

TEXAS RUN

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On a BLACK SCREEN, we hear YOUNG BOYS talk.

TRAVIS CONNOLLY
Hurry up, light it.

AUSTIN CONNOLLY
I will, Stand back!

FADE IN:

EXT. COW PASTURE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON A MATCH HEAD - ignites - flares brightly - then touches the end of a FUSE that burns towards a large MEXICAN FIRECRACKER the size of a quarter stick of dynamite.

AUSTIN CONNOLLY runs and stands with his brother TRAVIS and five other BOYS a safe distance away.

KABOOM! - THE FIRECRACKER EXPLODES.

A BLINDING WHITE FLASH - illuminates the LOOK OF AWE on the BOYS FACES. Some have their FINGERS in their EARS.

BOYS CHEER!

TRAVIS
Light another.

AUSTIN
That was my last one.

Travis, Austin and the boys walk towards a brightly illuminated barn.

Festive MUSIC and LAUGHTER emanate from inside.

SUPERIMPOSE: JULY 4, 1850, TEXAS BORDER TOWN

INT. BARN - NIGHT

An Independence Day celebration is in progress. Red, white and blue garlands line the walls. A massive Texas flag is proudly displayed at the far end.

A SERIES OF SHOTS

- a) TOWN FOLK dance to a FIDDLER, BANJO PICKER and a GUITAR PICKER - who SMILES and WINKS at an admiring TEENAGE GIRL.
- b) CHILDREN run through the crowd playing tag.
- c) WOMEN sit and gossip behind a Potluck table.
- d) MEN stand around smoking and conversing.
- e) Two OLD TIMERS laugh and pass a whiskey jug.

BILLY COLE sits alone. He is half Irish/half Mexican, with dark features and green eyes. The orphan son of a local Mexican prostitute, Billy has spent most of his arduous life working at the areas largest cattle ranch, the "SHAMROCK."

COLEEN McCULLOCH, 16, The prettiest school girl in town, dances past Billy.

The song ends, she curtsies to her partner, then walks over and sits beside Billy.

COLEEN

Hi Billy.

BILLY

Hi.

Coleen knows she is pretty and could have her pick of any suitor, but... she has a crush on Billy.

COLEEN

would you like to dance with me?

BILLY

I don't know how.

COLEEN

It's easy, I'll teach you.

Coleen stands, extends her hand.

Billy rises.

COLEEN (cont'd)
Just take my hand and place
your other hand here. Now, start
with your left foot. Ready?

The band plays a waltz.

Off they go, a little clumsy at first but Billy swiftly gets the rhythm.

INT. BARN / CONNOLLY'S TABLE

RIP CONNOLLY, 20, has his foot on the table, displaying his new rattlesnake boots.

Austin and Travis stare at their older brother in admiration.

RIP
(boasts)
I traded Grampa's broken pocket
watch to some fool Mexican down
in Matamoros.

Rip strikes a match across the sole and lights a cigarette.

Billy and Coleen dance by, the boys conversation stops.

AUSTIN
She sure is pretty.

TRAVIS
Why is she dancing with Billy Cole?

AUSTIN
She looks happy.

RIP
That's because she's never had the
opportunity to dance with a 'real
man.'

BOYD CONNOLLY, wealthy cattle baron and owner of the Shamrock Ranch enters scene. He is a large, no nonsense father figure with a commanding presence.

BOYD CONNOLLY
Evening boys.

BOYS
Good evening father.

BOYD CONNOLLY
What are you young men up to?

TRAVIS
Rip was gonna' show us how a
"real man" sweet talks a gal.

Coleen and Billy finish their dance then sit down together.

RIP
Watch and learn boys.

Rip takes a sip from a flask, straightens himself, winks at his brothers then walks directly to the couple, interrupting their conversation, ignoring Billy.

RIP (cont'd)
Coleen, might I be so bold as
to request your company on the
dance floor.

COLEEN
(sincerely)
My apologies Rip, but I prefer to sit
and rest for a spell.

Rip is stunned by her refusal. He glares at Billy who looks down, avoiding eye contact. Rip turns and walks back to the table where his father and brothers are watching.

TRAVIS
Ha! You sure dazzled her with
your manly charm.

RIP
She said she was fatigued and
needed repose.

TRAVIS
Ha! She appears to be wide awake
for Billy Cole.

BOYD CONNOLLY
Son, that filly is blossoming into
fine breeding stock. I'd never allow
a cockerel like Billy Cole to pilfer
a chick out of my hen house.

INT. BARN / BILLY AND COLEEN - NIGHT

COLEEN

Shall we step outside. The moon is
splendid tonight.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

They stroll along, gazing at the stars, enjoying the warm
summer night.

Coleen takes Billy's hand and leads him to a willow tree by
the river bank. She sits down in the tall grass. Billy
follows.

COLEEN

Kiss me Billy.

Coleen leans towards Billy and purses her lips.

Billy hesitates, then meets her halfway. Their lips gently
touch for an instant.

Coleen lays back.

Billy bends down and kisses Coleen's lips, a little longer
this time.

We feel the heat Coleen is radiating, her smile glows in the
moonlight.

Coleen takes Billy's hand and guides it to her breast.

Billy's eyes widen.

Coleen looks up at Billy with loving eyes.

She lifts her petticoat.

KATHLEEN

(whispers)

Billy...put it inside me,

Billy is taken by surprise. Can this be happening?

Billy swiftly unbuttons his trousers and slides them down to
his knees. As he enters Coleen... she lets out a STIFLED
CRY, then embraces Billy with vigorous strength, moving in a
fierce rhythm, clutching him so tightly, Billy couldn't
break free if he wanted to.

Boyd Connolly's FIREWORKS EXPLODE in the sky above them.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT - LATER

Billy and Coleen lie sleeping under the willow tree.

CLOSE ON A RATTLESNAKE BOOT - kicks Billy in his flank.

BILLY

Uhhh!

Rip Connolly stands over him. Travis and Austin are off to the side.

RIP

Damn half breed.

Rip tries to stomp Billy again but Billy scrambles to his feet.

Billy and Rip face off.

Rip is six feet tall, a grown man. Billy is a gangling teenager. He is forcefully backed to the river's edge.

RIP (cont'd)

(playfully)

I think I'll cut his huevos off so he never comes near a white woman again."

Rip pulls an abalone handled hunting knife from a leather sheath attached to his belt.

Billy, eyes wide, back steps into the river.

Coleen attempts to run to Billy but Austin holds her.

AUSTIN

Stay here.

COLEEN

(shouts)

Leave us alone!

Rip hesitates at the river's edge. Billy is standing knee deep in water.

TRAVIS

(taunting)

What's the matter Rip, you afraid you'll get your fancy boots wet?

AUSTIN

Leave him Rip, he ain't worth it.

RIP
Be quiet little brothers while
I geld this half breed.

Rip takes a step towards Billy and slips in the mud, arms waiving, he clutches Billy's wrist for support.

Billy reaches and pulls Rip's pistol from it's holster.

Rip goes down and lands on his butt.

Billy aims the pistol at Rip.

COLEEN
No!

Billy hesitates.

He meets Coleen's pleading eyes for a moment, then turns and silently disappears into the rivers blackness.

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHT

Rip picks himself up and brushes the mud from his behind.

RIP
That little thief stole my Colt
Walker.

COLEEN
That is most deserving, you
indecorous oaf.

Rip glares at Coleen. His angry face softens.

RIP
You boys get on back.

AUSTIN
Rip-

RIP
Goddamnit, You little shits, I'll
beat your asses.

The younger brothers leave. Austin runs ahead to:

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Boyd Connolly is smoking a cigar and laughing with a GROUP OF MEN. Austin hesitates, then discreetly approaches.

AUSTIN
 Father, I need to tell you something.

BOYD CONNOLLY
 (scolds)
 Were you taught to never interrupt
 when men are conversing?

Boyd Connelly recognizes Austin's concern, he stops and listens.

BOYD CONNELLY
 What is it son?

AUSTIN
 (whispers)
 Father, Rip is doing something bad.

BOYD CONNOLLY
 What is Rip doing now?

AUSTIN
 He is hurting Coleen McCulloch.

BOYD CONNOLLY
 (smiles)
 Excuse me gentlemen, It seems my
 youngest son requires my urgent
 attention.

Austin runs ahead, leading his father to:

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

Rip is laying on top of Coleen, his hand over her mouth, forcing his knee between hers, trying to spread her legs apart.

RIP CONNOLLY
 Goddamn you girl! Stop being so
 feisty.

A MASSIVE HAND grips Rip's hair, pulls him off of Coleen and throws him to the ground.

Rip looks terrified as Boyd Connolly stands over him.

RIP
 Father, I was just -

He rises but is immediately bitch slapped by his father.

Boyd Connolly stands over him.

BOYD CONNOLLY
 If I ever catch you mistreating a
 lady again, I will beat manners back
 into you with your grandfather's
 razor strop. Now git!

Rip picks up his hat and scrambles up the river bank.

Coleen weeps, uncontrollably.

Boyd Connolly - unsure how to handle this scandal - attempts
 to comfort her. He places his hand on her shoulder.

She immediately shrugs it off.

BOYD CONNOLLY (cont'd)
 Coleen dear, please forgive my son's
 rascality, he sometimes gets a trifle
 wild. But...
 (a wink and a nod)
 In a young stud, that can be a
 desirable quality.

Coleen's sobbing slows.

BOYD CONNOLLY (cont'd)
 May I offer you a carriage ride to
 your home.

Coleen, looks down, shakes her head.

COLEEN
 No.

BOYD CONNOLLY
 Coleen dear...

She stands, raises her head high, and with dignity, exits
 scene, leaving Boyd Connolly at that sacred spot, where
 earlier in the evening she had made love for the first time.

- END PART ONE -

