

# TURTLE ON A FENCE POST

WHY HAS THE WORLD  
FAILED TO CONFRONT THE  
CLIMATE CRISIS?



# DID THE CLIMATE CRISIS “JUST HAPPEN?”

*Is it humanity's fault?*

*Do we have an intrinsic inability to deal with a slow moving crisis –  
like frogs unaware of danger in a slowly heating pot of water?*

Or are there darker,  
more malevolent forces at work?

**ANY TIME YOU SEE A TURTLE  
UP ON TOP OF A FENCE POST,  
YOU KNOW HE HAD SOME HELP**

**ALEX HALEY**



**Turtle on a Fence Post**  
A Narrative Feature Film  
that could help save OUR climate!

BASED ON REAL EVENTS

# WHAT'S IN HERE?

- Logline
- Plot Synopsis/Mood Board
- Protagonist/Notable Characters: **Zelda**, Adam, Crypto and Greta
- Secondary Characters
- Two events in 2009 catalyzing the dramatic story arc:
  - Climategate
  - UN Copenhagen Climate Summit
- Scientific Elements
- Comparables
- Themes
- Bio/Contact Info

## LOGLINE

Oil is the family business. But Zelda, a young Black climate scientist, is alarmed by the connection between emissions from burning oil and gas and the climate crisis. As she begins to expose the multi-decade campaign of misinformation and climate denial engaged in by the fossil fuel industry, her oil company executive brother looms as her biggest foe.

BASED ON REAL EVENTS

## SYNOPSIS



Zelda, a young Black woman, overcomes a difficult childhood and personal demons to become a climate scientist. She joins an ice core drilling project in Antarctica and plans to publish her research in time to help persuade world leaders at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit to take steps toward strong emission reductions.

Weeks before the U.N. sponsored event a computer hack and smear (a real event known as "Climategate") discredits the warnings of climate scientists and derails the summit. Suspicion falls on Zelda when family connections to Big Oil are unearthed, and she's ostracized professionally. Devastated by these setbacks, her youthful self-destructive tendencies return and she suffers a life-threatening injury.

She's exonerated during her recovery when an anonymous ally proves her email was hacked by professionals to invalidate research implicating fossil fuel emissions as the primary cause of global heating.

Resuming her career, Zelda launches into a confrontation with the Fossil Fuel industry over its decades long campaign of climate denial and scientific disinformation. Tensions mount as Zelda and her Oil company executive brother Adam find themselves on opposite sides of a titanic struggle.



## ZELDA WASHINGTON: PROTAGONIST

Ostracized by her strict Oil company executive father, Zelda is raised by her aunt. She overcomes personal foibles and a near death experience to build a career as a climate scientist and pursue the truth of how the fossil fuel industry used wealth & political power to avoid responsibility for their climate destroying behaviors. Her brother Adam, an oil company executive at her father's company, is determined to stop her.



## ADAM WASHINGTON: ANTAGONIST

- Adam grew up respecting and emulating his successful executive father and blamed his sister Zelda's rebelliousness for her exile from the family. He coasted through school, helped by his father's business ties, and eagerly started climbing the corporate ladder at his father's Oil company.



When he finds out his sister is a climate scientist doing research to hold oil and gas companies responsible for global warming, he's shocked. His boss asks him to take advantage of a rare meeting with his sister at his father's funeral to find out what she and her colleagues are up to. Adam figures he's got nothing to lose and plenty to gain by pleasing his boss and defending his company.

# CRYPTO – THE HACKER

Crypto is a hacker for hire. He doesn't question the consequences of the work he's paid well to do. Until one day he finds out that a project he worked on resulted in career ending chaos for a person who could be his sister, or his girlfriend. Can he find a way to rectify the situation and redeem himself?



## SPIRIT GUIDE GRETA

As Zelda recuperates from a near death experience, Greta appears in her fever dreams, ushering her first through fearful visions of climate dystopia, then visions of successful adaptation, inspiring her recovery and strengthening her resolve to fight for the future of humanity and a livable climate.



## SECONDARY CHARACTERS



# BASED ON HISTORICAL EVENTS:

## “CLIMATEGATE” NOV 2009

Less than a month before a UN sponsored international climate summit, hackers invaded a private climate scientist email system and smeared the world’s leading experts. The culprit has never been identified.

**ARTICLES**

### "CLIMATEGATE" UNDERMINED BELIEF IN GLOBAL WARMING AMONG MANY AMERICAN TV METEOROLOGISTS

By James O'Hara, John White, and Rebecca Pflaum

ClimateGate supporters have been quick to claim that climate scientists have been so discredited and discredited by global warming denialists that a global warming emergency is now a possibility.

The meteorological community is a private club of scientists and meteorologists who have spent the last 20 years of their lives working to understand the Earth's climate system. The meteorological community has been a leading force in the fight against global warming denialists. The meteorological community has been a leading force in the fight against global warming denialists.

**HACKED GLOBAL WARMING EMAIL**

"I'VE JUST COMPLETED MIKE'S NATURE [THE SCIENCE JOURNAL] TRICK OF ADDING IN THE REAL TEMPS TO EACH SERIES FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS (I.E. FROM 1981 ONWARDS) AND FROM 1961 FOR KEITH'S TO HIDE THE DECLINE."

SOURCE: GUARDIAN.CO.UK

**GLOBAL WARMING NOAX**

**2009**

Global Warming Hoax Exposed by Climategate

## BASED ON HISTORICAL EVENTS:

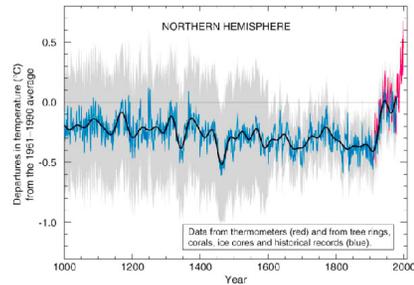
### COPENHAGEN UN CLIMATE SUMMIT – DEC 2009

The highly anticipated goal was to have both developed and developing countries agree to concrete CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions to stop the catastrophic increase in global temperatures. The Summit failed miserably because of Climategate and other factors.



# CLIMATE SCIENCE

Air trapped in ice cores drilled from glaciers can be analyzed to tell us much about global air composition and temperatures as far back as a million years ago!



## COMPARABLES

- “DARK WATERS”
- “ERIN BROCKOVICH”
- “THE INSIDER”
- “SILKWOOD”
- “THE CHINA SYNDROME”

## THEMATIC SUMMARY

- Strong Black female protagonist overcomes familial, personal and external challenges to become a climate scientist and fighter for the survival of our species
- Dynamics of race, class, colorism, corporatism, gender and sexuality within a complex Black family
- Climate Science – Delving into Ice Core Research
- Unsolved Mystery: In 2009, who hacked into Climate Scientist emails and smeared them, just before International Climate Negotiations??
- Corporate malfeasance: The fossil fuel industry spent billions of dollars discrediting climate science while hiding the fact that decades ago, their own scientists predicted climate destruction caused by fossil fuel emissions

## SCREENWRITER BIO

- Patrick Costello writes screenplays with political, social justice and climate themes.
- He has a finance and political science background and helps lead two Bay Area environmental non-profits: [FossilFreeCA.org](http://FossilFreeCA.org) and [350Marin.org](http://350Marin.org).
- He is also a musician, songwriter, singer and composer and leads the social justice band Knabokov Collective.

## CONTACT INFO

- Patrick Costello:  
[Patrick96z2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Patrick96z2000@yahoo.com),  
(415) 710-3978