

~~(Ewell falls back in pain releasing Jem. Atticus pull Scout back to his side.)~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~That'll do, Scout.~~

~~SCOUT~~

~~Ain't nobody gonna do Jem that way.~~

~~BOB EWELL~~

~~(now furious) Goddam it, get 'em outa here!~~

~~CUNNINGHAM~~

~~All right, Mr. Finch, get 'em outa here. You got fifteen seconds to get 'em outa here. (The crowd is stirring. Scout is looking up at the men.)~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~Please, Jem, take them and go.~~

~~JEM~~

~~Will you be coming with us?~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~Son, I'm asking -~~

~~JEM~~

~~Then, no, sir. I won't go.~~

~~MOB MEMBER~~

~~Get 'em outa the way!~~

~~CUNNINGHAM~~

~~It's late, Mr. Finch, we're tired and we're not waiting any longer.~~

~~SCOUT~~

~~(finally recognizing the man who's speaking) Mr. Cunningham? (He does not reply.)~~

~~BOB EWELL~~

~~(moving toward Atticus) Time's up, Finch!~~

~~SCOUT~~

~~(trying again, louder) Hey, Mr. Cunningham. (The crowd grows silent. Ewell stops since no one else is moving.) How's your entailment gettin' along? (Still no reply.) Don't you remember me, Mr. Cunningham? I'm Jean Louise Finch. You brought us some hickory nuts one time, remember? (Cunningham clears his throat and looks away.) I go to school with Walter. He's your boy, ain't he? Ain't he sir? (Cunningham gives a small nod.) He's in my grade and he does right well. He's a good boy. Maybe he told you about me. Tell him "hey" for me, won't you. (Cunningham remains silent. Scout tries harder to break through the baffling lack of response.) You know something, Mr. Cunningham, entailments are bad. Entailments...~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~(quietly) Scout...~~

~~SCOUT~~

~~Well, Atticus, I was just sayin' to Mr. Cunningham that entailments are bad an' all that, but you said not to worry, it takes a long time~~

sometimes...and that you all'd ride it out together... *(Scout comes to a stop, looking at the silent men.)* What's the matter? I sure meant no harm, Mr. Cunningham.

CUNNINGHAM *(after an awkward silence)* No harm taken, little lady. I'll tell Walter you said "hey". *(He turns to the crowd.)* Let's clear outa here.

~~BOB EWELL~~ ~~Cunningham...~~

~~CUNNINGHAM~~ ~~Let's go boys.~~

~~*(The men turn and straggle off to their cars. Doors slam, engines start and the cars drive off. Scout, Jem and Dill watch them leave. Atticus turns away, takes out a handkerchief and wipes his face. Scout turns to him.)*~~

~~SCOUT~~ ~~Can we go home now? *(Atticus nods. Tom Robinson calls out softly from the jail.)*~~

~~TOM~~ ~~*(off)* Mr. Finch...they gone?~~

~~ATTICUS~~ ~~They've gone. Get some sleep, Tom. They won't bother you any more.~~

~~*(Atticus picks up his newspaper and begins folding the chair. Dill approaches him with new respect.)*~~

~~DILL~~ ~~Can I carry that for you, Mr. Finch?~~

~~ATTICUS~~ ~~Why, thank you son.~~

~~*(Atticus hands Dill the chair and begins to walk home with the children, Atticus and Jem in front, Scout and Dill following. Atticus reaches out and massages Jem's hair. Jean Louise emerges from the shadows falling in step behind them, only to stop center stage to watch them go.)*~~

END ACT I