

ATTICUS                    ~~One.~~

JUDGE                    ~~Well, call him.~~

ATTICUS                    I call Tom Robinson.

*(Tom walks to the witness stand and tries to put his crippled left hand on the bible. It slips off.)*

TOM                        Sorry sir.

JUDGE                    That's all right Tom. *(Tom places his right hand on the bible.)* Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

TOM                        I swear.

ATTICUS                    You're Tom Robinson, twenty-five years of age, married with three children, and you've been in trouble with the law once before. Disorderly conduct. What did that consist of?

TOM                        Got in a fight with another man. He tried to cut me. But it wasn't much.

ATTICUS                    You were both convicted?

TOM                        I had to serve 'cause I couldn't pay the fine. The other fellow paid his'n.

ATTICUS                    Were you acquainted with Mayella Violet Ewell?

TOM                        Yes, sir. I had to pass the Ewell place goin' to and from the field every day.

ATTICUS                    Is there any other way to go?

TOM                        No, sir, none's I know of.

ATTICUS                    Tom, did she ever speak to you?

TOM                        Why, yes, sir, I'd tip m'hat when I'd go by and one day she asked me to come inside the fence and bust up a chiffarobe.

ATTICUS                    When did she ask you to chop up the - the chiffarobe?

TOM                        Mr. Finch, it was way last fall. After I broke it up she said, 'I reckon I'll hafta give you a nickel, won't I? an' I said, "No ma'am, there ain't no charge.' Then I went home. That was almost a year

ago.

- ATTICUS Did you ever go on the place again?
- TOM Yes, sir.
- ATTICUS When?
- TOM I went lots of times.
- ATTICUS Under what circumstances? Why did you go inside the fence lots of times?
- TOM She'd call me in. Seemed like every time I passed by yonder, she'd have somethin' for me to do - choppin' kindlin', totin' water for her.
- ATTICUS Were you paid for your services?
- TOM No, sir, not after she offered me the nickel for the first time. but I was glad to do it. Mr. Ewell didn't seem to help her none, and neither did the chillun, and I knowed she didn't have no nickels to spare.
- ATTICUS Where were the other children?
- TOM They were always around, all over the place.
- ATTICUS Would Miss Mayella talk to you?
- TOM Yes, sir, she talked to me.
- ATTICUS Did you ever - at any time - go on the Ewell property - did you ever set foot on the Ewell property without an express invitation from one of them?
- TOM No, sir, Mr. Finch, I never did. I wouldn't do that sir.
- ATTICUS Tom what happened to you on the evening of May twenty-first?
- TOM Mr. Finch, I was goin' home as usual that evenin', and when I passed the Ewell place, Miss Mayella were on the porch, like she said she were. She called to me to come there and help her for a minute. Well, I went inside the fence an' looked for some kindlin' to work on, but I didn't see none, and she says, "Naw, I got somethin' for you to do in the house. Th' old door's off its hinges." I said, "You got a screwdriver, Miss Mayella?" She said she had. Well, I went in an' looked at the door. I said, Miss Mayella, this door looks alright. Those hinges was all right. Then she shut the door. Mr.

Finch, I was wonderin' why it was so quiet like, 'n' it come to me that there weren't a chile on the place, not one of 'em, an' I said, "Miss Mayella, where the chillun?"

- ATTICUS                    Go on, Tom.
- TOM                        I say where the chillun, an' she says - she was laughin' sort of - she says they all gone to town to get ice creams. She says, "Took me a slap year to save seb'm nickels, but I done it. They all gone to town."
- ATTICUS                    Tom, what did you say then?
- TOM                        I said somethin' like, "Why, Miss Mayella, that's right smart o' you to treat 'em." An' she said, "You think so?" I don't think she understood what I was thinkin' - I meant it was smart of her to save like that, an' nice of her to treat 'em.
- ATTICUS                    I understand. Go on.
- TOM                        I said I best be goin'. I couldn't do nothin' for her, an' she says oh yes I could, an' I ask her what, an' she says to just step on that chair yonder an' git that box down from on top of the chiffarobe.
- ATTICUS                    Not the same one you busted up?
- TOM                        *(smiling)* No, sir, another one. Most as tall as the room. So I done what she told me, an' I was just reachin' when she - grabbed me round the legs, Mr. Finch. She scared me so bad I hopped down an' turned the chair over - that was the only thing, only furniture 'sturbed in the room, Mr. Finch, when I left it. I swear 'fore God.
- ATTICUS                    What happened after that? *(Tom hesitates.)* Tom, you've sworn to tell the whole truth.
- JUDGE                     Answer the question.
- TOM                        When I got down offa the chair, she sorta - jumped at me.
- ATTICUS                    Jumped? Violently?
- TOM                        No, sir, she - she hugged me. She hugged me. She hugged me round the waist.
- ATTICUS                    Tom - what did she do then?
- TOM                        She reached up and kissed me 'side of th' face. She says she never kissed a grown man before and she might as well start with a

nigger. She says what her papa do to her don't count. She say, 'Kiss me back, nigger.' I say, "Miss Mayella, lemme outa here," an' I tried to run, but she got her back to the door an' I say 'lemme pass,' but just when I say it, Mr. Ewell yonder hollered through th' window.

ATTICUS                   What did he say?

TOM                        Somethin' not fittin' to say...

ATTICUS                   Tom...

TOM                        ...not fittin' for these folks 'n' chillun to hear.

ATTICUS                   Tom you must tell the jury what he said.

TOM                        He says, "You goddamn whore, I'll kill ya!"

ATTICUS                   Then what happened?

TOM                        I was runnin' so fast, Mr. Finch, I don't know what happened.

ATTICUS                   Tom, did you rape Mayella Ewell?

TOM                        I did not, sir.

ATTICUS                   Did you harm her in any way?

TOM                        I did not.

ATTICUS                   Did you resist her advances?

TOM                        Mr. Finch, I tried to 'thout bein' ugly to her. I didn't want to be ugly. I didn't wanta push her or nothin'.

ATTICUS                   Let's go back to Mr. Ewell. Who was he talking to?

TOM                        He were talkin' and lookin' at Miss Mayella.

ATTICUS                   Then you ran.

TOM                        I sure did.

ATTICUS                   Why did you run?

TOM                        I was scared, sir.

ATTICUS                   Why were you scared?

TOM Mr. Finch, if you was a colored man like me, you'd be scared too.

*(Atticus goes back to his table, nodding to Mr. Gilmer as he passes. Gilmer rises and goes to Tom.)*

MR. GILMER You were given arrested for disorderly conduct, Robinson?

TOM Yes, suh.

MR. GILMER What'd the nigger look like when you got through with him?

TOM He beat me, Mr. Gilmer.

MR. GILMER Yes, but you were convicted, weren't you?

ATTICUS It was a misdemeanor and it's in the record, Judge.

JUDGE Witness'll answer though.

TOM Yes, sir. I got thirty days.

MR. GILMER You're pretty good at busting up chiffarobes and kindling with one hand aren't you?

TOM Yes, sir. I reckon so.

MR. GILMER Strong enough to choke the breath out of a woman.

TOM I never done that, sir.

MR. GILMER But you're strong enough?

TOM I reckon so, sir.

MR. GILMER Had your eye on her for a long time, hadn't you boy?

TOM No, sir. I never looked at her.

MR. GILMER Then you were mighty polite to do all that chopping and hauling for her, weren't you boy?

TOM I was just tryin' to help out, sir.

MR. GILMER That was mighty generous of you. Why were you so anxious to do that woman's chores?

TOM Looked like she didn't have nobody to help her.

MR. GILMER With Mr. Ewell and seven children on the place, boy?

TOM Well, I says it looked like they never help her none.

MR. GILMER You did all this chopping and work for sheer goodness boy?

TOM Just tried to help her.

MR. GILMER You're a mighty good fellow, it seems - did all this for not one penny.

TOM She seemed to try more'n the rest of 'em. I felt right sorry for her.

MR. GILMER You felt sorry for her! *You felt sorry for her? (turning to the jury)* He felt sorry for her. *(turning back to Tom)* Now you went by the house as usual last May twenty-first and she asked you to come in and bust up the chiffarobe?

TOM No, sir.

MR. GILMER Do you deny you went by the house?

TOM No, sir.

MR. GILMER She says she asked you to bust up the chiffarobe. Is that right?

TOM No, sir, it ain't.

MR. GILMER You say she's lying, boy?

TOM I don't say she's lying, Mr. Gilmer. I say she's mistaken in her mind.

MR. GILMER Tell me boy. Why did you run away?

TOM I was scared, sir.

MR. GILMER If you had a clear conscience, boy, why were you scared?

TOM Like I says before, it weren't safe for any colored man to be in a -- fix like that.

MR. GILMER But you weren't in a fix. You just testified you were resisting her advances. Were you scared she might hurt you?

TOM No, sir. I was scared I'd be in court, just like I am now.

MR. GILMER Scared you'd have to face up to what you did?

TOM                    ~~No, sir. Scared I'd have to face up to what I didn't do.~~

MR. GILMER         ~~You bein' impudent to me, boy?~~

TOM                    ~~I didn't go to be.~~

~~(Dill stands up in the balcony and runs out.)~~

JEAN LOUISE       ~~I didn't hear the end of Mr. Gilmer's cross-examination because Dill suddenly left the balcony.~~

REV. SYKES         ~~(to Scout) You'd better go.~~

JEAN LOUISE       ~~Dill had seemed to be all right that day, nothing wrong with him.~~

MR. GILMER         ~~No more questions.~~

JUDGE                ~~You can step down, Mr. Robinson.~~

~~(As Tom slowly rises and goes back to his place next to Atticus, the lights change. Dill runs on stage into a pool of light representing a courthouse hallway. Scout catches up with him.)~~

SCOUT                ~~'smatter with you?~~

DILL                  ~~I'm okay.~~

SCOUT                ~~The heat got you? Ain't you feeling good?~~

DILL                  ~~Said I was okay.~~

SCOUT                ~~Then why'd you run out?~~

DILL                  ~~It's just him I couldn't stand.~~

SCOUT                ~~Who?~~

DILL                  ~~That old Mr. Gilmer doin' Tom thataway, talking so hateful to him.~~

SCOUT                ~~Dill, that's just his job. He's supposed to act that way, he was just cross-~~

DILL                  ~~I know all that, Scout. It was just the way he said it made me sick, plain sick.~~

SCOUT                ~~That's just Mr. Gilmer's way, Dill, he does 'em all that way. They all do, most lawyers, I mean.~~