



Brent C Dill

Writing Portfolio  
February 2015

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# Brenton Casey Dill

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## Education

### Abilene Christian University

**August 2010 – May 2012**

Abilene, TX

Master of Arts in English - Composition and Rhetoric

### Abilene Christian University

**August 2006 – May 2010**

Abilene, TX

Bachelor of Arts in English - Language and Literature

## Experience

### CouponPal.com

**Sept. 2014 - Current**

Deal and Content Specialist

As part of the content team, I sell products for top online retailers by blogging about stores and educating readers on the best ways to save.

### Pasadena Humane Society

**Sept. 2013 - June 2014**

Development Assistant

In addition to being the main contact for on-site donors, I wrote and edited fund raising publications, and nothing left the office before it was proofread by me, at my boss's insistence.

### Grassroots Campaigns

**June 2013 - Oct. 2013**

Field Manager

As an advocate of the Southern Poverty Law Center, I provided information to potential members and successfully solicited donations for monthly giving

### Abilene Christian University

**Aug. 2010 - May 2012**

Graduate Assistant

As teacher of record for Freshman English courses, I administered all aspects of curriculum. I also tutored students of all levels one-on-one in the writing center.

### Abilene Christian University

**Aug. 2010 - Dec 2011**

ESL Instructor

As teacher of record for ESL courses, I developed curriculum and taught basic English grammar to students who spoke very little English.

## Skills

HTML

Affiliate Marketing

Proofreading

CSS

SEO

Editing

Javascript

Keyword Research

jQuery

Creative Writing

Adobe Creative Suite

Git, GitHub

## References

Available Upon Request

More info at [bdill12.github.io](https://github.com/bdill12)

## What Happened with Jacob

We never really had a conversation about it, but Jacob and I broke up for good that day. I sat on the ground outside his apartment, red-eyed, sniffing, and barefoot. An older Asian man was walking by holding his granddaughter's hand. He leaned down a little as he passed on the way to his apartment, and silently mouthed, "It's going to be okay."

I held back my English Bulldog, Arthur, by his collar as he tried to greet the passersby. His leash was still inside, along with my flip-flops.

Most of that day is blurry like a close-up of a watercolor painting, but certain moments are sharper than I can stand. The Asian man's reassurance, his words, might as well have been written on a piece of paper, rolled up, placed in a bottle and thrown into the ocean. That message wasn't for me. But his face stuck in my mind. The granddaughter didn't look at me at all.

One of the two police officers exited Jacob's apartment carrying some collared shirts on hangers in crinkling bags from the dry cleaner. I stood up halfway, keeping my hand looped into Arthur's collar so he couldn't run away.

"Here are your clothes," the police officer said without making eye contact. "You should probably go home."

"Sure," I said, my patience long gone. "Still gonna need my shoes and the leash, though. Can't walk home like this." He remained stoic, but nodded. There was no indication of whose story he believed - mine or Jacob's. I took the clothes, and he disappeared back into the apartment.

I'd seen Jacob just thirty minutes before everything happened and things were fine. Of course, we did spend the entire morning in the emergency room, so the day had been a little uneven.

Visits to the ER were common for Jacob. He had a congenital condition and couldn't produce the hormones his body needed during stress and trauma. Some

minor injuries could be fatal. He had a bathroom counter full of prescriptions, and he always wore a silver emergency medical ID necklace to inform paramedics.

That morning he called me to take him to the hospital as a precaution because he felt dizzy. We sat there all morning. By the time he saw the doctor, Jacob was annoyed but not dizzy anymore. The doctor couldn't do anything, considering Jacob was fine and well, so it was a big waste of time.

On the way back to his apartment, Jacob said, "I know things have been hard lately, but you've been such a good boyfriend. I love you."

He was going to shower and walk to my place so we could get lunch. Before he got out of the car, I placed my fingers under his chin and lifted his eyes to meet mine.

"I love you, too, and all I need from you right now is for you to do what you say you're going to do."

He promised.

Just thirty minutes after that promise, I was holding the dry cleaning bags in one hand and Arthur by the other. The crinkling of the bags was loud and it scared Arthur, so he kept pulling away trying to escape. I finally just threw the shirts on the concrete..

The other cop came outside to stand. He didn't have my shoes or the leash, but at least he made eye contact with me. He shrugged.

"Well, he's very drunk," he said with an odd chuckle of sympathy.

"Yeah."

"How long have you guys been broken up?"

"I'm not sure. How long ago did your partner bring me my dry cleaning?"

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1502 Texas Avenue  
Lubbock, TX 79401

owengrp.com

**MEDIUM:** TV  
**CLIENT:** BENCHMARK  
**TITLE:** MARK AND SARAH  
**SPOT #:** SPEC 3  
**LENGTH:** 30  
**MARKET:** LUBBOCK  
**CYCLE:** 13 WEEKS

"SARAH AND MARK"

SHOT 1: A MAN AND WOMAN WALK TOWARD US IN A "CUBICLE HALLWAY" IN A BUSY OFFICE.

MAN: I DONT KNOW HOW MARK DOES IT....HE'S NEVER LATE. HE NEVER COMPLAINS.

CUT TO MEDIUM TRACKING SHOT AS THEY WALK.

SARAH: I KNOW.

MAN AND MARK IS NICE. I MEAN, TALK ABOUT CUSTOMER SERVICE.

SARAH: I KNOW.

MAN DID YOU KNOW HE SAVED US 30%—

SARAH: —I KNOW! YOU SHOULD HEAR THE BOSS! IT'S ALWAYS "MARK SAVED US 30%!

WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE MARK, SARAH?"

HE STOPS WALKING. SHE TURNS TO SEE WHY.

MAN: WELL, WHY CAN'T YOU, SARAH?

AFTER JUST A SECOND, HE LOOKS UP TOWARD CAMERA AND LIGHTS UP.

MAN: HEY MARK!

CUT TO OPPOSITE PROFILE SHOT AND REVEAL HE IS TALKING TO XEROX COPIER, BUSY PRINTING.

VO:

**WHEN YOU NEED TO**

**SIMPLIFY,**

**MANAGE,**

**BUDGET,**

**AND UPGRADE YOUR OFFICE,**

**BENCHMARK YOUR OFFICE TODAY,**

**AT BENCHMARK YOUR OFFICE.COM**



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**MEDIUM:** TV  
**CLIENT:** BENCHMARK  
**TITLE:** LUNCH  
**SPOT #:** SPEC 4  
**LENGTH:** 30  
**MARKET:** LUBBOCK  
**CYCLE:** 13 WEEKS

“MARK TAKES LUNCH”

SHOT 1: ESTABLISHING SHOT OF EMPLOYEES IN A LARGE, CAFETERIA-STYLE LUNCH ROOM. A GROUP OF COWORKERS (TWO WOMEN, ONE MAN), SIT AT THE END OF A TABLE, EATING

WOMAN 1: **SO AT THE LAST MINUTE, THE CLIENT DECIDES THEY WANT SIX HUNDRED PROGRAMS FOR THE DINNER. FOLDED AND STAPLED.**

MAN: **WOW.**

WOMAN 1: **AND I'M LITERALLY ON MY WAY OUT THE DOOR TO MY SON'S RECITAL.**

WOMAN 2: **CLARINET?**

WOMAN 1: **OBOE. I'M ABOUT TO CRY, AND MARK JUST STEPS IN AND DOES IT....**

**STAYED LATE. I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S A KEEPER.**

MAN: **YEAH. HE'S GOT OUR EXPENSES DOWN 30%.**

WOMAN 1: **HE'S OUTSTANDING, LET ME TELL YOU.**

WOMAN 2: **THERE HE IS!**

SHE POINTS TOWARD THE CAMERA.

CUT TO OPPOSITE SHOT LOOKING THROUGH OUR GROUP TO SEE A XEROX COPIER “SITTING” AT A TABLE IN FRONT OF A TRAY WITH TONER ON IT.

WOMAN 2: **YOU THINK HE'LL WATCH MY KIDS FOR ME?**

AS WOMAN 2 AWKWARDLY WAVES TO MARK, VO:

**WHEN YOU NEED TO**

**SIMPLIFY,**

**MANAGE,**

**BUDGET,**

**AND OPTIMIZE YOUR OFFICE,**

**BENCHMARK YOUR OFFICE TODAY,**

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**MEDIUM:** TV  
**CLIENT:** BENCHMARK  
**TITLE:** GLADYS  
**SPOT #:** SPEC 5  
**LENGTH:** 30  
**MARKET:** LUBBOCK  
**CYCLE:** 13 WEEKS

"WE LOVE GLADYS (BUT MOSTLY MARK)"

OPEN ON MS OF AN OLDER WOMAN WITH GLASSES AND THE BEST SCOWL EVER SITTING BEHIND A DESK. EVERY INCH OF THE DESK IS COVERED IN FLOWERS, CHOCOLATES, TEDDY BEARS, AND GIFTS. THE WALL BEHIND HER HAS A BULLETIN BOARD. IT IS COVERED IN CARDS THAT SAY, "THANK YOU!" SHE STARES AT THE CAMERA.

WOMAN: **I'M GLADYS, HUMAN RESOURCES. EVERYONE USED TO AVOID MY OFFICE LIKE THE PLAGUE.**

SHE PAUSES TO COUGH.

WOMAN: **BUT EVER SINCE I RECRUITED MARK TO WORK FOR US, EXPENSES ARE DOWN 30%, AND SUDDENLY? I'VE GOT PLENTY OF FRIENDS!**

WOMAN WALKS IN CAFETERIA WITH TRAY. MAN STANDS UP AND SHOUTS FOR HER.

MAN: **GLADYS! OVER HERE! EAT WITH ME!**

SHE SITS WITH THE GUY.

MAN: **SO HAVE YOU TALKED TO MARK LATELY? HOW'S HE DOING? OKAY? IS HE HAPPY HERE?**

GLADYS: **CAN I HAVE YOUR PUDDING?**

CUT BACK TO HER DESK WITH GIFTS.

MILLIE JUST PUTS A SPOONFUL OF PUDDING IN HER MOUTH AND SMILES.

VO:

**WHEN YOU NEED TO  
SIMPLIFY,  
MANAGE,  
BUDGET,  
AND OPTIMIZE YOUR OFFICE,  
BENCHMARK YOUR OFFICE TODAY,  
AT BENCHMARK YOUR OFFICE.COM.**



## Blog: 5 Pop Culture T-Shirts to Remind You of 2014

2014 has almost come and gone, but pop culture t-shirts can help you remember important moments like the series finale of a beloved TV show. Over 100 shows aired their finales in 2014. TV Store Online has officially licensed shirts to help commemorate them.

Here are five departed shows and five pop culture t-shirts to help you remember them:

### True Blood

In 2008, America was just starting its love affair with vampires. So was Sookie Stackhouse, and Sookie's was much sexier. In fact, the thing most people remember about True Blood: It had the most attractive cast on TV.

Of course, they owe some sex appeal to their costumes. This True Blood t-shirt will help your sex appeal if you ever take a waitressing job at Merlotte's.

### Wilfred

Wilfred may have had the craziest premise on TV. Ryan Newman sees his neighbor's dog as a full-grown human male in a dog costume. He interacts with the dog/man daily.

With that set-up, the show jumped straight to cult status. Someday soon you'll be at a party and someone will ask, "Have you seen Wilfred?" That's why this Wilfred t-shirt is perfect:

### Eastbound and Down

Kenny Powers was a terrible gym teacher. His professional baseball career went down in flames, so he started coaching. He yelled things like: "Fundamentals are a crutch for the talentless" and "If at first you don't succeed then maybe you just suck."

You could create thousands of pop culture t-shirts from Eastbound and Down's four seasons on HBO. Instead, get this Kenny Powers jersey t-shirt and go find yourself someone who needs some coaching.

## Sons of Anarchy

The best TV makes you feel like part of a club. Sons of Anarchy made viewers part of the brotherhood, riding along with SAMCRO.

In seven seasons, SoA showed what it meant to belong to something. . . and sometimes it meant hiding a human head in a pot of hot chili. With an Elvis impersonator and a porn operation called Red Woody, the group from the T-M garage sounds ridiculous. (But I wouldn't say that to their faces.)

9.3 million viewers watched the finale. That's a big brotherhood. This Sons of Anarchy t-shirt lets everyone know you're part of it.

## How I Met Your Mother

Whether you loved the finale or hated it, saying goodbye to Ted and the gang wasn't easy. For nine seasons, we listened as Ted shared inappropriate stories with his kids. At some point we realized it wasn't about meeting The Mother. It was about Slapsgiving and doppelgängers. It was suiting up and performing The Naked Man. And it was singing "Let's Go to the Mall" with Robin Sparkles. Life is about the stories you create with your closest friends. To help you remember, you should wear this duck tie t-shirt from HIMYM for an entire year.

TV Store Online has a huge selection of pop culture t-shirts. Go check out the TV Store Online deals, then shop their collection for a shirt to help you remember some good times. When you find one, connect with us on the CouponPal Facebook Page or Tweet us and let us know.

Can be found on the web at:

<http://couponpal.com/blog/5-pop-culture-tshirts-from-tv-shows-that-ended-in-2014>

## Content for Retailers: The Deal with [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com)



An ugly Christmas sweater party is one of the best (and most hilarious) ways to get into the spirit of the holiday season! Make sure you have the ugliest and funniest sweater at the party with a sweater from [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com). The sweaters may be ugly, but the savings are lovely when you use an Ugly Christmas Sweater coupon code.

More than likely at some point in your life, you've had an encounter with an ugly Christmas sweater. I have a confession. The picture at the top of this article is of me and my two brothers wearing Christmas sweaters my mom made. (I'm the one on the far right, looking pleased.) Believe it or not, that isn't a bad memory because wearing an ugly Christmas sweater is fun, especially if it has jingle bells sewn on. That's why the team at [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com) brings you the ugliest, funniest, Bill Cosby-est sweaters south of the North Pole. And when you use an Ugly Christmas Sweater coupon code, your sweater will be so affordable, you'll think Santa brought it.

No matter what type of tacky tickles your fancy, you'll find it at [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com). You can find basic tacky sweaters featuring lines of reindeer and giant Santa heads, but you can also find sweaters that light up or feature characters from pop culture. You can even support some of your favorite NFL teams (the Cowboys sweater doesn't look half bad). If you want your sweater to be tacky in more than one way, you can shop the "irreverent" sweaters, but be prepared to make your grandma blush. That's a good enough reason to snag a [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com) coupon code in my book.

The team at [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com) designs all their sweaters, so you

don't have to worry about showing up to your tacky sweater party wearing the same hand-me-down fare as all your friends. They've been featured in USA Today, The Huffington Post, Trendhunter Magazine, and The New York Times. That means these sweaters are world-renown ugly. You can get a little bit of that ugly at a discount with a promo code for [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com).

Don't forget these sweaters make great gifts, too. Grab a sweater for everyone in the family, gather around the tree, and remember to take a picture. Who knows. You may have an opportunity to use that picture twenty years later to embarrass your siblings while informing the public about [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com) coupon codes. Have an ugly holiday.

## Academic: The Competing Voices of September 11: Assessing Televisual Texts and their Critical Responses

*an excerpt:*

In the aftermath of 9/11, a few secondary texts started cropping up concerning the effect of the tragedy on film and television. There is a definite dearth of scholarship concerning television in general, so academic research covering a specific event (even an event as significant as 9/11) is rare. However, Winston Wheeler Dixon compiled and edited a collection of articles titled *Film and Television After 9/11*. The collection “reflects the thoughts of many in the film and media community who sense a definite shift in modes of perception, production, and audience reception” following the events of September 11 (1). Dixon’s attempt to make a scholarly publication framed around film, television, and 9/11 includes articles about television shows, such as *The West Wing* and *24*. These articles, however, focus on television’s influence on audiences or government’s influence on television rather than offering any sort of literary or rhetorical analysis of the televisual texts themselves. The articles skip over the initial analysis that must be done concerning the construction of the texts and delve directly into conclusions about the effects of the texts. The result is irresponsible scholarship. One such article, written by Isabelle Freda, is titled, “*Survivors in The West Wing: 9/11 and the United States of Emergency*.”

The article focuses in on “Isaac and Ishmael,” stating that “[t]he special

broadcast of *The West Wing* on October 3, 2001, revealed the breadth and speed of the radical new political-media orientation after 9/11 and is an exemplary guide to the production of political spectacle in its aftermath” (229). The article gives a very basic analysis of the episode. What I offered above in one paragraph is more in-depth than what Freda offers across twenty pages. Instead, the article zooms in on the effects of the episode, postulating that “Alan Sorkin’s special episode was inserted into the prerecorded season lineup and so constituted a powerful and immediate expression of the impact of 9/11 as we might read it within the narrative framework of the more or less Clintonesque NBC White House” (229). This snippet is significant for two reasons. First, this quote makes it clear that Freda’s argument doesn’t directly concern the TV text she is citing. She examines the political context of this episode far more than she examines the actual episode. Second, she cites Alan Sorkin as the creator and writer of the series. Now, I understand mistakes get made and typos get past editors, but the creator and writer’s name is Aaron Sorkin. It seems incredulous to me that a scholarly collection would allow an error of that magnitude. In a collection of academic articles based on literature, it would be laughable for a scholar to misidentify an author. This is definitely indicative of Freda’s overall attitude; this article is not about the actual televisual text.

## Other Web Content

### Interactive Résumé

As part of my studies with Udacity, I created an interactive online résumé. It is constantly in flux while I still work toward certification in front-end development, but it is always available for viewing (no matter the state of construction) at:

[bdill12.github.io](http://bdill12.github.io)

### Social Media

I am active on social media, among the top 20% of all users according to [klout.com](http://klout.com).

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/bdill12](http://linkedin.com/in/bdill12)

Twitter: @bdill12

Facebook: [facebook.com/bdill12](http://facebook.com/bdill12)

Instagram: [instagram.com/bdill12](http://instagram.com/bdill12)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Brent Dill*

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