

# The Maycomb County Liberal Citizens' Gazette

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THE MAYCOMB COUNTY  
LIBERAL CITIZENS' GAZETTE

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*A Shot At Nothing: The Tom Robinson Trial*

*By Maudie Atkinson*

Maycomb is shaken by a controversial trial that has turned the town upside down. We see the aftermath of this trial and how it divided the citizens of Maycomb. This trial taught us how one factor can seal the fate of one man.

Tom Robinson was a black man. A young, strong, decent black man. He worked for Mr. Link Deas and passed the Ewell house everyday to and from work. Eventually, he became acquainted with 19-year-old Mayella Ewell. Little did he know, helping her with her chores and being her friend wouldn't work out for him.

Mr. Atticus Finch, a distinguishable Maycomb lawyer, was appointed to defend Tom Robinson. Unlike most lawyers, Atticus tried his best to keep justice and defend Tom even though he was a black man. This exhibits extreme courage and staying true to what he believes. This is a



*Rhonus tempor placera.*

*Rhonus tempor placera.*

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black man versing the daughter of one of the town's most disrespected men.

Although Mayella Ewell wasn't as despicable as her father, she still did not have respect from the people of Maycomb. On the other hand, Tom worked for Link Deas and didn't cause trouble. He worked hard and provided the best for his family he could, even with his disability. he even did chores for young woman without being paid. So, the clear choice would be Tom is innocent, right?

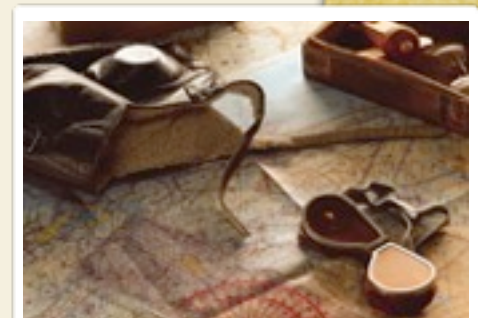
Wrong. Tom is a black man and Mayella is a white woman. People assume Tom would do something such as rape to a young woman simply based upon his race. Sure, Tom had run into trouble in the past, but he's not perfect and neither is Mayella. Tom spent thirty days in jail for fighting, but he did his time and didn't do anything again. He simply spent the time in jail because he didn't have the money to pay the fine like the other man involved in the fight. Other than that one fight, Tom has been clean.

Bob Ewell, however isn't like that. He drinks away welfare

checks and is drunk all the time, never caring for his children. His children are uneducated because they never go to school. The children have to hunt illegally out of season for food so they don't starve. And he abuses them. Mr. Ewell is not family man like Tom Robinson is. Tom Robinson could never dream of doing something like this to his wife and children.

Provided background information on both the plaintiff and the defendant, the most obvious choice for this would be to acquit the defendant. The defendant has a family and wife. He works hard to provide and doesn't complain about his disability. He can work, so he works. The people of Maycomb see things in black and white, and that is it. People don't see points and stories in color. Simple cases tend to be the most difficult to solve in the courtroom. What the people of Maycomb didn't see is that they might actually fall to Tom's side.

Never in their wildest dreams would the citizens of



*Rhonus tempor placerat.*



*Maecenas pulvinar sagittis enim.*



*Rhonus tempor placerat.*

Maycomb fall to the side of a black man, but this became a reality. Of course, they chose to convict Mr. Robinson, simply for their image. And we expected this. We can't seem to think people should choose what is right because its right. They would have to live with the fact they broke time-honored code that white was supreme to black. Just like Mayella would have to live with the fact that she tempted a black man and that's why she convicted him. Tom Robinson never stood a chance and Atticus Finch changed that.