

TEXAS RUN

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BLACK SCREEN - ANTEBELLUM TEXAS, July 4, 1850

We hear TEENAGE BOYS talk.

TRAVIS CONNOLLY  
(excited)  
Hurry up.

AUSTIN CONNOLLY  
Stand back!

FADE IN:

EXT. COW PASTURE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON - A MATCH HEAD - ignites and touches the end of a FUSE. The fuse SPARKLES towards a large BISON SKULL, a MEXICAN FIRECRACKER the size of a quarter stick of dynamite is stuffed into it's SNOUT.

Twin brothers AUSTIN and TRAVIS CONNOLLY, 15, run and stand with FIVE OTHER BOYS a safe distance away.

KABOOM! - THE FIRECRACKER EXPLODES.

A BLINDING WHITE FLASH illuminates the boy's faces. Some have their FINGERS in their EARS. bison shrapnel fills the air and drifts down.

BOYS CHEER!

TRAVIS  
Austin, light another.

AUSTIN  
That was our last.

BOYS  
Aw.

Austin and Travis lead the way as the boys walk towards a brightly illuminated barn. We hear festive MUSIC AND LAUGHTER emanating from inside.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

An INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION is in progress. Red, white and blue garlands line the walls. A massive Texas flag is displayed over the entrance.

The RANCH FOREMAN, an easy going ginger bearded man stands at the entrance rolling a cigarette.

RANCH FORMAN

You boys stop with the Mexican  
firecrackers, you're spookin' the  
cattle.

AUSTIN AND TRAVIS

Yes sir.

SMILING TOWN FOLK, dressed in their Sunday best, DANCE to a FIDDLER and a BANJO PLAYER (who smiles and winks at an admiring TEENAGE GIRL).

CHILDREN gleefully run through the crowd playing tag. WOMEN visit and gossip behind a Potluck table proudly displaying pies and casseroles. MEN stand around smoking pipes and conversing. TWO OLD TIMERS laugh as they pass a whiskey jug.

BILLY BRAVOS, 15, sits by the wall, watching the festivities. Billy is the orphaned son of a Mexican prostitute, half Irish with dark features and green eyes.

KAY-LYNN McCULLOCH, 16, The prettiest school girl in town, dances past,

The song ends, Kay-Lynn curtsies to her enamored DANCE PARTNER, who bows and waits for another dance.

Kay-Lynn sees Billy sitting alone. She ignores her dance partner.

KAY-LYNN

Hi Billy.

BILLY

H-Hi.

Kay-Lynn is confident she could have her pick of any suitor, but... she has a crush on Billy.

The band plays a WALTZ.

KAY-LYNN

Dance with me Billy.

BILLY  
I don't know how.

KAY-LYNN  
I'll teach you.

Billy smiles shyly and shake his head.

BILLY  
No.

Kay-Lynn extends her hand.

Billy processes her request. How can he say no to Kay-Lynn McCulloch?

He cautiously rises.

KAY-LYNN  
Just take my hand and place your  
other hand here.

She guides his hand to the small of her back.

KAY-LYNN (cont'd)  
Count one-two-three, one-two-three.  
Start with your left foot. Ready?

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

Kay-Lynn sings to Billy, their faces only inches apart.

KAY-LYNN (cont'd)  
"Green grow the Lilacs all covered  
with dew"

Billy smiles.

CONNOLLY TABLE

KIT CONNOLLY, 20, the eldest of the three CONNOLLY BROTHERS, tall, handsome and confident, displays a .44 revolver to his brothers Travis and Austin.

KIT  
General Lane himself presented this  
Walker Colt to father.

The younger brothers stare in wide eyed admiration.

KIT (cont'd)  
Father said it would be mine when I  
turned twenty years old. Look at the  
engraving, it killed Mexicans at the  
battle of Angostura.

Kay-Lynn and Billy dance by.

TRAVIS  
(excited)  
Kit, Kit, there's Kay-Lynn McCulloch.

Kit turns to watch.

KIT  
Why is she with Billy Bravos?

TRAVIS  
She looks happy.

KIT  
She ain't never danced with a "real  
man."

BACK TO BILLY AND KAY-LYNN

The songs ends, Billy waits, uncertain of his next move.

Kay-Lynn sits, then pats the chair next to her, beckoning  
Billy to sit.

KAY-LYNN  
You look very handsome tonight.

Billy smiles shyly. He wears his best white work shirt and a  
Bolo Tie made from a strip of rawhide. His worn cowboy boots  
are clean and polished. Billy is a lowly stable hand at the  
massive CONNOLLY RANCH.

CONNOLLY TABLE

BOYD CONNOLLY, patriarch of the Connolly family, 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?

AUSTIN  
Kit is smitten for Kay-Lynn  
McCulloch.

Boyd Connolly observes Kay-Lynn.

BOYD CONNOLLY  
Son, that filly is blossoming into  
fine breeding stock.

TRAVIS  
Dance with her, go on Kit, dance with  
her.

The band plays a lively uptempo song.

Boyd, Austin and Travis look to Kit.

Kit takes a sip from a silver flask, straightens himself, winks at his brothers, then walks directly to Billy and Kay-Lynn, interrupting their conversation, ignoring Billy and giving Kay-Lynn his best smile.

KIT  
Kay-Lynn, might I be so bold as to  
request your company on the dance  
floor.

KAY-LYNN  
Perhaps later Kit. I'm visiting  
with Billy at present.

Kay-Lynn turns her attention back to Billy.

Kit stands, stunned by her rejection. He glares at Billy who looks down, avoiding eye contact.

Kit walks back to the table where his father and brothers are watching.

TRAVIS  
Ha! You sure dazzled her.

KIT  
Hush up before I wallop you. She said  
she was fatigued and required repose.

TRAVIS  
She ain't fatigued for Billy Bravos.

BACK TO BILLY AND KAY-LYNN

KAY-LYNN  
Shall we step outside. The moon is  
splendid tonight.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

Billy and Kay-Lynn stroll along the river bank, gazing at the stars, enjoying the cool summer air.

Kay-Lynn takes Billy's hand.

KAY-LYNN  
Come.

She leads him to a willow tree and sits down in the tall grass.

Billy sits beside her.

KAY-LYNN (cont'd)  
Billy, do you think I'm pretty?

BILLY  
Y-Yes.

Kay-Lynn turns and leans towards Billy.

KAY-LYNN  
Kiss me Billy.

She purses her lips.

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

Kay-Lynn lays back in the tall grass, her face glows in the soft moonlight.

Billy bends down and tenderly kisses Kay-Lynn's lips, softer and longer this time.

Kay-Lynn takes Billy's hand and presses it to her breast.

Billy's eyes widen, a look of youthful innocence on his face.

Kay-Lynn looks up at Billy and lifts her petticoat.

KAY-LYNN (cont'd)  
(breathless)  
Billy... put it inside me.

Billy is taken by surprise. Can this be happening?

He eagerly unbuttons his trousers, slides them down to his knees and gently lays on top of her, face to face.

KAY-LYNN (cont'd)  
Let me...

Kay-Lynn reaches down and guides him.

As he enters Kay-Lynn, she lets out a STIFLED CRY, then embraces Billy with a powerful hug. Her pelvis moves against him rapidly, her eyes closed, a look of determination on her face.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT - LATER

Billy and Kay-Lynn lie sleeping under the willow tree, side by side, her head laying on his arm, their faces inches apart.

CLOSE ON - A COWBOY BOOT - Kicks Billy in his flank.

Billy wakes to see Kit Connolly, drunk and angry, standing over him.

Travis and Austin stand off to the side.

KIT  
God Damn half breed!

Billy scrambles to his feet.

KIT (cont'd)  
What the hell you doing?

BILLY  
I-

KIT  
You don't go near her. Ever!

Kit is 20 years old, over six feet tall, a grown man. Billy is a gangling teenager. He is forcefully backed to the river's edge.

They face each other.



KIT (cont'd)  
I want you off of our ranch.

Billy is stunned.

BILLY  
I-

KIT  
(screams)  
Quiet!

Kit draws an abalone handled hunting knife from a leather sheath attached to his belt. He turns to Austin and Travis.

KIT (cont'd)  
Hell, I think I'll cut his huevos off  
so he never comes near a white woman  
again.

Billy stares at the KNIFE BLADE GLINTING in the moonlight.  
He back steps into the river.

Kay-Lynn attempts to run to Billy but Austin holds her.

AUSTIN  
Stay out of this, you'll get injured.

KAY-LYNN  
(shouts to Kit)  
Leave us alone!

Billy backs knee deep into the water.

Kit hesitates at the river's edge.

TRAVIS  
What's the matter Kit, you afraid of  
gettin' your fancy boots wet? Ha!

AUSTIN  
Leave him Kit, he ain't worth it.

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

Kit takes a tentative step, he slips in the river's mud,  
spinning sideways into Billy, waiving his arms for balance.

Billy reaches and swiftly pulls Kit's revolver from it's  
holster as Kit goes down and lands on his butt in the mud at  
the river's edge.

Billy aims the revolver at Kit's face.

Kit holds his hands out in defense.

KIT (cont'd)  
No! Wait! Wait! I was just fixin' to  
scare ya.

Billy cocks the revolver.

KAY-LYNN  
Billy, no!

Billy turns and meets Kay-Lynn's pleading eyes.

They share a moment.

Billy slowly uncocks the pistol and tucks it into his waistband. He turns and disappears silently into the rivers blackness.

Kit picks himself up and wipes the mud from his rear end.

KIT  
That rascal stole my Colt Walker.

KAY-LYNN  
That is most deserving, you  
indecorous oaf.

Kit glares angrily at Kay-Lynn, then... his face softens.

KIT  
You boys get on back.

AUSTIN  
Kit-

KIT  
Goddamnit! You little runts, I'll  
beat your asses.

Austin and Travis leave. Austin runs ahead to:

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Austin scans the room and spots his father conversing with a GROUP OF MEN. He hesitates... then discreetly approaches and taps him from behind. Boyd Connolly stops and turns to Austin.

AUSTIN

Father-

BOYD CONNOLLY

You were taught never to interrupt  
when men are conversing.

Austin looks down.

Boyd Connolly turns back to the group of men.

Austin stands there... uncertain.

Boyd Connolly tells an indistinguishable joke punchline. The  
men LAUGH.

AUSTIN

Father...

Boyd Connolly turns to Austin.

BOYS CONNOLLY

What? What is so damn important?

Austin is speechless.

Boyd Connolly recognizes Austin's concern.

BOYD CONNOLLY

What is it son?

AUSTIN

(whispers)

Father, Kit is doing something bad.

BOYD CONNOLLY

What is he doing now?

AUSTIN

He is hurting Kay-Lynn McCulloch.

BOYD CONNOLLY

(smiles to the men)

Excuse me gentlemen, it appears my  
young son needs assistance.

They exit the barn, Austin runs ahead, Boyd Connolly swiftly  
follows.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

Kit is on top of Kay-Lynn, his hand over her mouth, attempting to force his knee between hers, trying to spread her legs apart.

KIT CONNOLLY  
Goddamn you girl! Stop being so feisty.

A MASSIVE HAND - grips Kit's hair, pulls him off of Kay-Lynn and throws him to the ground.

Kit looks up, terrified,

Boyd Connolly stands over him.

Kit attempts to rise.

KIT  
Father, I was just—

Boyd Connolly BITCH SLAPS Kit.

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

Kit picks up his hat, scrambles up the river bank and slinks away in shame. Austin and Travis follow.

Kay-Lynn sobs uncontrollably, gasping for breath.

Boyd Connolly - unsure how to handle this looming scandal - attempts to comfort her.

BOYD CONNOLLY (cont'd)  
Kay-Lynn, 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.

Kay-Lynn's sobbing slows and stops. She looks at Boyd Connolly in dis-belief.

BOYD CONNOLLY (cont'd)  
I mean, who could be faulted for  
desiring a beautiful young woman such  
as yourself.

(tenderly)  
My carriage is at your call, if you  
would like me to escort you home.

Kay-Lynn processes his overture then shakes her head.

KAY-LYNN  
(whispers)  
No.

BOYD CONNOLLY  
Kay-Lynn dear-

She stands, raises her head and 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 -

