

# The Death of a Songbird

By Mr. Braxton Underwood



(From left to right) Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson

Photo From: <http://tinyurl.com/co4hesa>

In a recent trial in Maycomb County Tom Robinson, a Negro, was tried and found guilty of raping Mayella Ewell. Atticus Finch, lawyer of Tom Robinson, did an amazing job for the circumstances given. He made the prosecution look like a fool, and presented evidence that showed that Tom could not have possibly raped Mayella. The jury convicted Tom because of the color of his skin and had made up their minds before the trial had started. Even though the odds were stacked against him, Mr. Finch

kept the jury out for 3 and a half hours. I do have a certain dislike for Negroes but even I could see that Tom was innocent.

Evidence was produced by Mr. Heck Tate that Miss Mayella right eye was black and bruised. This means that the person who beat her most likely used their left hand. Tom was a cripple. His left hand was completely unusable on account of it being caught in Mr. Link Deas cotton gin when he was a boy. This would make it extremely hard for Tom

to give Mayella a *right* black eye. But, her father, Bob Ewell, is left handed. This was shown when Mr. Finch asked him to write his name on a piece of paper. This evidence would suggest that Mr. Ewell was the one who beat Mayella after seeing her kiss Tom.

The jury was very unfair because they had probably come to the trial knowing that they wanted to convict whatever Negro was on trial. The jury saw that the evidence was not there and they could see that Tom was innocent, but it was hard for them to change their minds. They were so stuck on the idea that all Negroes are bad that they failed to see the truth. After Mr. Finch did such a good job defending Tom, the jury had to actually think about the case and the decision was not as easy as before. They knew that Tom was innocent but they also knew that if they came back with such a verdict they would be shunned by the rest of the county and most people would not like the decision made. That is what makes Atticus Finch

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Continued on Next page...

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Mayella Ewell

*Photo from:* <http://tinyurl.com/csmpx4z>



Mr. Heck Tate

*Photo from:* <http://tinyurl.com/c2ua5a8>