

Title: Dill, California (Comedy)

Summary: A dry comedy set in the fictional town
Of "Dill" California, involving a guy, his girlfriend, and one colossal misunderstanding.
Original screenplay by Alden Olmsted

Characters:

RUNNER DELL(MAIN CHARACTER)
EVELYN (LEAD ACTRESS)
SHANE SKINNER- RUNNERS BEST FRIEND
EMIL - FRIEND OF RUNNER
HALEY SKINNER - BF OF TALL-YA
TALL-YA LANDERS- BF OF HALEY
DK - COLORFUL CHARACTER
HEATHER- EX GIRLFRIEND
JUHNNY (RUNNERS BROTHER)
JANISE - FRIEND OF EVELYN
JONNI - COLORFUL CHARACTER
BETUNY - FRIEND OF HALEY
RUNNERS DAD
RUNNERS GRANDPA
RUNNERS GRANDMA
MASUN BRUADSTREET
THE BALDRY BROS. - TROUBLE
DOCTOR KRAUSE - PSYCHOLOGIST
COUNTY CLERK
LADY IN LINE

ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. RUNNERS CAR - EDGE OF TOWN, EARLY MORNING
ESTABLISHING SHOT OF RURAL AREA, WITH HILLS DISTANT
CUT TO:

INT. RUNNERS CAR - EDGE OF TOWN, SAME TIME
POV SHOT OF RUNNERS HAND, SCRIBBLING ON A PIECE OF PAPER USING THE DASHBOARD.
RUNNER (V.O.)

Ev -

CUT TO:

FROM BACK SEAT OF RUNNERS CAR, LOOKING TO HORIZON

Runner is practicing writing a break-up letter to his girlfriend on the backs of speeding tickets. Before he starts each new one, he scratches out the old one.

RUNNER (CONT'D)

(To Himself) Dear Ev...

Between each letter, Runner looks up at the horizon, thinks, ponders, then gets frustrated, wadding up the paper and throwing it behind the seat.

RUNNER (CONT'D)

Evelyn, this is hard for me, but I...

Crumpled paper again

RUNNER (CONT'D)

Ev, I thought we were gonna make it, I really did. But after last week, I'm gonna take that job in Fresno and I... Aaww!!

POV SHOT AS RUNNER THROWS ANOTHER LETTER INTO THE PILE, THEN LEANS FORWARD GRABBING THE WHEEL WITH BOTH HANDS.

RUNNER (CONT'D)

What're you doin?! Alright... that's it! I guess she deserves to hear it in person.

Starts up car, shifts it into drive.

OPENING CREDITS

POV SHOT CONTINUES THROUGH CREDITS

CUT TO:

EST. SHOT: RUNNER DRIVING INTO TOWN OF DILL CALIFORNIA.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE RUNNERS CAR - EARLY MORNING

POV LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD AND FOLLOWING SIGNS AS NARRATION LEADS.

RUNNER

(voiceover)

Well, this is it - Dill.

PASSING SIGNS SUCH AS "Dill, Pop 1872 Elev 14."

RUNNER (CONT'D)

Nothing big really happens around here. In fact, some people say it's downright boring.

PROMOTIONAL BILLBOARD: "Not DULL, DILL!"

RUNNER (CONT'D)

-But to me - shoot it's all I've ever known. Anyway, what happened to me on this particular day can only be summed up in one word: screwed UP!

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER WHERE EVELYN WORKS - SAME TIME EARLY MORNING

Runners car pulls up to the diner, not right up front, but further out. Two other cars are parked out front.

CUT TO:

INT. RUNNERS CAR

Runner shifts car into PARK, turns off key, leans forward to look up at the diner, closes eyes and lets off a big sigh.

RUNNER

Well, let's do it.

CUT TO:

EXT. EVELYN'S DINER

Runner enters diner. Camera stays outside while small disruption occurs, plates fly, noises of broken dishes.

Runner exits quickly, walks/ stumbles straight up to the camera, but looks to his right as narration continues. Takes deep breath, squints at the rising sun.

RUNNER

"Yep, that's my girl."

Runner re-enters diner.

CUT TO:

INT. EVELYN'S DINER, LOOKING DOWN LONG COUNTER TOP- MOMENTS LATER

One Patron in foreground between camera and Runner. Evelyn, pouring coffee tries not to look at Runner, conversation continues as she serves food, chews her gum, addresses customers, even as she glances at Runner.

RUNNER

Can you take a break?

EVELYN

Can I? Baby I can do a lot of things.

RUNNER

Ok?? So will you?

EVELYN

You want to do this here? Now?

RUNNER

Ev, I just want to talk.

EVELYN

I'll be there tonight.

Evelyn pours coffee for other patron, talking to Runner, but addressing the other patron.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

You know how sometimes you know what you gotta do, but-cha' jus can't do it, ya know?

Evelyn with deadpan look glares at Runner. Runner gets up to leave diner. (Yelling Excitedly as Runner exits)

EVELYN (CONT'D)

You just can't do it! (To herself). He just can't do it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER

Runner walks to camera again, looks to his right, squints more quickly this time, turns to his left as sound of cell phone grabs his attention.

(Cell Phone vibrates)

CUT TO:

INT. RUNNERS CAR-SAME TIME

Cell phone vibrates itself off the dash, Runner swings open the door, catches cell phone mid-air, answers as he slides in car.

RUNNER

Hello?

SHANE

Whew! Man this is like a bad episode on Three's Company where Chrissy -

RUNNER

(interrupting)

Shane, every episode of Three's Company was bad and - it's seven o'clock. A--M!!

SHANE

Yeah, so what're you doing up? Sorry, I just wanted to call to, congratulate you on tonight, man.

Good job - I'm proud of you.

Runner is breathing heavy with an expression of pain.

RUNNER

Uh, ok so, how do you know what I'm gonna do tonight? Which I was trying to do this morning?

And, and why would you be congratulating me on breaking up with Ev - I thought you liked her?

SHANE

Breaking up!!?!? Betony told me.. She thinks you're gonna propose.

Runner, not speaking, mouths out WHAT? As he pulls cell phone away, and looks to the horizon.

Shane, still heard by audience on cell phone, with Runner not paying attention.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Hey have you ever thought.. I mean I know Janet had that fro, but Chrissy was pretty hot back in the day - and Jack was always cooking? Come on...

CLOSE UP ON HAND TURNING KEY, STARTING CAR, SHIFTING TO DRIVE. CLOSE UP ON TRANSMISSION INDICATOR "DRIVE"

MEDIUM SHOT OF RUNNER BEGINNING TO DRIVE, WITH SUBTLY- PAINED EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE.

SHOT FROM BACK SEAT

Runner, with left leg over the transmission hump, and steering with left hand, peels out, and takes off straight out of town, waving at people on the way, leaning right arm out of window, as head turns to say hi to people, sarcastic face like nothing's wrong, then as head turns back into the car, head droops down slightly.

RUNNER

AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHGGGGG!!