

~~are. How old are you?~~

~~DILL Almost eleven.~~

~~SCOUT You're sort of puny.~~

~~DILL I'm little, but I'm old. I'm from Meridian, Mississippi and I'm spending the summer next door with my Aunt Rachel. My mama works for a photographer in Meridian. She entered my picture in the Beautiful Child Contest and won five dollars. She gave me the money and I went to the picture show twenty times with it.~~

~~SCOUT Our mama's dead, but we got a daddy. Where's your daddy?~~

~~DILL I haven't got one.~~

~~SCOUT Is he dead?~~

~~DILL No.~~

~~SCOUT Well...if he's not dead, you've got one haven't you?~~

~~JEM Hush, Scout.~~

~~DILL My daddy has a black pointed beard and owns the L and N Railroad.~~

~~SCOUT Is that so?~~

~~DILL I help the engineer run the train whenever I want.~~

~~(There is a noise as Mr. Radley leaves his house.)~~

JEM Shhh! *(All three children duck down. Jem waits for Mr. Radley to get out of earshot.)* There goes the meanest man that ever took a breath of life.

DILL Why is he the meanest man?

JEM Well, for one thing he has a boy named Boo that he's kept in that house yonder for twenty, thirty years.

DILL Thirty years! How come?

JEM He got in trouble when he was a boy so his daddy locked him up in that house and he hasn't been seen since.

DILL Wonder what he does in there?

JEM                   Once Boo was sitting in the living room cutting out pictures from the newspaper when his daddy walked by and Boo stabbed those scissors right into his daddy's leg. Then he pulled 'em out, wiped 'em on his pants and went back to cuttin'. They wanted to send Boo to an asylum, but his daddy said no Radley was going to any asylum, so there he is to this day, sittin' over there with his scissors...who knows what he's doin' or thinkin'.

DILL                   Looks like he'd stick his head out the door sometime.

JEM                   Oh, he goes out all right, when it's pitch dark. Miss Stephanie said she woke up in the middle of the night one time and saw him starin' straight through her window at her. Said his head was like a skull. He walks like this... *(stepping heavily, dragging one leg)* I've seen his track in our back yard many a mornin' and one night I heard him scratching on our screen door, but he was gone time Atticus got there.

DILL                   Wonder what he looks like?

JEM                   Judging from his tracks, he's about six and a half feet tall. He eats raw squirrels and all the cats he can catch. There's a long jagged scar running all the way across his face. What teeth he has are yellow and rotten. His eyes are popped and most of the time he drools.

DILL                   Let's try to make him come out.

JEM                   Are you crazy?

DILL                   I'd like to see what he looks like. Throw a pebble against the door and maybe he'll stick his head out.

JEM                   You want me to get us all killed?

DILL                   *(bending to pick up a small stone)* Well...if you'd rather I throw the pebble...

JEM                   *(After a moment's hesitation he grabs the stone from Dill.)* Give me that. I'll do it. *(gathering his courage)* I guess I just have to show you... *(He slowly cocks his arm.)*

CALPURNIA           ~~*(calling from offstage)* Jem! Scout! Time for supper.~~

JEM                   ~~*(gratefully dropping the pebble)* Looks like I'll have to show you another time. So long Dill Harris. *(Jem and Scout run to their porch.)*~~