

June 19, 1938



Right:
Dolphus Raymond,
the author of this
opinion piece, at the
trial of Mr. Tom
Robinson.
Below:
Tom Robinson

Maycomb: Trapped in the Past

By Dolphus Raymond



Hello Ladies and Gentlemen of Maycomb! It is I, Mr. Dolphus Raymond. On behalf of myself, I would like to talk about the recent events revolving around the trial and MURDER of Mr. Tom Robinson. As you all probably know, he was a negro man, one of many, a hard worker and, above all, a citizen of Maycomb. He was accused wrongfully of raping little Miss Mayella Ewell, and the jury should have seen it.

The trial, though obviously fabricated, resulted in the condemning of poor old Tom. After that, to add fatality to injury, old Tom attempted to flee while awaiting a state trial. He didn't make it half past the fence when he was gunned down by you overzealous young racists. He was pumped with holes, seventeen of them! But, you know whose fault it was? You, Maycomb, who sent him to the prison. If you folks listen to the facts, instead of letting your glasses fill up with unjust fog, then would he even be in this situation?

Think about it. The people you convicted him against were the Ewells. The Ewells! When do you ever listen to those fools? Only when your foolish white pride on the line. When it comes to whiskey, that rat Bob Ewell drinks more than I ever will. He doesn't give a darn about how his kids are treated! He doesn't even send his kids to school. Now, I don't fancy the term but, Bob Ewell is genuine white trash! He is much more likely to beat his children than any potential rapist ever is!

This makes you think about Ewells daughter Mayella, ain't she a piece of work... She comes up to the stand, all nervous and all, then she starts talking. She tells her side of the story, then when Atticus gets

up to start asking her questions, she goes and changes her mind. That one better realize she can't go and change the rules like that! And that jury? They just went right along with it. You all must be as crazy as I am!

Now that we're talking about evidence, do you folks reading this actually see any? Lets think about that beating. Miss Mayella was hit on her left side, ok. This means that she was hit with a right hand. Now, wasn't Tom's right hand damaged? If you think about it, the only other person who had the chance to hit her was a man who admits to being at the scene of the crime, openly cares extremely little for his children, and spends all his benefits on whiskey, leaving him in a drunken stupor. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am talking about Mr. Ewell. He is the only other one who could possibly hurt Mayella and, I must say, more evidence points to him than to poor Tom.

Only two men stood up for poor Tom. His employer, Mr. Link Deas, and old Atticus Finch. They are white men, yet none of you could get over your rascism and face the facts, or go against the rest of your community for the sake of justice!

You had a chance to save Tom.

However, those jury members still ended up accusing Tom. What would cause them to make that decision over no substantial evidence? The only conclusion I can draw is that we have fallen to racism. If we work on it, we may be able to change Maycomb for the better, but we will have to rely on you, the people of Maycomb.