mute. That's when he opened his mouth and let something come out. It was a bird, completely soaked in saliva. And the bird started to speak – it said: <i>When she got out of the hole, she was a whale.</i></p>	<p>ASSISTANT slides the parrot mask from behind wall. ASSISTANT shakes the parrot mask. → Keyframe: parrot mask.</p>
NIELS	<p>Camera pans → to find her on the other side. I'm staring at her, with deep, mesmerising eyes. It feels as if I'm holding her hand but she's three meters away.</p>	<p>⌋ Reversed camera descent. ⌋ LUCA, NIELS and UNN are sitting on the roof of the green boulder. Camera is in the middle, pointing towards LUCA. → Keyframe: NIELS's face. Pan starts.</p>
LUCA	<p>She's asking me insistently about what happened. She's talking about a Condition. I don't know who told her about it. Her hand feels warm unlike mine. I don't know what to do, or what to say. So I tell her this story: ←</p>	<p>→ Keyframe: UNN's face. Her hand is in the frame and NIELS is not touching it. Camera pans back to NIELS.</p>
NIELS	<p><i>It's about a little girl who used to be squared. One day she jumped into a round hole.</i> The camera pans back to her → ...as she says "uhu." I'm going to continue the story but she has this face.</p>	<p>Camera pans to UNN. UNN pronounces "uhu". → Keyframe: UNN's face.</p>
	<p>The face of knowing what I'm going to say next. Of knowing how the story ends.</p>	
	<p>For a while, she says nothing.</p>	

→ **Keyframe: UNN's face.**

LUCA
UNN

And then...

I was the one who killed her.

Crime scene: UNN is dead.

Camera looks down to find a corpse covered in fabrics???

Act #3

THE THINGS TO

Slow zoom in. UNN is drowned inside a low-floor swimming pool, dead, covered with fabrics. It's dark. The only light comes from the side, creating contrasted reflections that difficult the recognition of volumes and even her face. After a while, we notice that two more bodies - NIELS and LUCA - are moving around her.

Credits

**Unn Faleide
Luca Hillen
Niels Weijer**

**Andrew de Freitas
Liisa Hirsch**

**Jack Cawood
Veniamin Kazachenko
Karim Adduchi**

Daniel Jacoby

**Galerie Antoine Levi
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