

he got something. I was sitting in court waiting, and as I waited, I thought — Atticus Finch won't win, he can't win, but he's the only man in these parts who can keep a jury out so long in a case like this. And I thought to myself, take note of this time and this place. It's 1935 and it's Maycomb, Alabama, and we're making a step — it's just a baby-step, but it's a step. (They are looking at her thinking about what she's just said. She takes a breath and collects herself.) I'm going into my kitchen now, and I'm going to make a cake. And I'd be pleased if you'd all come over later and have some of my cake.

SCOUT (subdued). Yes, Miss Maudie.

JEM. Thank you.

MISS MAUDIE. Mister Dill?

DILL (half jumping). Yes — I'll come. Thank you. (With this MISS MAUDIE goes up and enters her house.) I better stop over to Aunt Rachel. (Pauses. Considering.) They trust him to do right. (But this is too much for right now. He'll think about it some other time. Suddenly brightening.) I'll be back — and then we'll all have cake. (With this, DILL runs off L. SCOUT takes Jem's hand and they go into the house.)

(As SCOUT and JEM are going, JEAN comes back on DR.)

JEAN. Tom Robinson was taken to the Enfield Prison Farm, about seventy miles away. Atticus thought Tom had a good chance for a new trial, but Tom just couldn't hope any more. His old employer made a job for Helen so she could support the children, but she had to pass the Ewell place and they shouted and chucked things at her. She was terrified till Heck Tate went out and made them desist. Then Ewell's threats got

watching, disturbed by their unhappiness.)
MISS MAUDIE. Don't pay attention to what she says about Atticus.

JEM. What do you mean?

MISS MAUDIE. I simply would like you to know that there are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us. Your father's one of them.

JEM. Oh — well —

MISS MAUDIE. Don't you "oh well" me, sir. You're just not old enough to appreciate what I said.

JEM (troubled). I always thought Maycomb folks were the best folks in the world.

MISS MAUDIE. We're the safest folks in the world. We're so rarely called on to be Christians, but when we are, we've got men like Atticus to go for us.

JEM. Who feels that way 'sides you?

MISS MAUDIE. The handful of people in this town who say that fair play isn't marked "White Only."

JEM (must know). But who? Who did one thing to help Tom Robinson?

MISS MAUDIE. His friends, for one thing, and people like us. We exist, too. People like Judge Taylor. People like Heck Tate. Start using your head, Jem. Did it ever strike you that Judge Taylor naming Atticus to defend Tom was no accident? That Judge Taylor might have had his reasons?

SCOUT. S'right, Jem. Usually the court appoints some new lawyer — one who is just startin'.

MISS MAUDIE. You're beginning to realize! A little more to it than you thought! (Pressing.) Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we're paying your father the highest tribute we can pay a man. We trust him to do right.

SCOUT. Then why did he get beat?

MISS MAUDIE (snorting). Miss Stephanie talks nonsense. Maybe he didn't get an acquittal, but