

MAYELLA. No.

ATTICUS (firmer). All right, now to what happened. You said Tom Robinson got you around the neck -- is that right?

MAYELLA. Yes.

ATTICUS. You say -- "he caught me and choked me and took advantage of me" -- is that right?

MAYELLA. That's what I said.

ATTICUS. Do you remember him beating you about the face? (She hesitates.) You're sure enough he choked you. All this time you were fighting back, remember? You kicked and hollered. Do you remember him beating you about the face? (She's looking about, uncertain how to reply.) It's an easy question, Miss Mayella, so I'll try again. Do you remember him beating you about the face?

MAYELLA. No, I don't recollect if he hit me. I mean, yes, I do, he hit me.

ATTICUS. Was your last sentence your answer?

MAYELLA. Yes, he hit -- I just don't remember -- it all happened so quick!

JUDGE TAYLOR. Don't you cry, young woman.

ATTICUS. Let her cry if she wants to, Judge. We've got all the time in the world.

MAYELLA (sniffing wrathfully). Get me up here an' mock me, will you? I'll answer any questions you got.

ATTICUS. That's fine. There's only a few more. Will you identify the man who attacked you?

MAYELLA. I will. That's him right yonder.

ATTICUS. Tom, stand up. Let Miss Mayella have a good look at you. Is this the man, Miss Mayella? (TOM stands. He is a powerful young man, but his left hand is curled up and held to his chest.)

JEM (hushed). Scout -- Reverend -- his left hand! He's crippled!

REVEREND SYKES (whispering). Caught in a cotton gin when he was a boy -- like to bled to death.

Tore all the muscles loose.

ATTICUS. Is this the man who attacked you?

MAYELLA. It most certainly is.

ATTICUS (hard). How?

MAYELLA (raging). I don't know how, but he did. I said it all happened so fast I --

ATTICUS. Let's consider this calmly.

MR. GILMER. Objection. He's browbeating the witness.

JUDGE TAYLOR. Oh, sit down, Horace.

ATTICUS. Miss Mayella, you've testified the defendant choked and beat you. You didn't say he sneaked up behind you and knocked you cold. Do you wish to reconsider any of your testimony?

MAYELLA. You want me to say something that didn't happen?

ATTICUS. No, ma'am, I want you to say something that did happen.

MAYELLA. I already told ya.

ATTICUS. He hit you? He blacked your left eye with his right fist?

MAYELLA (seeing the point). I ducked and it -- it glanced. That's what it did. I ducked and it glanced off.

ATTICUS. You're a strong girl. Why didn't you run?

MAYELLA. Tried to --

ATTICUS. And you were screaming all the time?

MAYELLA. I certainly was.

ATTICUS. Why didn't the other children hear you? Where were they? (No answer.) Why didn't your screams make them come running? (No answer.) Or didn't you scream until you saw your father in the window? You didn't scream till then, did you? (No answer.) Did you scream at your father instead of Tom Robinson? Is that it? (No answer.) Who beat you up? Tom Robinson or your father? (No answer.) Miss Mayella -- what did your father really see in that window? (She covers her mouth with her hands.) Why don't