

(Mayella hesitates a moment, then walks quickly up to the witness stand.)

- JUDGE Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
- MAYELLA Yes.
- MR. GILMER Please tell the jury in your own words what happened on the evening of May twenty-first, just in your own words, please. *(Mayella does not reply.)* Where were you at dusk on that evening?
- MAYELLA On the porch.
- MR. GILMER What were you doing on the porch? *(Mayella hesitates.)*
- JUDGE Just tell us what happened. You can do that can't you? What are you scared of? *(Mayella says something behind her hands.)* What was that?
- MAYELLA Him. Don't want him doin' me like he done Papa, makin' him out left-handed.
- JUDGE How old are you?
- MAYELLA Nineteen-and-a half.
- JUDGE I see. Well, Mr. Finch has no idea of scaring you, and if he did, I'm here to stop him. Now, sit up straight and tell the jury what happened.
- MAYELLA Well - I was on the porch and - he came along and, you see, there was this old chiffarobe in the yard Papa'd brought in to chop up for kindlin'. Papa told me to do it while he was off in the woods, but I wasn't feelin' strong enough then, so he came by -
- MR. GILMER Who is 'he'?
- MAYELLA That'n yonder. Robinson.
- MR. GILMER Then what happened?
- MAYELLA I said, "Come here, boy, and bust up this chiffarobe for me, I gotta nickel for you." So he came in the yard an' I went in the house to get him the nickel. An' 'fore I knew it, he was on top of me. He got me 'round the neck.
- MR. GILMER Go on.

MAYELLA An' he took advantage of me.

MR. GILMER Did you scream and fight back?

MAYELLA Kicked and hollered loud as I could.

MR. GILMER Then what happened?

MAYELLA Don't remember too good, but Papa come in the room and was hollerin' who done it? Then I sorta fainted, an' the next thing I knew Mr. Tate was helpin' me over to the water bucket.

MR. GILMER You fought Robinson hard as you could?

MAYELLA I positively did.

MR. GILMER You are positive he took full advantage of you?

MAYELLA I already told ya. He done what he was after.

MR. GILMER That's all for the time being, but you stay there. I expect big, bad Mr. Finch has some questions to ask you.

JUDGE State will not prejudice the witness against the counsel for the defense.

ATTICUS *(standing, with a glance at Gilmer)* Miss Mayella, I won't try to scare you for a while, not yet. Let's get acquainted. How old are you?

MAYELLA Said I was nineteen, said it to the judge yonder.

ATTICUS You'll have to bear with me, Miss Mayella. I can't remember as well as I used to. I might ask you things you've already said before, but you'll give me an answer, won't you? Good.

MAYELLA Won't answer a word as long as you keep on mockin' me.

ATTICUS Ma'am?

MAYELLA Long as you call me 'ma'am' and say 'Miss Mayella.' I don't have to take his sass.

JUDGE That's just Mr. Finch's way. We've done business in this court for years and Mr. Finch is always courteous. Atticus, let's get on - and let the record show that the witness has not been sassed.

ATTICUS How many sisters and brothers have you?

MAYELLA Seb'm.

ATTICUS You the oldest?

MAYELLA Yes.

ATTICUS How long has your mother been dead?

MAYELLA Don't know. Long time.

ATTICUS How long did you go to school?

MAYELLA Two year - three year - dunno.

ATTICUS Miss Mayella, a nineteen-year-old girl must have friends. Who are your friends?

MAYELLA Friends?

ATTICUS Don't you know anyone near your age? Boys - girls - just ordinary friends?

MAYELLA You makin' fun o' me again, Mr. Finch?

ATTICUS Do you love your father, Miss Mayella?

MAYELLA Love him, whatcha mean?

ATTICUS Is he good to you, is he easy to get along with?

MAYELLA He does toll'able 'cept when -

ATTICUS Except when?

MAYELLA Except when nothin'. I said he does toll'able.

ATTICUS Except when he's drinking? (*Mayella slightly nods.*) Does he ever go after you?

MAYELLA How you mean?

ATTICUS When he's - riled, has he ever beaten you? (*Mayella hesitates.*)

JUDGE Answer the question, Miss Mayella.

MAYELLA My paw's never touched a hair o' my head -

ATTICUS We've had a good visit, Miss Mayella. Now we better get to the

case. You said you asked Tom Robinson to come chop up a - what was it?

MAYELLA

A chiffarobe, a old dresser.

ATTICUS

Was Tom Robinson well known to you?

MAYELLA

Whaddya mean?

ATTICUS

I mean did you know who he was, where he lived?

MAYELLA

I knowed who he was. He passed the house every day.

ATTICUS

Was this the first time you asked him to come inside the fence?
(Mayella jumps slightly.) Was this -

MAYELLA

Yes, it was.

ATTICUS

Didn't you ever ask him to come inside the fence before?

MAYELLA

I did not. I certainly did not.

ATTICUS

You never asked him to do odd jobs for you before?

MAYELLA

I mighta. There was several niggers around.

ATTICUS

Can you remember any other occasions?

MAYELLA

No.

ATTICUS

All right, now to what happened. You said Tom Robinson choked you - is that right?

MAYELLA

Yes.

ATTICUS

You said - "he got me around the neck and took advantage of me" is that right?

MAYELLA

That's what I said.

ATTICUS

Do you remember him beating you about the face? *(Mayella hesitates.)* You're sure enough he choked you. All this time you were fighting back, remember? You kicked and hollered? *(Mayella looks around nervously.)* It's an easy question, Miss Mayella, so I'll try again. Do you remember him beating you about the -

MAYELLA

No I don't recollect if he hit me, I mean, yes, I do, he hit me.

ATTICUS Was your last sentence your answer?

MAYELLA Yes, he hit - I just don't remember - it all happened so quick!

JUDGE Don't you cry, young woman.

ATTICUS Let her cry, if she wants to Judge. We've got all the time in the world.

MAYELLA Get me up here an' mock me will you? I'll answer any questions you got.

ATTICUS That's fine. There's only a few more. Will you identify the man who attacked you?

MAYELLA I will. That's him yonder.

ATTICUS Tom, stand up. Let Miss Mayella have a good look at you. Is this the man, Miss Mayella? *(Tom stands.)*

MAYELLA It is.

~~*(Atticus goes to the table and picks up a water glass.)*~~

~~ATTICUS Tom, will you please catch this? *(Atticus throws the glass and Tom catches it.)* Thank you. *(He walks to Tom and takes the glass.)* Now then, this time, will you please catch it with your left hand?~~

~~TOM I can't sir.~~

~~ATTICUS Why can't you?~~

~~TOM I can't use my left hand at all. I got it caught in a cotton gin when I was twelve years old. All my muscles were tore loose.~~

~~ATTICUS Miss Mayella, is this the man who raped you?~~

~~MAYELLA It most certainly is.~~

~~ATTICUS How?~~

~~MAYELLA I don't know how, but he did. I said it all happened so fast I -~~

~~ATTICUS Miss Mayella, you've testified the defendant choked and beat you. You didn't say he sneaked up behind you and knocked you cold. Do you wish to reconsider any of your testimony?~~

~~MAYELLA You want me to say something that didn't happen?~~