

why you're not putting two and two together.
ATTICUS (trying to understand). If it wasn't
Jem——

HECK. Of course it wasn't. His arm was broken.
ATTICUS (looking toward porch). Then it was —
it would have to be——

HECK (emphatically). Put that thought outa your
mind, Mr. Finch. I already told you what
happened.

(SCOUT is coming back onto the porch.)

ATTICUS. But if it was——

HECK. This isn't your decision, Mr. Finch, it's
all mine. It's my decision, and my responsibil-
ity. And there's not much you can do about it.

ATTICUS. What are you saying, Heck?

HECK. I'm saying there's a black man dead for
no reason, and the white man responsible for it
is dead. So let the dead bury the dead, this
time, Mr. Finch.

ATTICUS. What about——

HECK. I never heard tell it's against the law for
a citizen to do his utmost to prevent a crime from
being committed, which is exactly what Boo Rad-
ley did. Now maybe you'll say it's my duty to
tell the town all about it and not hush it up.
Know what'd happen then? All the ladies in
Maycomb, including my wife, would be knocking
on his door bringing angel food cakes. To my
way of thinking, dragging him with his shy ways
into the limelight — that's a sin. (He starts
L, then pauses.) I may not be much, Mr. Finch,
but I'm still sheriff of Maycomb County, and Bob
Ewell fell on his knife. (Going.) Good night,
sir. (ATTICUS turns and is surprised to see
SCOUT.)

ATTICUS. Scout.

SCOUT. Yes, Atticus?

ATTICUS. Mr. Ewell fell on his knife. Can you

possibly understand?

SCOUT. Sir — it looks to me — what Heck
said——

(But she's interrupted by BOO, who has come back
onto the porch.)

BOO. Jean Louise?

SCOUT. Yes, Mr. Boo?

BOO. Will you take me home? (She nods, offers
her arm, and they start for the Radley house.
It's getting much brighter.)

ATTICUS (after them). Arthur—— (They pause.)
Thank you for my children, Arthur. (Then SCOUT
and BOO continue toward the Radley house.)

JEAN (quietly). I remember — the moon had come
out — the storm had passed over — and I was
being escorted by Boo Radley. (They've gone
up onto the Radley porch. BOO nods, and goes
inside.) He went inside and I never saw him
again. But when I turned around, standing on
Boo's porch — I saw something else. (SCOUT
pauses there, looking off.) A young boy and
girl shouting, running to meet their father coming
home, the boy going after Mrs. Dubose's cam-
ellias, the children excited about surprises found
in the knothole — and then a stormy night, and
those children need him! (JEAN turns toward her
father who is waiting for SCOUT.) Atticus — I
was already beginning to stand in other people's
shoes! The thing you wanted, Atticus — (He
doesn't hear. SCOUT is running back to him
ruefully.) But — did you ever know?

SCOUT (running up). Atticus — what Heck Tate
said about Boo — about dragging him into the
limelight — Heck was right.

ATTICUS. What do you mean?

SCOUT. I mean, it'd be sort of like shooting a
mockingbird, wouldn't it?

ATTICUS (quietly happy). Yes — yes, it would.