TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

by

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Final Screenplay
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FADE IN:

EXT. MAYCOMB, ALABAMA - DAYBREAK

We are looking down on the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama. It is just before dawn and in the half light, we can see cotton farms, pine woods, the hills surrounding Maycomb, and the Courthouse Square of Maycomb itself. The CAMERA STARTS TO SLOWLY MOVE down to the Square. As we begin to see the stores and the offices which comprise the town, a young woman's voice is heard OFF CAMERA:

JEAN LOUISE (VOICE OVER)
In 1932 this was the world I knew.
It wasn’t a very big world, but neither was I.
(a beat)
I was six years old.

THE CAMERA STARTS TO SLOWLY MOVE DOWN the main residential street leading away from the Square.

JEAN LOUISE (VOICE OVER)
They tell me Maycomb was a tried old town then, that people moved slowly. There was no hurry for there was no-where to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with.

During this THE CAMERA HAS COME TO REST ON the Finch house and yard. The Finch house is a small frame house, built high off the ground and with a porch in the manner of Southern cottages of its day. The yard is a large one, filled with oaks, and it all has an air of mystery about it in the early morning light.

JEAN LOUISE (VOICE OVER)
What I remember was that I was to begin school in two weeks, for the first time. What I didn’t know was that my whole world was soon to change.

WALTER CUNNINGHAM, a thin, raw-boned farmer in his late fifties, comes into view. He is carrying a crocker sack full of hickory nuts. He passes under the oak tree at the side of the house as a young girl, six, dressed in blue jeans, drops from one of its branches to the ground. She brushes herself off and goes toward Mr. Cunningham.
SCOUT
Why, good morning, Mr. Cunningham.
My daddy is getting dressed.
Would you like me to call him?

CUNNINGHAM
No, ma’am. I wouldn’t care to bother --

SCOUT
(eagerly)
Why, it’s no bother, Mr. Cunningham. He’ll be happy to see you.

(she calls into bedroom)
Atticus. Atticus.

MED. SHOT - WALTER CUNNINGHAM
He seems ill at ease and embarrassed. ATTICUS, Scout’s father, comes OUT of the kitchen door.

SCOUT
Her’s Mr. Cunningham.

ATTICUS
Good morning, Walter.

CUNNINGHAM
Good morning, Mr. Finch. I didn’t want to bother you none. I brought these here as part of my entailment.

ATTICUS
Well, I thank you. The collards we had last week were delicious.

Atticus picks up the sack. These are hickory nuts.

ATTICUS
And these hickory nuts look mighty nice.

Mr. Cunningham mutters something and starts on.

CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS, SCOUT

ATTICUS
Scout, I think next time Mr. Cunningham comes, you’d better not call me.
Well, I thought you’d want to thank him.

The ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus starts for the front yard to get the morning paper, Scout after him.

Well, I do. But I think it embarrasses him to be thanked.

Why does he bring you all this stuff?

(explaining patiently)
He’s paying me for some legal work I did for him.

(curious)
Why does he pay you like that?

Because that’s the only way he can. He has no money.

Is he poor?

Atticus picks up the paper and opens it.

Yes.

Are we poor?

We are, indeed.

Are we as poor as the Cunninghams?

Not exactly. The Cunninghams are country folks, farmers, and the crash hit them the hardest.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Calpurnia, in her late fifties at the screen door, calling:

Breakfast, Scout. Call your brother.
Calpurnia GOES back INSIDE.

SCOUT
(matter of factly)
Atticus, Jem is up in that tree yonder.
(points toward the oak)
He says he won’t come down until you agree to play football for the Methodists.

Atticus walks toward the tree. In a tree-house, high in the tree, sits JEM. He is 10, with a serious, manly little face. Presently, he is scowling.

ATTICUS
(very calmly)
Son, why don’t you come on down and have your breakfast now. Calpurnia has a good one. Hot biscuits, and...

JEM
No, sir. Not until you agree to play football for the Methodists.

ATTICUS
(wryly)
Son, I can’t do that. I explained to you I’m too old to get out there. After all, I’m the only father you have and you wouldn’t want me to go out there and get my head knocked off, would you?

JEM
(interrupting with great indignation)
Can you imagine me telling them when they ask me where my Papa is that he’s too old to be here playing football? I’m not going to come down.

ATTICUS
Suit yourself.

Atticus starts for the kitchen door. Scout has been watching them. She follows her father into the kitchen.
INT. KITCHEN

It is a large, old-fashioned country kitchen. This is Calpurnia’s domain, and she runs it with absolute authority. There is a large kitchen range, a sink, a table and chairs for breakfast, and more informal family meals. Since Scout’s and Jem’s mother is dead, while Atticus is at work, Calpurnia has charge of the children, and the kitchen has become a retreat and headquarters for them.

Atticus and Scout come into the kitchen.

SCOUT
Poor thing. Maybe I’d better take him a little something up there.

CALPURNIA
(sternly)
You tend to your own marbles.

Scout glumly begins to eat her breakfast. Atticus picks up the paper to read.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TREE HOUSE - MED. SHOT

Jem is eating a biscuit. Scout comes climbing up the tree. She holds in one hand a napkin with some bacon. She hands it up to him, and starts down again. He leans over the edge of the tree house, calling down to her.

JEM
Scout, bring me a doughnut.

SCOUT
All right.

She continues on down.

JEM
And some football magazines.

SCOUT
All right.

She continues on.

JEM
And some blankets.
As Scout reaches the ground and see MISS MAUDIE ATKINSON across the street in her yard, working on her flowers. She is a strong, warm-hearted woman, keenly interested in Atticus and the children

SCOUT
(yelling over)
Good morning, Miss Maudie--

MAUDIE
What’s going on over there?

SCOUT
(pausing long enough to explain)
I’m having a terrible time, Miss Maudie. I’m about to wear myself out. Jem is staying up in that tree until Atticus says he’ll play football with the Methodists.

JEM
(YELLING)
He’s too old for anything. Every time I want him to do something, he’s too old.

MAUDIE
(YELLOWING)
He can do plenty of things.

Atticus comes out of the kitchen door, dressed for work. He seems unconcerned at all the commotion.

ATTICUS
You be good, children, and mind Cal.

He starts on.

ATTICUS
Good morning, Maudie.

MAUDIE
Good morning, Atticus.

He continues on out of the yard.

JEM
(YELLING over to Maudie as his father leaves the yard)
He won’t let me have a gun.

(MORE)
JEM (CONT'D)
He’ll only play touch football with me...never tackle.

MAUDIE
(YELLING back)
He can make somebody’s will so airtight, you can’t break it. You count your blessings and stop complaining, both of you. Just thank your stars he has the sense to act his age.

She walks away.

MED. SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

SCOUT
(calling up to Jem)
Jem, he is pretty old.

JEM
 stil firm
I can’t help that.

He swings down to the lower limb in disgust and looks down into MISS STEPHANIE CRAWFORD’S collard patch next door. A boy is sitting among the collards. Sitting down he is not much higher than the collards. It is DILL. He has solemn, owlish face, a knowledge and imagination too old for his years. He looks up at Jem.

DILL
(tentatively)
Hey --

JEM
Hey, yourself.

ANGLE - DILL

DILL
I’m Charles Baker Harris. I can read

SCOUT
So what?

DILL
I thought you’d like to know I can read. You got anything needs reading? I can do it.

JEM
How old are you? Four and a half?
DILL
Going on seven.

JEM
Shoot, no wonder then. Scout yonder’s been reading since she was born and she don’t start school till next month. You look right puny for going on seven.

DILL
I’m little, but I’m old.

Dill climbs through the fence.

DILL
Folks call me Dill.

Jem climbs down the tree to get a closer look.

DILL
I’m from Meridian, Mississippi. I’m spending two weeks next door with my Aunt Stephanie. My mama worked for a photographer in Meridian. She entered my picture in a Beautiful Child Contest and won five dollars. She gave the money to me and I went to the picture show twenty times on it.

GROUP SHOT - SCOUT, DILL, JEM

SCOUT
Our mama’s dead. We got a daddy. Where’s your daddy

DILL
I haven’t got one.

SCOUT
Is he dead?

DILL
No.

SCOUT
Well, if he’s not dead, you’ve got one, haven’t you?

Dill blushes.
JEM
(he has decided to take
Dill under his wing
Hush, Scout.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT

As Calpurnia comes out the kitchen door. She walks over to them.

SCOUT
Dill, this is Calpurnia.

CALPURNIA
Please to know you, Dill.

DILL
I’m pleased to know you. My daddy owns the L and N Railroad. He’s going to let me run the engine all the way to New Orleans.

CALPURNIA
(impressed)
Is that so?

DILL
He says I can invite --

MR. RADLEY, in his seventies, a regal, austere man, walks by. Scout and Jem see him and become very subdued, as if they were afraid. Their attention leaves Dill and he senses this and looks at them to see what is happening.

JEM
There goes the meanest man that ever took a breath of life.

Calpurnia goes back into the kitchen.

CLOSE SHOT - DILL, JEM

DILL
(his curiosity aroused)
Why is he the meanest man?

JEM
Well, for one thing, he has a boy named Boo that he keeps chained to a bed in that house over yonder.
As they start to move out of the yard, Scout follows behind them. They go down the sidewalk past Miss Stephanie’s house.

**JEM**

Boo only comes out at night when we are asleep and it’s pitch dark. When you wake up at night you can hear him. He walks like this.

*(he slides his feet along the sidewalk)*

Once I heard him scratching on our screen door, but he was gone time Atticus got there.

**DILL**

Is that why my Aunt locks up so tight at night?

**JEM**

Sure.

**DILL**

Wonder what he does in there? Looks like he’d just stick his head out the door. What would you do if he stuck his head out the door now?

**SCOUT**

*(with real terror)*

I’d die... that’s what I’d do.

Wonder what he looks like?
JEM
Well, judging from his tracks, he’s about six and a half feet tall. He eats raw squirrels and all the cats he can catch. There’s a long, jagged scar running across his face. His teeth are yellow and rotten. His eyes popped. And he drools most of the time.

DILL
Aw, I don’t believe you.

ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Miss Stephanie Crawford, Dill’s aunt.

She is in her late fifties. She is a spinster and the neighbourhood gossip. She comes up behind them without them hearing her. She has habit of half shouting when she talks.

STEPHANIE
Children...

They jump and Dill looks as if he is about to faint.

DILL
(turning pale)
My Lord, Aunt Stephanie, you almost gave me a heart attack.

STEPHANIE
Dill, I don’t want yo playing around that house over there. There’s a maniac lives there and he’s dangerous.

JEM
(to Dill)
You see.
(to Stephanie)
I was just trying to warn him about Boo, and he wouldn’t believe me.

STEPHANIE
Well, you’d better believe him, Mr. Dill Harris.

JEM
Tell him about the time Boo tried to kill his papa.
STEPHANIE
Well, I was standing in my yard one day when his mama come running out and yelling, “He’s killing us all.” Turned Out Boo was sitting in the living room cutting up the paper for his scrapbook and when his daddy come by, he reached over with his scissors and stabbed him in tis leg, pulled them out, and went on back cutting the paper.

16 & 17 OMITTED

17-A ANGLE - DILL

His eyes popping with excitement.

STEPHANIE
They wanted to send Boo to the asylum, but his daddy said no. Radley was going to any asylum, so they locked him up in the basement of the Courthouse till he almost died of the damp and then his daddy brought him back home. And there he is to this day, sittin’ in there with his scissors, lord knows what he’s doin’ or thinkin’.

Maudie calls to her

MAUDIE
Hello, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
Hello, Maudie
(starts toward Miss Maudie
Now children, run over and play in your own yard.

Dill starts across the street followed by Jem and Scout. They stare at the Radley house as they GO. Suddenly Jem stops in the middle of the street, calling to the others.

JEM
Look.

He points toward the Radley house. Dill and Scout stop.
DILL

What is it?

JEM

Didn’t you see him? He was just there at the window.

He points his finger toward the Radley house, Dill and Scout look and as they do, Jem raises his hand.

JEM

And watch out- he’s liable to come running out with his scissors and stab us all.

He pretends he is stabbing them. Scout and Dill SCREAM and run OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FINCH YARD - MOVING SHOT - SCOUT, JEM, DILL

It’s almost five o’clock in the afternoon. They are playing Follow-the-Leader. Jem is leading. He, at this moment, is turning hand-springs and Scout is following. Dill is half-attempting to follow but is not able to execute them. Jem then runs for the tree house, climbs up, stand for a beat and starts down as Scout starts to tackle the tree. Jem runs for the front sidewalk, Scout behind him, Dill behind her, having avoided climbing the tree. In the distance, we HEAR the town clock strike five.

JEM

It’s five o’clock.

He starts to run out of the yard.

DILL

Where you going?

SCOUT

Time to meet Atticus.

She runs after Jem; Dill follows after her.

DILL

Why do you call your daddy Atticus?

SCOUT

‘Cause Jem does.

DILL

Why does he?
I don’t know. He just started to when he first began talking.

They run up the street, south, towards town. Jem slows down.

Mrs. Dubose is on her porch. (to Dill)

Listen, no matter what she says to you, don’t answer her back because she has a Confederate pistol in her lap under her shawl and she’ll kill you quick as look at you.

They walk cautiously on and start to pass the Dubose house. It is an old and run-down house. It has steep front steps and a dog-trot hall. MRS. HENRY LAFAYETTE DUBOSE sits on the front porch in her wheel chair. Beside her is a Negro girl who takes care of her, JESSIE.

Hey, Mrs. Dubose.

Scout is walking slowly on past Mrs. Dubose.

You come over here when I’m talking to you. It’s too bad your mama never lived to raise you properly. Lord knows what your daddy teaches you. Why don’t they put a dress on you. Can’t your daddy afford to buy you a dress?

Scout, Jem and Dill keep on going. They are made very uncomfortable by her.
MRS. DUBOSE
(SCREAMING)
Listen to me when I’m talking to you. Don’t your daddy teach you to respect old people? And you, young lady...

22 ANGLE ON SCOUT
As she freezes as if she knows what’s coming and dreads it.

MRS. DUBOSE
...Jean Louise Finch.

The children see Atticus coming down the sidewalk and run to him.

JEM
Atticus, this is Dill. He’s Miss Stephanie’s nephew.

ATTICUS
Hello, Dill.

Mrs. Dubose sees Atticus now, too and begins SCREAMING.

MRS. DUBOSE
Atticus Finch!

23 ANGLE ON ATTICUS
As he bows gracefully to her.

ATTICUS
Good afternoon, Mrs. Dubose.

The children are trying to hide behind Atticus as he passes her house. They begin to GIGGLE nervously at each other.

ATTICUS
You look like a picture this afternoon.

SCOUT
(whispering)
He don’t say a picture of what.

ATTICUS
My goodness gracious, look at your flowers
(pointing to the camellia bushes)
(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Did you ever see anything more beautiful? Mrs. Dubose, the gardens at Bellingrath have nothing to compare with your flowers.

MRS. DUBOSE
Oh, I don't think they're as nice as they were last year.

ATTICUS
I can't agree with you. I think your yard is going to be the showplace of the town.

JEM
(whispering to Dill behind Atticus)
He gets her interested in something nice so she forgets to be mean.

ATTICUS
(lifting his hat again)
Grand seeing you, Mrs. Dubose.

They move on down the street.

CLOSE SHOT - MRS. DUBOSE, JESSIE

Mrs. Dubose had a look of senile contentment on her face.

EXT. SIDEWALK AND YARD OUTSIDE MISS MAUDIE'S

Miss Maudie is still working in her yard. The children run IN followed by Atticus. He crosses over to Miss Maudie. The children run into their yard.

TWO SHOT - MISS MAUDIE, ATTICUS

ATTICUS
Her's your baking soda, Maudie.

MAUDIE
Thank you, I hated to bother you but I have to make a cake tonight and I completely forgot it when I ordered my groceries today.

He starts away.
ATTICUS  
Very hot today wasn’t it?

MAUDIE  
Yes, indeed it was. Atticus...

Atticus starts toward her.

MAUDIE  
Stephanie called me awhile ago.  
She was telling me something about  
Tom Robinson and the Ewell girl.  
Have you heard anything about it?

ATTICUS  
Yes. About four this afternoon  
Bob Ewell came running into town  
looking for Sheriff Tate. He  
claimed Tom had raped and beaten  
his oldest girl, Mayella. Heck  
got out to Robinson’s and he  
denied doing it, but Heck brought  
him into jail.

MAUDIE  
I’ve never heard of Tom in trouble  
before, have you?

ATTICUS  
No.

Calpurnia calls from the Finch yard.

CALPURNIA  
Supper.

MAUDIE  
Well, I’m sorry to hear about it.

ATTICUS  
So was I.

A pause. They look at each other.

MAUDIE  
Thank you again for the groceries,  
Atticus.

ATTICUS  
Good night, Maudie.

MAUDIE  
Good night.
MISS MAUDIE’S POINT OF VIEW

She watches Atticus and the children start for their house. Dill watches them go and then starts to Miss Maudie.

BACK TO MISS MAUDIE

Dill comes up to her.

DILL
You live all alone don’t you?

MAUDIE
Yes.

DILL
Aunt Stephanie told me all about your husband gambling and running up all those debts and deserting you and breaking your heart and then dying. I was so sorry to hear it.

MAUDIE
Well, I think Stephanie has exaggerated just a little bit, son. My heart’s not broken at all, and as to being poor, it doesn’t seem to me like I’m any poorer than anybody else around here. But thank you for your sympathy anyway.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
(calling)
Dill--

DILL
I’m coming.

He starts for his house.

MAUDIE
(calling after him)
Good night.

DILL
Good night.

He runs across the street as Miss Maudie starts for her house.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. SCOUT’S ROOM - MED.SHOT - ATTICUS, SCOUT

She is undressed and in bed. Atticus is seated on the bed. Scout is reading to him from “Robinson Crusoe.”

SCOUT

(reading
“What I missed most was a companion. I had two cats which I brought ashore on my first raft, and I had a dog…”
(closes the book
Atticus, do you think Boo Radley ever comes and looks in my window? Jem says he does. He said this afternoon when we were over by their house --

ATTICUS

(sharply
Scout, I told you and Jem to leave those poor people alone. I want you to stay away from there and stop tormenting them.

SCOUT

(meekly
Yes, sir.

She opens the book to read. Atticus takes his watch out and looks at it.

ATTICUS

I think we’d better not read any more tonight, honey. It’s late.

SCOUT

What time is it?

ATTICUS

Eight-thirty.

SCOUT

Can I see your watch?

He gives it to her.

ANGLE - SCOUT

As she reads the inscription.

SCOUT

“To Atticus, my beloved husband.”
Jem says this watch is going to be his some day.
That’s right.

Why?

Well, it’s customary for the boy to have his father’s watch.

What are you going to give me?

Well, I’m afraid I haven’t much else of value that belongs to me. But there’s a pearl necklace and a ring that belonged to your mother which I’ve put away and they’re to be yours.

Scout smiles. Atticus kisses her cheek. He takes his watch and goes toward Jem’s room.

Good night, Scout.

Good night.

Jem, too, is in bed.

Good night, Jem.

Good night.

Atticus GOES OUT.

She lies in bed thinking.

(calling Jem --)

Yes?
How old was I when Mama died?

JEM (O.S.)
Two.

How old were you?

JEM (O.S.)
Six.

Old as I am now?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

Was Mama pretty?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

Was Mama nice?

JEM (O.S.)
(as if he’d answered these questions a million times)
Yes --

Did you love her?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

Did I love her?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

Do you miss her?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.
There is silence. Atticus rocks. He listens to the night sounds. Angle widens as Judge Taylor, seventy-five, comes up on the porch.

JUDGE
Hello, Atticus.

ATTICUS
Hello, Judge. Kind of warm tonight, isn’t it?

He takes a handkerchief and wipes his face.

ATTICUS
How is Mrs. Taylor?

JUDGE
She’s fine, thank you.

Judge Taylor sits in a chair next to Atticus.

INT. JEM’S BEDROOM - CLOSE SHOT

Jem is in bed, listening.

JUDGE (O.S.)
Atticus, you heard about Tom Robinson?

ATTICUS (O.S.)
Yes, sir.

JUDGE (O.S.)
Grande jury will get around to charging him tomorrow. I thought I’d let you know it’s your case.

EXT. PORCH – JUDGE TAYLOR AND ATTICUS

ATTICUS
Yes, sir.

(pause)
Well, thanks for the business, Judge.

JUDGE
Thank you. I’ll send a boy over for you tomorrow when his case comes up.

ATTICUS
Yes, sir.

Angle widens as Judge Taylor gets up.
JUDGE
I’ll see you tomorrow.

ATTICUS
Yes, sir.

JUDGE
And thank you.

ATTICUS
Yes, sir.

Judge Taylor leaves. Again there is silence. Atticus rocks. He listens to the night’s SOUNDS. Jem comes to the porch.

JEM
Can I sit with you for a while?

ATTICUS
All right, son.

Jem comes outside. He gets in his father’s lap. His father holds him, rocking.

36  MED. SHOT – ATTICUS, JEM

ATTICUS
Scout asleep?

JEM
Yessir. Did you work hard today?

ATTICUS
I worked pretty hard. That little boy that’s come to stay with Stephanie seems like a nice boy.

JEM
Yessir.

ATTICUS
Son, you know that man who works in Mr. Link Deas’ yard, Tom Robinson?

JEM
Yes, sir.

ATTICUS
Well, he’s in trouble, serious trouble. Judge Taylor asked me to take the case, and I --
He looks down and sees the boy is asleep. He smiles down at his son as we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY NEXT MORNING - MED. SHOT

Calpurnia is at the sink. Scout and Jem are eating. Dill COMES IN.

DILL
Good morning.

CALPURNIA
Good morning. You're up mighty bright and early.

DILL
I've been up since four.

CALPURNIA
(incredulously)
Four?

DILL
(with great nonchalance)
Oh, yes. I always get up at four. It's in my blood. You see, my daddy was a railroad man until he got rich, and now he flies aeroplanes. One of these days he's just going to swoop down here at Maycomb and pick me up and take me for a ride.

CALPURNIA
Have you had breakfast?

DILL
Oh, yes.

Calpurnia GOES OUT of the kitchen. Dill moves closer to Jem.

DILL
(whispering)
Everything was quiet when I looked over at the Radley house this morning.
(looking at Jem)
Did you hear Boo out last night?

JEM
No.
Jem gets up and walks OUT of the kitchen. Dill and Scout BEHIND him.

EXT. FINCH YARD AND SIDEWALK

Jem COMES INTO the yard. Dill and Scout come up to him.

DILL
I bet you a “Grey Ghost” against two “Tom Swifts”, Jem, and you won’t go any farther than Boo Radley’s gate.

A pause. Dill looks at Jem slyly.

DILL
You’re scared to, ain’t you?

JEM
(stalling
I’m not scared. I go past Boo Radley’s house nearly every day of my life.

SCOUT
Always running.

JEM
(furious at her
You hush up, Scout.

DILL
Folks in Meridian County aren’t as scared as folks in Maycomb County.

SCOUT
(scornfully
I’ll tell you, you’re wasting your breath, Dill. He’s scared and I don’t blame him.

ANGLE WIDENS as Scout gets tire and slaps it back to them.

SCOUT
Let’s roll in the tire.

JEM
All right.

Jem takes hold of the tire and Scout gets inside of it. When she is inside, Jem suddenly pushes it with all his might.
That’ll teach you to call me scared.

He pushes the tire down the sidewalk with all the force of his body. It leaves the sidewalk, goes across the gravel road to the sidewalk in front of the Radley place, through the gate, up the Radley sidewalk, hits the steps of the porch and rolls over on its side. Dill and Jem watch this with helpless terror. When the tire has stopped, Scout, dizzy and nauseated, and unaware of where she is, lies on the ground.

(YELLING frantically)
Scout. Scout. Get away from there. Scout, come on.

Scout raises her head and sees where she is. She is frozen with terror.

(JEM (O.S.)
Come on, Scout. Don’t just lie there. Get up, can’t you?

Scout gets to her feet. She is trembling with fear.

EXT. SIDEWALK ACROSS THE STREET - DILL, JEM

(DILL
terrified
Go get her, Jem.

Jem rushes in through the gate, gets his sister by the hand, then looks up at the house, drops her hand, runs up the steps to the front door, touches it, comes running down, grabs the tire, takes his sister by the hand and starts running out of the yard.

Run for your life, Scout.

And they run out of the yard, up the sidewalk to their own yard. Dill runs fast behind them. When they get to the safety of their yard, they are all exhausted and fall on the ground. But Jem is slated by his feat of touching the Radley house.
Now, who’s a coward? You tell them about this back in Meridian County, Mr. Dill Harris.

Dill looks at Jem with new respect.

I’ll tell you what let’s do. Let’s go downtown to the courthouse and see that room they locked Boo up in. My aunt says it’s bat infested, and he almost died from the mildew. Come on. I bet they got chains down there and instruments of torture.

He starts OUT of the yard. Scout and Jem reluctantly FOLLOW.

A group of FOUR IDLERS sit lounging under some live oak trees. They watch with eagle eye whatever happens on the Square and in the courthouse.

Dill, followed by Scout and Jem, come by them.

One of the men, HIRAM TOWNSEND, recognizes Scout and Jem. He is in his seventies and is dressed in work clothes.

If you’re looking for your daddy, he’s inside the courthouse.

Thank you, but we’re not lookin’ for --

Jem gives her a yank and a look and she shuts up and they GO ON.

They go toward the courthouse.

What’s your daddy doin’ up there?
He’s a lawyer and he has a case.
The grand jury is charging his client today. I heard somethin’ about it last night when Judge Taylor came over.

Let’s go watch.

Oh, no, Dill. He wouldn’t like that.

Dill GOES IN the courthous, FOLLOWED by Scout and Jem. Scout and Jem seem worried about following but reluctantly decide to.

INT. COURTHOUSE LOWER FLOOR
This is the floor where all the county offices are. The three children COME IN. They look around.

Where’s your daddy?

He’ll be in the courtroom. Up there.

He points toward the stairs.

Dill, Scout, and Jem solemnly climb the stairs to the second floor.

INT. COURTHOUSE SECOND FLOOR - MED. SHOT
There is a small foyer here and doors leading into the courtroom. They come IN and go to the courtroom dor.

You all lift me up so I can see what’s going on.

Jem and Scout make a pack saddle with their arms and Dill climbs up and peers in the glass at the top of the door.

Not much is happening. The Judge looks like he’s sleeping.

(MORE)
Dill gets so absorbed in watching he stops talking. Scout and Jem begin to feel the strain of holding him up.

Scout
What’s going on?

Dill
There are a lot of men sitting together on one side and one man keeps pointing and yelling at the colored man. They’re taking the colored man away.

Jem
Where is Atticus?

Dill
I can’t see your daddy now, either. I wonder where in the world --

Angle widens as behind them out of a side door comes Atticus, followed by Heck Tate. Atticus goes toward them, Heck Tate goes on out of the foyer.

Atticus
Scout. Jem. What in the world are you doing here?

Jean Louise
They whirl around, dropping the startled Dill.

Jem
Oh, hello, Atticus.

Scout
We came down to find out where Boo Radley was locked up. We wanted to see the bats.

Atticus
I want you both back home right away.

Jem
Yes, sir.

Robert E. Lee Ewell, a short, bantam cock of a man, comes into foreground.
EWELL
Mr. Finch. Mr. Finch.

ATTICUS
You run on, children. I’ll see you at dinner.

JEM
Yes, sir.

Mr. Ewell approaches them. The children look at him and then leave to go home.

48 MED. SHOT – EWELL, ATTICUS

EWELL
Howdy, Cap’n.

ATTICUS
Howdy, Mr. Ewell.

Ewell seems nervous, ill-at-ease. Atticus is very cold to him.

EWELL
Cap’n, I’m sorry they appointed you to defend that nigger that raped my Mayella. I don’t know why I didn’t just kill him instead of goin’ for the Sheriff. Saved you and the Sheriff and the taxpayers a lot of trouble.

ATTICUS
Mr. Ewell, if you’ll excuse me, I’m very busy.

EWELL
Cap’n, someone told me just now they thought you believed Tom Robinson’s story agin ours. I said no, you’re wrong there. Mr. Finch ain’t takin’ his story agin ours. Mr. Finch...
    (looks at Atticus who is eyeing him impassively)
They was wrong, wasn’t they, Mr. Finch?

ATTICUS
I’ve been appointed to defend Tom Robinson and now that he’s been charged, that’s what I intend doing.
EWELL
You’re takin’ his story agin ours?

ATTICUS
If you’ll excuse me, Mr. Ewell.

Atticus starts on. Ewell blocks his way.

EWELL
What kind of a man are you? You
got chullun of your own.
(a pause; he looks at
Atticus

He stands aside as Atticus continues on.

DISSOLVE TO:

49
EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF FINCH HOUSE - NOON

Atticus comes from town. Miss Stephanie crosses from Miss Maudie’s. They meet in front of his house.

50
TWO SHOT - ATTICUS, MISS STEPHANIE

STEPHANIE
I hear John Taylor appointed you
to defend that boy who raped
Mayella Ewell.

ATTICUS
Did he rape her?

STEPHANIE
Certainly, he did.

ATTICUS
How do you know that?

STEPHANIE
Her daddy says so.

ATTICUS
And Tom Robinson says he didn’t.

STEPHANIE
Well, of course, if you’re gonna
take --

ATTICUS
(interrupting; he’s
angry and lets her
know it

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Stephanie, I think the least we can do is try him at the courthouse and not on the sidewalk.

ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus walks toward his house. He sees the children playing in the side yard. Jem has scissors and pretends he is stabbing Dill in the leg. Scout SCREAMS, just as Atticus approaches them.

DILL
(SCREAMING in mock terror
Wife, wife. Run for help. Your Boo has lost his mind.

Scout runs away from them SCREAMING.

SCOUT
Help! Help! Boo has lost his mind. He’s killin’ us all.

As she runs up to the porch, she runs right in to Atticus.

51
ANGLE - ATTICUS, JEM

ATTICUS
What are you doing?

JEM
Playing.

ATTICUS
I see you’re playing. Give me those scissors. They’re nothing to play with.

Jem hands them to him. He seems very guilty.

ATTICUS
Does this by any chance have anything to do with the Radleys?

JEM
No, sir.

ATTICUS
I hope it doesn’t.

He goes into the house. Jem peers into the living room window.

SCOUT
Jem...
JEM
(whispering
Shut up. He’s in the living room.
He can hear us from in there.

He motions them to the street corner.

52 MOVING SHOT
As Dill and Scout follow him.

DILL
Can we play “Boo Radley” any more?

JEM
I don’t know. Atticus didn’t say we couldn’t.

SCOUT
I think he knows what we were doing.

JEM
(furious at her
There you go imagining things.
Just like a girl. That’s why people hate girls so. If you’re going to act like a girl, you go play by yourself. Come on, Dill.

Dill and Jem go off down the street. ANGLE WIDENS as Scout starts for Miss Maudie’s yard. Miss Maudie is alone, weeding her flowers. Scout goes over to her and squats down beside her.

SCOUT
Miss Maudie, do you think Boo Radley’s still alive?

MAUDIE
His name is Arthur and he’s alive.

SCOUT
How do you know?

MAUDIE
I know he’s alive, Jean Louise, because I haven’t seen him carried out yet. He just stays in the house, that’s all. Wouldn’t you stay in the house if you didn’t want to come out?
SCOUT
Yes’m, but I’d want to come out. Why doesn’t he?

MAUDIE
You know the story as well as I do.

SCOUT
I never heard why, though. Nobody ever told me why.

MAUDIE
You know old Mr. Radley is a foot-washing Baptist. He’s the kind of a foot-washer believes anything that’s a pleasure is a sin.

Miss Maudie points over to the Radley house.

MAUDIE
Child, that’s a sad house. Who know what goes on over there.

SCOUT
Do you reckon Boo’s crazy?

MAUDIE
If he’s not, he should be. The things that happen to people. We never really know what happens in houses behind closed doors. What secrets --

Miss Maudie reaches into her dress pocket.

MAUDIE
How’d you like to take some peanuts to those two ugly boys out there and keep some for yourself?

SCOUT
Thank you.

Scout takes the peanuts and GOES OUT of Miss Maudie’s house.

53

EXT. FINCH YARD

Dill and Jem are there. Scout comes up to them with the peanuts.

SCOUT
Miss Maudie sent these. You wanta peanut?
As they start to go out of the yard towards the Radley house, Scout behind them. After they have left the Finch yard, have passed Miss Stephanie’s house, and are nearing the oak by the Radley place, she timidly tries to call to them.

SCOUT
Jem --

He turns and looks at her.

JEM
Vamoose, Scout.

They have passed the oak tree and she gives up in disgust and starts kicking the ground in front of the tree. She sees a piece of tinfoil sticking out of the knot hole and she reaches in and takes out two pieces of unwrapped gum.

SCOUT
(calling to Jem and Dill
Hey -- look what I found.

They turn and run to her.

JEM
What is it?

SCOUT
Wrigley’s Doublemint. I found it in there.

She points to the knot hole and starts to pop the gum into her mouth.

JEM
(screaming
Don’t!!

Scout pauses.

JEM
Do you want to poison yourself? You know anything found on the Radley place is chock full of poison. You know anybody eats even a pecan that falls off their tree is poisoned.
Scout drops the gum.

    SCOUT
    (touched by his concern
    Thank you for keeping me from being poisoned, Jem.

    JEM
    That’s all right.

DISSOLVE TO:

55 EXT. FRONT PORCH AND STEPS - NIGHT

Scout and Jem are sitting there. Dill comes running into the yard and over to them.

    DILL
    I can play outside tonight Aunt Stephanie says because it’s my last night here.

Jem goes running toward him. Scout follows after Jem. The two boys run toward Miss Stephanie’s yard. Scout follows.

56 EXT. STONE WALL SEPARATING MISS STEPHANIE’S AND ATTICUS’ YARD

Scout, Dill and Jem leap over the wall.

    DILL
    (very casually
    Let’s go for a walk.

    SCOUT
    (suspiciously
    Where to, Dill?

Dill jerks his head in the direction of the Radley house.

    JEM
    (also very casual
    Okay.

    SCOUT
    (cautiously
    I think we ought to stay right here in Miss Stephanie’s yard.

    JEM
    You don’t have to come along, Angel May.
The boys start to go out of Miss Stephanie’s yard, Scout follows.

57 EXT. THE SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT

They walk down the sidewalk silently, Scout following. They can HEAR the PORCH SWINGS creaking with the weight of the neighbourhood, and the night MURMURS of the grown people on the street. Occasionally, Miss Stephanie’s LAUGH is HEARD.

58 MED. SHOT - DILL, SCOUT, JEM

They pause, listening.

SCOUT
Hear Miss Stephanie laughing?

DILL
She laughs all the time. Kind of wild sounding, ain’t it? She takes a drink of whiskey, too, first thing when she gets up every morning. She does that because of being unnerved once by finding a rattlesnake coiled up in her closet.

They move on down the sidewalk.

59 EXT. THE RADLEY HOUSE, SIDEWALK AND YARD

They come to the sidewalk and Jem stops and looks at the Radley house. Dill and Scout stand beside him, looking, too.

60 MED. SHOT - DILL, SCOUT, JEM

DILL
Auntie says she needs a nip or two during the day, too. Says she’s needed it ever since she woke up that night and found Boo Radley looking in the window at her.

The children stand for a beat in silence, looking at the dark house.

SCOUT
What are you going to do?
JEM
We’re going to peep in the window of the Radley house to see if we can get a look at Boo Radley.

SCOUT
Jem, please, I’m scared.

JEM
Then go home if you’re scared. I swear, Scout, you act more like a girl all the time. Come on, Dill.

Jem and Dill start on. Scout watches for a moment, then runs after them.

MOVING SHOT

SCOUT
Wait for me. I’m coming.

JEM
Shhh.

They wait for her. Jem is whispering now.

JEM
We are going around the back and crawl under the high wire fence at the rear of the Radley lot. I don’t think we can be seen that way.

The children go on quietly to the back of the Radley property.

EXT. BACK FENCE OF THE RADLEY LOT

The fence encloses a large garden. Jem, Scout and Dill COME IN. Jem holds the bottom wire up and motions to Dill to crawl under. He does so. Scout follows. Then Scout holds up the wire for Jem. It is a very tight squeeze for him, but he manages to make it.

JEM
(whispering)
Now don’t make a sound.
The children cautiously approach the house. Poor Scout is so intimidated by Jem’s warning that she barely moves a step a minute, and then when she looks up and sees Jem quite a distance ahead, she begins to move faster.

They reach the gate which divides the garden from the back yard. Jem touches it. The gate squeaks.

They all help to spit until they have no spit left.

They try to muster up more spit, and then Jem opens the gate slowly, lifting it aside and resting it on the fence.

The back yard is even less inviting than the front. A ramshackle porch runs the width of the house. There are two doors and two dark windows between the doors. Instead of a column, a rough two-by-four supports one end of the porch. Above it a hat rack catches the moon and shines eerily.

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SCOUT
(terrified
Dill, no ---

The boys pay no attention to her.

67

MOVING SHOT

They cross the yard and go to the back porch. Jem puts his foot on the bottom step, the step SQUEAKS. He stands still, then tries his weight by degrees. The step is SILENT. Jem skips two steps, puts his foot on the porch, heaves himself to it, and teeters a long moment. He regains his balance and drops on his knees. He crawls to the window, raises his head and looks in. Scout suddenly looks up and sees a shadow... it is the shadow of a man. The back porch is bathed in moonlight and the shadow, crisp as toast, moves across the porch toward Jem. Dill sees it next. He puts his hands to his face The shadow crosses Jem. Jem sees it, he puts his arms over his head and goes rigid. The shadow stops about a foot beyond Jem. Its arms come out from its side, drop and are still. Then it turns and moves back across Jem, walks along the porch and off the side of the house, returning as it had come. Jem leaps off the porch and gallops toward Scout and Dill. He flings open the gate and pushes Dill and Scout through, pushing them through the collards. Scout trips. As she trips --

JEM

Our back yard... Hurry, Scout.

68

EXT. THE BACK FENCE

Jem holds the bottom wire, Scout and Dill roll through.

69

MOVING SHOT

Dill and Scout run on. Halfway to their back yard, they sense that Jem is not with them.

70

EXT. THE BACK FENCE - CLOSE SHOT - JEM

He is there struggling in the fence, kicking his pants off to get loose. Scout and Dill run to him as he gets out of his pants.

71

MOVING SHOT

As the tree children run back toward their back yard.
EXT. FINCH BACK YARD

Jem, Scout and Dill come running through the bushes behind the garage. They are frightened and breathing hard. They all fall to their knees and huddle against the garage wall. They look at one another but are unable to speak. Dill cannot get his breath and starts to cough. He buries his head in his knees. Jem finally gets up and peers around the corner of the garage. Scout watches him.

SCOUT
(whispering)
What are you going to do for pants, Jem?

JEM
I don’t know.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
calling
Dill!

They all jump.

STEPHANIE
Dill! You come on in now.

DILL
(getting up
I’d better go.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
calling
Dill!

DILL
(calling
Coming, Aunt Stephanie!
(whispering
So long. I’ll see you next summer.

JEM
So long.

Dill runs across the driveway and climbs the fence into Miss Stephanie’s yard.

CLOSE SHOT— JEM AND SCOUT

JEM
I’m going back after my pants, Scout.
SCOUT
Oh please, Jem. Come on in the house.

JEM
I can’t go in the house without my pants.

He starts to go.

SCOUT
I’m going to call Atticus.

JEM
Now shut up!

Jem grabs her collar and wrenches it tight.

JEM
Scout, Atticus ain’t ever whipped me since I can remember. I want to keep it that way.

SCOUT
(chocking)
Then I’m going with you.

JEM
No, you ain’t. You wait here. I’ll be back before you can count to ten.

Scout watches Jem vault over the low fence and disappear in the high bushes. She starts counting.

SCOUT
1-2-3-

71-C  EXT. FING FRONT PORCH
Atticus stands at the front door, calling:

ATTICUS
Jem...Scout... Come on in. Right now.

71-D  EXT. FINCH BACK YARD

SCOUT
(counting)
-8-9-10-11-12-13-

O.S. SOUND OF SHOTGUN BLAST.
Scout stands there stunned. Suddenly she shuts her eyes and presses her hands over her ears. She looks as if she’s about to scream. At that moment Jem bursts through the bushes and jumps the fence crashing into Scout.

    SCOUT
    Jem!

Jem claps his head over her mouth.

    JEM
    Shhhhh!

He begins to frantically pull on his pants.

O.S. WE CAN HEAR MISS STEPHANIE YELLING.

They look in the direction of the street.

71-E  EXT. STREET – STEPHANIE’S HOUSE

She comes running off the front porch, pulling on a robe over her nightgown.

    STEPHANIE
    What happened?  What happened?

The CAMERA PANS HER into the street and we can see Atticus and Miss Maudie standing in front of the Radley place talking to Mr. Radley who is holding a shotgun. Then they both start up the street toward Stephanie.

    STEPHANIE
    Atticus, what is it?

    ATTICUS
    Mr. Radley shot a prowler in his collard patch.

    STEPHANIE
    Mercy!

    MAUDIE
    Well, whoever it was won’t be back any time soon. Mr. Radley probably scared them out of their wits.

CAMERA PANS Atticus to his yard as Scout and Jem walk up the driveway.

    ATTICUS
    Good night.
Maudie and Stephanie call their “Good nights” as he walks toward the house.

ATTICUS

CAMERA HOLDS on Scout and Jem. They look at each other. Then he starts for the house. Scout follows. As they climb the steps Jem looks back over his shoulder toward the Radley house.

OMITTED (72 thru 77)

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

78 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Atticus and Jem are eating breakfast. Calpurnia is serving them. Miss Maudie comes into the kitchen.

MAUDIE
Good morning. I came over to see Jean Louise ready for her first day at school.

She goes to the table and sits as Cal goes to the hall door and calls:

CALPURNIA
Scout!

She then goes to the stove, gets the coffee pot and goes to the table.

79 ANGLE - TABLE

As Calpurnia pours coffee.

ATTICUS
What are you going to do with yourself all morning, Cal, with both the children in school?

CALPURNIA
I don’t know and that’s the truth. I was thinkin’ of that jus’ now.

She goes back to the hall door and calls:
80 INT. HALL
Scout is there. She has on a dress and feels very awkward in it. Cal comes out into the hallway.

CALPURNIA
Did you hear me, Scout? Now, hurry.

Cal goes back into the kitchen.

JEAN LOUISE

81 INT. KITCHEN
Cal comes back IN and Scout FOLLOWS, still miserable and awkward. Jem sees her.

JEM
Look at Scout.

He is about to make a comment and laugh, but Miss Maudie gives him a poke.

ATTICUS
Come on, Scout. Eat your breakfast.

MAUDIE
I think you dress is mighty becoming.

Scout is not reassured; she begins to tug at it. Miss Maudie nods her head to Atticus to let him know she approves of the dress.

CALPURNIA
(sternly)
Now, don’t go tugging at that dress, Scout. You want to have it all wrinkled before you even get to school?

Miss Maudie straightens Scout’s skirt.

SCOUT
I still don’t see why I have to wear a darn old dress.

MAUDIE
You’ll get used to it.
Scout sits at the table and starts to eat. Jem has eaten his breakfast, all he’s going to, and gets up.

JEM
I’m ready.

ATTICUS
Son, it’s a half hour before school starts. Now wait for your sister.

JEM
Hurry up, Scout.

SCOUT
I’m trying to.

She takes a few half-hearted bites, then she gets up.

SCOUT
I’m ready.

JEM
Come on.

Jem starts out, Scout follows him. Miss Maudie, Atticus and Calpurnia go as far as the screen door with them. Scout and Jem go out the screen door.

GROUP SHOT - ATTICUS, CALPURNIA, MISS MAUDIE
They stand watching the children.

CALPURNIA
Well, there she goes. My Lord, Mr. Finch weren’t no more’n yesterday I was rocking Scout good night. Weren’t no more’n yesterday their mama was standin’ here with me watchin’ Jem leave for school his first time, an’ she said to me then, “Cal…”

She looks up at Atticus. She sees he is upset. She stops. Miss Maudie pretends she doesn’t notice Atticus’ emotion. They stand watching in silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SCHOOL ROOM OF THE FIRST GRADE - FULL SHOT - THE CLASSROOM
Scout Finch is there and a few other town children, but most of the children are country children.
Ragged denim shirted and flour sack shirted. These country children have all chopped cotton and fed hogs since they were born and they have nearly all been in the first grade several times. The teacher, MISS CAROLINE, is at the blackboard finishing writing out the alphabet. She is a pretty thing, no more than 21, with bright auburn hair, pink cheeks and wears crimson nail polish. She also wears high heeled pumps and a red and white striped dress.

MISS CAROLINE
Does anybody know what these are?

STUDENTS
(in unison)
The alphabet.

MISS CAROLINE
My... aren’t you all smart? How many of you children have been in the first grade before?

JEAN LOUISE
Eighty percent of the class raises its hand.

MISS CAROLINE
Mercy. And what’s the reason for that?

Nobody raises his hand.

MISS CAROLINE
Now, I’m new here. Won’t somebody tell me?

Still no one answers.

84 MED. SHOT — MISS CAROLINE, SCOUT
She walks toward Scout. Stops. Looks down at her.

MISS CAROLINE
Do you know the answer to my questing?

SCOUT
Yes’m, I know.
(takes a deep breath and looks up at her)
Most of them have been in first grade before because they’re from the country and have to quit school early to help their daddies chop their cotton.
MISS CAROLINE
(after a pause
Have you ever been in the first grade before?

SCOUT
No’m.

MISS CAROLINE
Well, then, I’ll start with you. Now read as much of this as you can.

85 FULL SHOT - CLASSROOM

Miss Caroline goes back to the blackboard. She points to the alphabet and Scout rattles all the letters off. A think line appears between Miss Caroline’s eyebrows. Miss Caroline goes to Scout’s desk, taking a first reader with her.

MISS CAROLINE
Let’s see if you can read this.

She hand the book to Scout.

86 MED. SHOT - SCOUT, MISS CAROLINE

Scout begins to read the first reader fluently. Miss Caroline walks away. Scout continues reading. Miss Caroline gets a copy of the “Mobile Register” and hand it to Scout.

MISS CAROLINE
Now try reading this.

The paper is open at the stock pages and Scout begins reading the stock market quotations.

MISS CAROLINE
(taking the paper
That’s enough, young lady. And I want you to tell your father not to teach you any more. It will interfere with your reading.

SCOUT
(bewildered
My daddy...

MISS CAROLINE
(interrupting
sarcastically
If he didn’t teach you, who did?

(MORE)
MISS CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Somebody did. You weren’t born reading the “Mobile Register.”

Have a seat now.

Scout sits down. She is very subdued and confused. She glares as she hears the other children snickering.

MISS CAROLINE

Now will everyone going home for lunch raise your right hand. And everyone bringing lunch put it on top of the desk.

87

FULL SHOT - CLASSROOM

Molasses buckets are put on top of the desks. Miss Caroline goes up and down the rows inspecting them. She stops at the desk of a country boy, small for his age, WALTER CUNNINGHAM.

88

ANGLE FAVORING WALTER CUNNINGHAM

MISS CAROLINE

Where’s yours?

Walter has no shoes on, but he is wearing a clean shirt and some neatly mended overalls. He doesn’t answer Miss Caroline’s question. He looks straight ahead, a muscle jumps in his strong jaw.

MISS CAROLINE

Did you forget it this morning?

Walter’s jaw twitches again.

WALTER

Yes’m.

She reaches in the pocket of her dress, gets a change purse, and takes out a quarter.

MISS CAROLINE

Here’s a quarter. Go and eat downtown today. You can pay me back tomorrow.

WALTER

No, thank you, ma’m.

There is whispering in the classroom. Miss Caroline, hearing it, turns around.
Some of the children near Scout are poking her and whispering at her, trying to get her to interpret Walter to the teacher. Miss Caroline walks over to Scout.

MISS CAROLINE
Jean Louise, what were you all whispering about?

SCOUT
(reluctantly)
That boy’s a Cunningham, teacher. The Cunninghams never took anything they can’t pay back. No church baskets and no scrip stamps. They never took anything off of anybody.

Miss Caroline descends on Scout, interrupting her.

MISS CAROLINE
Jean Louise, I’ve had about enough of you. I warn you to watch your step. Now --

O.S. SOUND: SCHOOL BELL

MISS CAROLINE
All right, children, you are dismissed.

The children go tearing out of the classroom. Scout follows them.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD

Scout sees Walter Cunningham standing in the school yard. She grabs him, throws him down and begins to rub his nose in the dirt. Jem comes running up and pulls her off.

JEM
Cut that out, Scout. What do you think you’re doing? You’re biggern’ he is.

SCOUT
He’s almost as old as you. Besides, he made me start off on the wrong foot. I was tryin’ to explain to that damn lady teacher why he didn’t have no money for his lunch and she got sore at me.
Walter has picked himself up and stand with his fists half-cocked. Jem looks him over.

JEM
Your daddy Mr. Walter Cunningham from Old Sarum?

Walter nods his head “yes.”

JEM
Come on home and have dinner with us, Walter. We’d be glad to have you.

Walter’s face brightens, then darkens.

JEM
Our daddy’s a friend of your daddy’s. Scout here is crazy, she won’t fight you any more. Do you like butter beans? Our Cal’s a good cook.

Walter stands biting his lip, thinking, but not answering.

91 MOVING SHOT

As Jem and Scout start on. Walter runs up to them.

WALTER
I’m coming.

DISSOLVE TO:

92 INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM - DINING ROOM

It is comfortably, but unpretentiously, furnished. There is a sofa and two over-stuffed chairs and a rocker in the room.

Through an alcove one can see the dining room. The table is set for dinner and Jem, Scout and Walter are there with Atticus. Cal is serving the food.

ATTICUS
I hope it’s a dinner you like.

Walter looks down at his plate. There are string beans, roast, cornbread, turnips and rice. Walter looks at Atticus.
WALTER
Yes, sir. I don’t know when I’ve had roast. We’ve been having lots of squirrels and rabbits lately. My pa and I go hunting in our spare time.

JEM
You got a gun of your own?

WALTER
Uh huh.

JEM
How long you had a gun?

WALTER
A year or so.
(he looks at Atticus)
Can I have the syrup, please?

ATTICUS
Yes, certainly, son.
(calving Calpurnia
Cal, will you please bring the syrup dish?

CALPURNIA (O.S.)
Yes, sir.

JEM
Atticus, how old were you when you got your first gun?

ATTICUS
Thirteen of fourteen.

93   ANGLE - FAVORING ATTICUS

ATTICUS
I remember when my daddy gave me the gun, he told me: “Never point at anything in the house,: and that he’d rather I’d just shoot tin cans in the back yard. But he said sooner or later, he supposed, the temptation to go after birds would be too much and to shoot all the blue jays I wanted if I could hit them; but to remember, it was a sin to kill a mockingbird.

JEM
Why?
ATTICUS
Well, I reckon because mockingbirds don’t do anything but make music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat people’s gardens, they don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. Anyway, that’s why I think it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.
(to Scout
How did you like school, Scout?

SCOUT
(noncommittally
All right.

Calpurnia COMES INTO the dining room with the syrup dish.

ATTICUS
Walter would like it, please, Cal.

Calpurnia takes the syrup dish to him and he begins to pur it liberally all over his food.

94 ANGLE - SCOUT
She is watching this process. She makes a face of disgust.

SCOUT
What in the Sam Hill are you doing, Walter?

The silver saucer clatters as he places the pitcher on it and he quickly puts his hands in his lap and ducks his head. Atticus shakes his head at Scout to keep quiet.

SCOUT
But, Atticus, he has gone and drowned his dinner in syrup, and poured it all over--

CALPURNIA
(interrupting
Scout.

SCOUT
What?

CALPURNIA
(she is furious
You march in that kitchen. I want to talk to you.
Scout eyes her suspiciously, sees she is in no mood to be trifled with, and goes out to the kitchen. Calpurnia stalks after her.

95 INT. KITCHEN

Scout ENTERS, followed by Calpurnia.

CALPURNIA
There’s some folks who don’t eat like us, but you ain’t called on to contradict them at the table when they don’t. That boy’s yo’ comp’ny and if he wants to eat up the table cloth, you let him, you hear? An’ if you can’t act fit to eat at the table, you can just set here an’ eat in the kitchen.

Calpurnia sends her through the dining room door with a smack.

96 INT. DINING ROOM

Scout, much humbled, COMES IN. She keeps her eyes down and gets her plate and goes BACK OUT to the kitchen. Neither Jem, Walter nor Atticus notice her.

97 INT. KITCHEN

Calpurnia is still glowering when Scout COMES IN. Scout shoots her a dirty look. She puts her plate on the table and starts to eat. She is furious.

SCOUT
(taking all her frustration about school out on Calpurnia
You wait, you mean old Calpurnia.
I’m going to fix you. One of these days when you aren’t lookin’, I’ll go off and drown myself in the Baker’s Eddy and they you’ll be sorry.

Jem and Walter come INTO the kitchen and go toward the screen door.

JEM
So long, Cal. Thanks for dinner.
He and Walter go on OUT. Scout jumps up and runs toward the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM

Atticus is looking at a paper and finishing a glass of iced tea. Scout runs over to him.

CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS, SCOUT

SCOUT
Atticus, I just can’t stand Calpurnia no longer.

ATTICUS
Now, Scout --

SCOUT
I can’t. You just have to fire her. She likes Jem better’n me and !!

She is about to cry and to keep from crying she runs OUT of the house. She goes running out the front. Atticus hears the FRONT DOOR SLAM.

O.S. SOUND: DOOR SLAM

He sigh, puts his paper down and goes OUT.

EXT. A CORNER OF THE HOUSE - CLOSE SHOT - SCOUT

She is crying.

ATTICUS (O.S.)
Scout. Scout.

She hears her father and controls her crying. ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus comes up to Scout.

ATTICUS
Scout, what in the world has gotten in to you? We couldn’t get along a single day without Cal.

Scout turns to her father to explain, takes on look at him and bursts out crying again.

ATTICUS
Now, now, now.

He takes her in his arms.
Scout wipes her eyes.

**SCOUT**
Atticus, I’m not going back to school any more.

**ATTICUS**
Now, Scout, it’s just the first day.

**SCOUT**
I don’t care. Everything went wrong. My teacher got mad as the devil at me and said you were teaching me to read all wrong and to stop it. And then she acts like a fool and tries to give Walter Cunningham a quarter when everybody knows Cunningham’s won’t take nothin’ from nobody. Any fool could have told her that.

**ATTICUS**
Now, Scout. Maybe she’s just nervous. It’s her first day teaching school, and being new here.

**SCOUT**
Oh, Atticus.

**ATTICUS**
Now wait a minute. If you can learn a single trick, Scout, you’ll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.

**SCOUT**
Sir?

**ATTICUS**
Until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.
SCOUT
But if I keep going to school we can’t ever read any more.

ATTICUS
Do you know what a compromise is?

104 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING SCOUT
As she considers his question.

SCOUT
Bending the law?

ATTICUS
No...an agreement reached by mutual consent. It works this way: if you’ll concede the necessity of going to school, we’ll read the same every night, just as we always have. It that a bargain?

SCOUT
Yes, sir.

ATTICUS
All right. Now hurry back to school or you’ll be late.

ANGLE WIDENS as she starts on.

ATTICUS
Scout --
She pauses.

ATTICUS
By the way, Scout, you’d better not say anything at school about our agreement.

SCOUT
Why not?

ATTICUS
I have a feeling that if you tell Miss Caroline that we read every night, she’ll get after me, and I wouldn’t want her after me.

SCOUT
Yes, sir.
She goes out of the yard. Atticus watches her go.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE FINCH GARAGE - NIGHT

Atticus backs the car out. It is an old car, not very well kept. Scout and Jem come running toward him.

SCOUT
(yelling
Let us go with you, Atticus.

Atticus keeps the motor running and calls out of the window.

ATTICUS
No, I have to go to the country on business. You’ll just get tired.

SCOUT
No. Not me. I won’t get tired.

ATTICUS
Well, will you promise to stay in the car while I go talk to Helen Robinson and not nag me about leaving if you do get tired?

SCOUT
Yes, sir.

ATTICUS
All right. Climb in.

Scout and Jem run for the car. Jem gets in the back seat, Scout gets beside her father.

SCOUT
Who’s Helen Robinson?

ATTICUS
She’s the wife of the man I’m defending.

The car moves on.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. ATTICUS’ CAR – MOVING SHOT – NIGHT – PROCESS

Scout is asleep in the front seat. Atticus looks down and sees she is and pulls her closer to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOM ROBINSON’S HOUSE AND YARD – NIGHT

It is a small, neat house and yard. Tom’s son Jem’s age, is playing in the yard. Atticus’ car drives up. The boy stops playing and watches the car. HELEN ROBINSON, 22, comes to the door of the house. She has a baby in her arms and three small children hang on her dress. Atticus gets out of the car and goes to the porch. He calls to the boy:

ATTICUS
Hello, son.

TOM, JR.
Hello.

Atticus goes up on the porch.

ATTICUS
Hello, Helen.

HELEN
Hello, Mr. Finch.

ATTICUS
I came over to tell you about my visit with Tom.

HELEN
Yes, sir. Come in.

Helen holds the door open for Atticus, and they GO IN. The boy, Tom, Jr. continues staring at Jem for a beat. He then looks off toward the dirt road. Jem turns and looks in the same direction

JEM’S POV

Down the dirt road, drunk, towards the car, comes Bob Ewell.

BACK TO JEM IN CAR

Jem is frightened and starts to leave the car, and then remembers the sleeping Scout.
He climbs into the front seat beside his sister, all the while watching the approach of Ewell.

JEM
(calling to Tom, Jr.
Would you tell my daddy to come out here, please.

Tom, Jr. Runs into the house.

110 INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jem gets close to Scout and watches Ewell get closer and closer.

111 EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Ewell comes right up to the car and stares in the window at Scout and Jem. He is unshaven and dirty and looks as if he’d been on a long drunk. He is unsteady and holds on to the side of the car, staring at the two children. Atticus comes to the car. Ewell stares drunkenly at him.

112 INT. CAR - ATTICUS - NIGHT

Atticus gets in the car beside Scout.

113 EXT. CAR - ATTICUS AND JEM’S POV - NIGHT

Ewell takes a swig of whiskey from a bottle he has taken from his back pocket, and goes reeling off down the road.

114 BACK TO ATTICUS AND JEM - NIGHT

Jem climbs into the back seat, Atticus starts the car.

115 INT. ATTICUS’ CAR - MOVING SHOT - NIGHT - PROCESS

Atticus turns the car around and goes slowly back down the dirt road. The lights of the car pick up Ewell standing drunkenly in the middle of the road looking like some terrible figure of wrath. Atticus has to slow the car down to almost a crawl, in order to pass Ewell without hitting him. As he passes, Ewell yells:

EWELL
Nigger lover. Nigger lover.
Jem leans across the front seat and puts his hand on his father’s shoulder. Atticus senses the boy’s fright and pats his hand. Scout sleeps through it all.

**ATTICUS**

No need to be afraid of him, son. He’s drunk and he’s all bluff.

**JEM**

Yes, sir.

They drive on, leaving the drunken fury of a man shouting in the darkness.

---

116  **EXT. FRONT OF FINCH HOUSE - NIGHT**

Atticus drives the car up.

117  **INT. ATTICUS’ CAR - NIGHT**

Atticus glances back at Jem.

**ATTICUS**

There are a lot of ugly things in this world, son. Of course, I wish I could keep them all away from you, but that’s never possible.

Atticus leans down and lifts the sleeping Scout off the seat.

118  **EXT. FINCH SIDEWALK AND YARD - NIGHT**

Atticus carries Scout toward the house, as Calpurnia comes out from the kitchen.

**ATTICUS**

If you’ll wait until I can get Scout in bed, Cal, I’ll drive you home.

**CALPURNIA**

Yes, sir.

He starts for the house.

119  **INT. SCOUT’S ROOM - NIGHT**

Atticus comes in with Scout and starts to undress her.
EXT. FING FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Jem is there as Atticus COMES OUT.

ATTICUS
Jem would you be afraid to wait here with Scout until I get Cal home?

JEM
No.

Atticus goes toward the car.

EXT. FINCH SIDEWALK AND FRONT YARD - JEM’S POV - NIGHT

Jem sees his father get into his car and start off. A tree rustles, a shadow passes over the porch where Jem sits, a night bird calls.

CLOSE SHOT - JEM - NIGHT

He is struck with sudden terror. He starts to run toward the Radley place in the direction of his father’s car.

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT - NIGHT

JEM
(calling
Atticus. Atticus. Atticus.

Jem runs a while longer, past the Radley oak, calling “Atticus, Atticus.” He realizes it is futile and stops.

CLOSE SHOT - JEM - NIGHT

He freezes. He sees something in the knothole of the oak tree where Scout found the gum. It is gleaming and reflecting the moonlight. He stops, looks around, and sticks his hand in the knothole and takes out a shiny medal. He quickly puts it in his pocket.

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT - NIGHT

Jem runs past the Radley house, into his yard and into the house.
EXT. THE SCHOOL GROUND - DAY

It is a very cold morning and the children are dressed in coats, hats, etc.

GROUP SHOT - SCOUT AND SOME CHILDREN

They are playing mumblety peg. A boy, CECIL JACOBS, who is Scout’s age, comes up to the group and gives her a shove.

CECIL
Don’t play with her. Her daddy defends niggers.

SCOUT
You take that back.

CECIL
I won’t. Your daddy’s low down --

Scout lights into him and they begin a rough fight. The other children gather around and begin YELLING, egging them on. Jem COMES INTO the group and pulls Scout off Cecil.

JEM
Scout. Stop that.

Cecil RUNS OFF. The other children MOVE AWAY.

CLOSE SHOT - JEM HOLDING SCOUT

SCOUT
You heard what he said about Atticus. What does he mean by that?

JEM
You ask Atticus when he comes home. He’ll explain it to you, and cut out the fighting, you hear?

Scout brushes herself off and Jem starts back to the children.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE FINCH FRONT PORCH - AFTERNOON

Scout sits on the front steps. Atticus comes into the yard. She runs to him.
ATTICUS
Of course, I do. And don’t say “nigger”, Scout.

SCOUT
I didn’t say it, Cecil Jacobs did. That’s why I had to fight him.

ATTICUS
(sternly)
I don’t want you fighting, Scout.

SCOUT
I had to, Atticus, he --

ATTICUS
(interrupting)
I don’t care what the reasons are. I forbid you to fight.

SCOUT
Yes, sir.

He sits on the steps. She sits beside him.

ATTICUS
Anyway, I’m simply defending a negro, Tom Robinson. Scout, you aren’t old enough to understand some things yet, but there’s been some high talk around town to the effect that I shouldn’t do much about defending this man.

SCOUT
If you shouldn’t be defending him, then why are you doin’ it?

ATTICUS
For a number of reasons. The main one is, if I didn’t, I couldn’t hold up my head in town. I couldn’t even tell you or Jem not to do something again.

(puts his arm around her)

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Scout, you’re going to hear some ugly talk about this at school, but I want you to promise me you’ll do one thing for me. That you won’t get into fights over it, no matter what is said to you.

ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus gets up and GOES INSIDE the house. Scout sees Jem on the sidewalk and goes toward him.

SCOUT
(calling as she goes toward him)
You know that Atticus says? He says --

Scout pauses as she watches Jem.

132 ANGLE - SCOUT

She sees Jem walking most peculiarly with his feet out and his arms held to his sides. He is doing him imitation of ancient Egyptians. Scout runs to meet him. When she gets about five feet from him, she becomes aware of his peculiar walk and stops and looks more closely.

133 MED. SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

SCOUT
What are you doing?

JEM
Walking like an Egyptian. We were studying about them in School. Teacher says we wouldn’t be no place without them.

SCOUT
Is that so?

134 MOVING SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

She begins to try to imitate his walk. They go towards the Radleys.

JEM
The cradle of civilization. They invented embalming and toilet paper.

He sees her imitation. He stops and goes to her, kneels and takes her feet.
JEM
That’s wrong, Scout. You do your feet this way.

He takes her feet and tries to fix them. He is kneeling in front of the Radley oak tree with the knothole.

CLOSE SHOT—JEM, SCOUT, OAK TREE

While he is kneeling, Scout glances around at the oak and sees two figures carved out of soap in the knot hole.

SCOUT
Look, Jem.

She points to the figures and gets close beside him and peers at them.

SCOUT
Think they’re poison?

JEM
No.

SCOUT
Why not?

JEM
I got my reasons.

He tenderly takes two soap figures out of the knothole. One is the figure of a boy, the other wears a crude dress.

SCOUT
Lookee here, Jem, the boy has hair in front of his eyebrows like you do.

JEM
And the girl wears bangs like you. These are us.

SCOUT
Let’s show them to Atticus.

JEM
No, don’t do that, Scout. Let’s have this our secret. Let’s write a letter thank’ him.

SCOUT
Him who?
The person that left them here.

How do you know it’s a him?

I got my reasons. Come on. I’ll put these away in my room.

They start on towards their house.

INT. JEM’S ROOM

Scout and Jem COME IN. He takes down a cigar box and puts the figures away.

What else have you got in there?

I’ll show you some day.

He puts the cigar box away. He finds a pencil and paper. Jem reads as he writes.

Dear sir. We appreciate the -- No. We appreciate everything which you have put in the tree for us. Yours very truly, Jeremy Atticus Finch.

He won’t know who you are if you sign it like that, Jem.

Jem erases his names and writes: “Jem Finch.” He hand the paper to Scout and she signs: “Jean Louise Finch (Scout).” They take the letter and GO running OUT.

EXT. SIDEWALK BY RADLEY OAK TREE.

Mr. Radley is by the oak tree. He is cementing up the knot-hole. Jem and Scout COME UP with the letter.

Why are you doing’ that, sir?
MR. RADLEY
The tree’s dying. You plug ‘em up with cement when they’re sick.
You ought to know that, Jem.

JEM
Yes, sir.

Jem seems withdrawn and dejected. He starts down the street toward his house, then starts running. Scout runs after him.

138 INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM - ATTICUS

Jem and Scout COME IN. Atticus is seated reading. Jem goes to his father.

139 CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS, JEM

JEM
Atticus, you know that oak tree by the Radley place that had the knot hole? Mr. Radley cemented it up. When I asked him why, he said it was a diseased tree. Do you think that tree was diseased?

ATTICUS
If Mr. Radley says it was, I guess it was, Jem.

JEM
Yes, sir.

Jem moves over to the window. He seems very puzzled.

SCOUT
Atticus, how long do I have to keep that promise not to fight?

ATTICUS
Forever, Scout.

Jem walks toward his room. Scout looks at her father as if she can’t believe what she has just heard.

SCOUT
Forever?

ATTICUS
(firmly)
Yes. Forever.
Scout looks at Atticus for a moment and then runs down the hall.

INT. JEM’S ROOM

Jem is there on his bed with his cigar box. Scout COMES INTO the room.

SCOUT
You know what Atticus made me promise? He made me --

She sees the soap figures, stops, then notices the cigar box and she goes toward the bed.

SCOUT
Jem, what do you have in that box?

JEM
If I show you, will you never tell anybody?

She shakes her head “no.” He opens the box.

CLOSE SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

They look into the box. He opens the top. There is a spelling medal, a pocket watch, some pennies, a broken pocketknife. He takes the medal out and holds it up for Scout to see. She is wide-eyed.

JEM
I found all these in the knothole of that tree at different times. This is a spelling medal that they used to award in school to spelling winners before we were born. And another day I found this --

(holds up the pocket watch
And this --

(holds up the pocketknife
And Scout, you know somethin’ else I never told you about the night I went back to the Radley’s?

SCOUT
Somethin’ else. You’ve never told me anything about that night.
JEM
Well, when I got there...well, I remember when I was getting out of my breeches, the first time they was all in a tangle, and I couldn’t get them loose. And yet, when I went back they were folded across the fence like they was expecti’ me. And somethin’ else. They had been sewed up where I’d tore them. Not like a lady sewed them, but all crooked, like somethin’ I’d try to do.

SCOUT
Can I hold something?

JEM
Sure.

She reaches in and takes the watch.

142 CLOSE SHOT - SCOUT

She is looking at the watch. She is google-eyed. Jem holds the soap figures of the boy and girl he found in the knothole. CAMERA PULLS INTO CLOSE SHOT of the TWO SOAP FIGURES.

JEAN LOUISE’S VOICE
It was to be a long time before Jem and I talked about Boo again.

DISSOLVE TO:

143 INT. RADLEY HOUSE

Early in February. Scout and Jem come by. They are using sticks as guns.

JEAN LOUISE’S VOICE

Christmas came and was gone. Jem had a birthday. Otherwise, the time was quiet and uneventful until one day early in February. Jem and I decided to go hunting.

She and Jem have stopped. She watches Jem for a beat.

SCOUT
What are you looking at?
JEM
That old dog down yonder.

SCOUT
That’s old Tim Johnson, ain’t it?
What’s He doing?

JEM
I don’t know, Scout. We better get home.

They start running towards their house.

DISSOLVE TO:

144 INT. KITCHEN

Calpurnia is there. Jem and Scout RUN IN.

JEM
Cal, can you come down the sidewalk a minute? There’s something wrong with an old dog down yonder.

Jem gulps like a goldfish, hunches his shoulders and twitches his torso.

JEM
He’s going like this, only not like he means to.

CALPURNIA
Was he running?

JEM
No, he’s just moseyin’ along, so slow you can hardly tell it. He’s comin’ this way.

She and the children GO OUT the door.

145 EXT. THE YARD - MOVING SHOT

Calpurnia, Jem and Scout run through the yard to the spot beyond the Radley place where they saw the dog. They stop, looking.

146 EXT. THE STREET - THEIR POINT OF VIEW

They SEE the dog, not much more than a speck in the distance, walking erratically, as if his right legs were shorter than his left legs.
He looks like a car stuck in a sand bed.

He’s gone lopsided.

Calpurnia grabs the children by their shoulders and starts running home.

DISSOLVE TO:

Calpurnia and the children RUN IN. She goes to the telephone, SHOUTING in her excitement, but first, she closes the outside door.

CALPURNIA

(into receiver)
Give me Mr. Finch’s office
(a pause)
Mr. Finch, this is Cal. I swear to God, there’s a mad dog down the street apiece. He’s comin’ this way, yes, sir, he is. Mr. Finch, I declare he is. Old Tim Johnson, Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes.

She hands up and RATTLES the phone again.

CALPURNIA

Miss Eula May. No, Ma’am, I’m through talkin’ to Mr. Finch. Please don’t connect me no more. Listen, Miss Eula May, can you tell Miss Maudie and Miss Stephanie Crawford and who ever’s got a phone on this street and tell ‘em a mad dog’s comin’? Please, Ma’am.

(a pause; she listens to Miss Eula May)
I know it’s February, Miss Eula May, but I know a mad dog when I see one. Please, Ma’am, hurry.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. THE STREET AND FINCH HOUSE - MOVING SHOT

It is quiet and deserted. A black Ford swings into the driveway. Atticus and the Sherriff, HECK TATE, GET OUT. Tate carries a heavy rifle. They go up on the back porch. Jem opens the door.

ATTICUS
Stay inside, son. Where is he, Cal?

EXT. FINCH BACK PORCH

Calpurnia COMES OUT on the porch. She points down the street. She and the two men stand on the porch watching down the road. The children stare out of the screen door.

EXT. THE STREET - THEIR POINT OF VIEW

They see the street, deserted. The mockingbirds are silent. There is a total stillness. Heck Tate sniffs, and then blows his nose. He shifts the gun to the crook of his arm.

ATTICUS
(softly)
There he is.

They see Tim Johnson COME INTO SIGHT, walking dazedly in the inner rim of a curve parallel to the Radley place.

TATE
He’s got it all right, Mr. Finch.

Tim Johnson is still advancing at a snail’s pace. He seems dedicated to one course and motivated by an invisible force that inches him towards the Finch’s. He reaches the street which runs in front of the Radley place. He pauses as if with what is left of his poor mind he is trying to consider what road to take. He makes a few hesitant steps, reaches the Radley gate, tries to turn around but is having difficulty.

BACK TO SCENE - ATTICUS, CALPURNIA, HECK TATE - ON BACK PORCH

ATTICUS
He’s within range, Heck. Go inside, Cal.
Calpurnia opens the screen door, latches it behind her, then unlatches it and holds on to the hook. Jem and Scout peer out from under her arms.

TATE
Take him, Mr. Finch.

He hands the rifle to Atticus.

SCOUT
(in terror for her father)
Oh, no, Mr. Tate. He don’t know how to shoot.

ATTICUS
(shaking his head vehemently)
Don’t waste time, Heck.

TATE
For God’s sake, Mr. Finch, he’s got to be killed right away before he starts running. Look where he is. I can’t shoot that well and you know it.

ATTICUS
I haven’t shot a gun in twenty years.

Heck Tate almost throws the gun at Atticus.

TATE
I’d feel mighty comfortable if you did now.

Atticus accepts the gun and walks OFF the porch.

153 EXT. THE YARD - MOVING SHOT

Atticus WALKS OUT of the yard and to the middle of the street. He raises his glasses, pushes them to his forehead. They slip down and he drops them in the street. In the silence, we can hear them CRACK. Atticus, blinking hard, rubs his eyes and his chin.

154 EXT. THE STREET AND TIM JOHNSON - ATTICUS’ POINT OF VIEW

Tim Johnson has made up his mind. He takes two steps forward, stops, raises his head. The dog’s body goes rigid.
His hand yanks a ball-tipped lever as he brings the gun to his shoulder. The RIFLE CRACKS. Tim Johnson leaps, flops over, and crumples on the sidewalk.

EXT. THE BACK PORCH
Heck Tate jumps off the porch and runs toward the Radleys.

EXT. THE STREET
Atticus stoops, picks up his glasses and grinds the broken lens to powder, and walks toward the dog.

EXT. BACK PORCH
Jem and Scout are dumbfounded. Scout regains her senses first and pinches Jem to get him moving. They run OUT of the door.

EXT. THE STREET
Heck Tate and Atticus are walking toward the house. They meet the still awestruck Scout and Jem. The children APPROACH Atticus reverently.

ATTICUS
Don’t you go near that dog, you understand? He’s just as dangerous dead as alive.

JEM
Yes, sir. Atticus --

ATTICUS
What, son?

JEM
Nothin’.

TATE
(grinning
What’s the matter, boy? Can’t you talk? Didn’t you know your daddy was the best shot in this county?

ATTICUS
Hush, Heck. Let’s go back to town.

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)

(goes to the children)
Remember, now, don’t go near that dog.

JEM

Yes, sir.

TATE

I’ll send Zeebo out right away to pick him up.

He and atticus get in the car and drive OFF. Jem and Scout, still stunned, stand watching them go.

JEM

Come on, Scout. I got some money for my birthday and let’s go down-town and I’ll treat you to anything you want. Come on.

160 EXT. SIDEWALK – MOVING SHOT

Scout and Jem are running. They come to Mrs. Dubose’s. Jem starts to sprint, Scout after him. Just as they reach her gate, Jessie wheels her vigorously ONTO her porch, and she spots the children, SCREAMING:

MRS. DUBOSE

I guess you’re proud of your father now.

JEM

Yes’m.

Jem stops and faces her. Scout pulls at him to continue on.

MRS. DUBOSE

Why are you so proud of him?

JEM

(shouting back defiantly
Because he’s brave and because he’s the best shot in Maycomb County and because --

MRS. DUBOSE

Why are you so proud of that? Nobody else is proud of him. Old, ugly, nearsighted thing. What’s he done to be proud of except defend black trash that out to be -
Mrs. Dubose, ma’am—

SCREAMING at him
Watch out he’s not shot down in the street one of these days, the way he shot that dog.

Jem’s face is scarlet. Their good spirits have all been deflated.

CLOSE MOVING SHOT – JEM AND SCOUT

They continue on down the sidewalk.

(anxiously)
Don’t contradict her no more, Jem.

Jem doesn’t answer her. Scout follows silently after him. Suddenly, Jem grabs a stick and runs, flailing wildly, up the steps into Mrs. Dubose’s front yard.

(SCREAMING)
Don’t Jem. She’ll kill you. Jem, she has that pistol, you know, that --

With great violence, Jem takes the stick and cuts off the tops of every camellia bush in the yard. The yard is littered with green buds and leaves. There is a SCREAM from Mrs. Dubose as she sees what is happening.

(SCREAMING)
I hate you, Mrs. Dubose. I hate you, I hate you.

INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM

Scout hand Jem are standing at the front window morosely watching the street.

EXT. MRS. DUBOSE’S YARD

Atticus comes out of Mrs. Dubose’s house. He seems extremely tired and very saddened.
He stands for a moment in the yard looking at the wreckage and then stoops down and picks up a broken camellia bud and the stick and starts walking slowly and thoughtfully home.

164 INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM

The children are still at the window. They hear the front door slam.

O.S. SOUND - DOOR SLAM

They brace themselves for an explosion, and when there is none, and Atticus doesn’t even appear, Jem looks at Scout and by some silent understanding, they decide to go find him, and they go OUT of the room.

165 INT. ATTICUS’ ROOM

He is sitting on the bed, the flowers and the stick beside him. He looks up and sees the children. He points to the flowers and the stick.

ATTICUS

Jem, are you responsible for this?

JEM

Yes, sir. She said terrible things about your defending Tom Robinson. She said...

ATTICUS

(interrupting)

I don’t care what she said. I never thought you would be the one I’d have to worry about losing his head over this. To do something like this to a sick, old lady is inexcusable. Go down and have a talk with Mrs. Dubose. Come straight home afterward.

Jem does not move.

ATTICUS

Go on, I said.

Jem starts OUT of Atticus’ room. Scout follows after him.

ATTICUS

Come back here.
Scout comes back.

DISSOLVE TO:

166 INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM

Atticus and Scout are there. Jem comes IN. He seems very subdued. Atticus looks up at him.

167 ANGLE ON JEM

He stares at the rug while talking.

JEM
I told her I was sorry, but I ain’t.
(a pause
Atticus, she wants me to read to her. She wants me to come very afternoon after school and Saturday and read to her out loud for tow hours? Atticus, do I have to?

ATTICUS
Certainly.

JEM
But she wants me to do it for a month.

ATTICUS
They you’ll do it for a month, Jem.

DISSOLVE TO:

168 INT. MRS. DUBOSE’S HALLWAY

Jem and Scout ENTER. Jem is carrying a copy of “Ivanhoe.” He KNOCKS on the second door on the left. Jessie opens a wooden door and unlatches a screen door. She peers out at them.

JESSIE
Who told you to bring your sister, Jem Finch?

MRS. DUBOSE (O.S.)
Let ‘em both in, Jessie.
INT. MRS. DUBOSE’S ROOM

In the corner of the room is a brass bed, and in the bed is Mrs. Dubose. There is a marble-topped washstand by her bed, and on the washstand is a glass with a teaspoon in it, a red ear syringe, a box of absorbent cotton, and a steel alarm clock standing on three tiny legs. Mrs. Dubose glares at the children as they ENTER.

MRS. DUBOSE
So you brought that dirty little sister of yours, did you?

JEM
(quietly
My sister ain’t dirty and I ain’t scared of you.

She glares at them, but doesn’t continue with a tirade.

MRS. DUBOSE
You may commence reading, Jeremy.

Jem sits down on a cane bottom chair and opens “Ivanhoe.” Scout pulls up another chair like it.

MRS. DUBOSE
Come closer. Come to this side of the bed.

ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING MRS. DUBOSE

The two children move their chairs. They are close to Mrs. Dubose. She is horrible. Her face is the color of a dirty pillowcase, the corners of her mouth glisten with wet, which inches like glaciers down the deep grooves of her chin. Old age liver spots dot her cheeks, her pale eyes have black pinpoint pupils. Her hands are knobby and the cuticles are grown up over her fingernails. Her bottom plate is not in, and her upper lip protrudes. From time to time she moves the nether lip to her upper plate and this makes the wet move faster.

MRS. DUBOSE
What time does it say on the clock?

JEM
(looking at the clock
A quarter to three.

MRS. DUBOSE
Proceed, Jeremy.

Jem begins reading.
Ivanhoe. Chapter One. “thus
communed these while to their
lowly dome, the full-fed swine
return’d with evening home,
compell’d -- to the --

MRS. DUBOSE
You skipped a word there, you
numbskull.

JEM
I can’t pronounce it.

MRS. DUBOSE
Then spell it.

JEM
Yes’m R-E-L-U-C-T-A-N-T to the
several sties, with din 0-B-S-T-R-
E-P-E-R-O-U-S and ungrateful
cries.

DISSOLVE TO:

171 INT. MRS. DUBOSE’S ROOM
The clock says 3:25. Jem is reading.

172 ANOTHER ANGLE – MRS. DUBOSE
She lays back on the bed, the quilts up to her chin, only
her head and shoulders are visible. Her head begins to
move slowly from side to side. She begins from time to
time to open her mouth wide, and her tongue undulates
faintly, cords of saliva collect on her lips, she draws
them in, then opens her mouth again. Her mouth seems to
have a private existence of its own. It works separate
and apart from the rest of her, out and in, like a clam
hole at low tide. Occasionally, it says ‘pt.,” like some
vicious substance coming to a boil. Scout pulls at Jem’s
sleeve. He looks up at Scout and then at the bed. Her
hand makes its regular sweep towards them.

JEM
Mrs. Dubose, are you all right?

She doesn’t hear him. The alarm clock goes off, making a
loud, tinny ring. The children almost jump out of their
skins. Jessie come hurrying IN.

JESSIE
Shoo. You all run home now. It’s
3:30, time for her medicine.
The children go OUT of the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MRS. DUBOSE’S ROOM

The children are there, close to her bed, Jem is still reading “I

JEM
“On the lower step of the throne
the Champion was made to kneel
down. Indeed this whole action,
since the fight had ended, seemed
rather to have been upon the --”

There is a KNOCK on the door.

MRS. DUBOSE
(SCREAMING
Come in.

Atticus come INTO the room.

ATTICUS
I was coming home from the office
and didn’t see the children. I
thought they might be here.

He goes over to the bed and takes Mrs. Dubose’s hand.
She smiles at him.

MRS. DUBOSE
Do you know what time it is,
Atticus? Exactly fourteen minutes
past five. Today the alarm clock
is set for five thirty, I want you
to know that.

SCOUT
Why do you set that alarm clock
for a different time every day,
Mrs. Dubose? You keep setting it
later and later.

Atticus puts his hand on her head.

ATTICUS
I have a feeling Jem’s days are
numbered, Mrs. Dubose.

MRS. DUBOSE
Only a week longer, I think. Just
to make sure.
Jem gets out of his chair.

JEM

But --

Atticus puts out his hand and Jem remains silent. Mrs. Dubose settles back on her pillow. She seems very withdrawn.

ATTICUS
Come on, children. Good night, Mrs. Dubose.

She doesn’t answer. He starts OUT, FOLLOWED by the children.

174 INT. MRS. DUBOSE’S ROOM

Jem and Scout are there.

175 ANGLE – MRS. DUBOSE

She seems very alert.

JEM

(reading
“The whole assembly wore an aspect
of the most profound gravity and
in--

MRS. DUBOSE

(interrupting
That’ll do.

Jem closes the book.

MRS. DUBOSE

It’s six thirty. Tell your father that.

They rise to go.

MRS. DUBOSE

And that’s all. You needn’t come back any more. Good day to you.

Jem and Scout go OUT of the room.

176 EXT. MRS. DUBOSE’S YARD – TWILIGHT

JEM

I am free. I am free.
He gives a “WHOOP” and Scout gives a “WHOOP.” They start running out of the yard, laughing and yelling. Jessie comes onto the porch. She is very excited.

JESSIE
(calling

Jem and Scout hear her and stop.

JEM
Yes?

JESSIE
Would you run home fast as you can and ask your father to come here, please?

JEM
Yes.

He senses Jessie’s panic and tears out of the yard, Scout behind him.

DISSOLVE TO:

177 INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jem and Scout are there reading. Atticus COMES IN.

ATTICUS
Mrs. Dubose is dead, children.

They look at him.

ATTICUS
She’s better off. She’s not suffering any more
(a pause
Your punishment, Jem, served a larger purpose than any of us intended.

178 CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS, JEM, SCOUT

ATTICUS
Mrs. Dubose took morphine as a pain killer for years. The doctor put her on it because she had arthritis. She’d have spent the rest of her life on it and died without suffering, but she was too contrary.

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)
She said she was going to leave this world beholden to nothing and nobody. She meant to break herself of it before she died, and that's what she did while you were reading to her.

JEM
Yessir.

ATTICUS
I'm glad you got to see what real courage is, son.

JEM
Yessir.

Jem GOES to the window and looks out. Scout joins him. Atticus goes to them and puts his arms around them.

DISSOLVE TO:

179  EXT. FINCH FRONT PORCH AND STEPS - LATE AFTERNOON

Atticus is on the porch half-reading his paper, half watching Scout and Jem in the yard. Jem has a baseball and a glove. Scout is watching something on the sidewalk. CAMERA PULLS IN TO CLOSE SHOT of a pill bug lying on the sidewalk. Scout's hand reaches into the frame and is about to smash the pill bug when we hear Jem’s voice yell:

JEM’S VOICE
Don’t do that, Scout.

Scout’s hand stops as the ANGLE WIDENS to show Jem and Scout looking at each other and Atticus watching the scene from the porch.

JEM
Put that bug in the grass.

SCOUT
Are you crazy, Jem?

JEM
I said put him in the grass.

Scout sigh, picks up the small bug and puts it in the grass.

SCOUT
Why can’t I just mash him?
JEM
Because they don’t bother you.

SCOUT
(with disgust
I reckon you’re at the stage now
where you don’t kill flies and
mosquitoes.

JEM
Aw, dry up.

The Sheriff’s car comes by.

SCOUT
There’s Sheriff Tate
(calling out
Hey, Sheriff Tate!

Atticus looks up from his paper.

JEM
Who’s in the car with him,
Atticus?

ATTICUS
That’s Tom Robinson, son.

JEM
Where has he been?

ATTICUS
In the Abbotsville jail.

JEM
Why?
The Sheriff thought he would be
safer there. They’re bringing him
back here tonight because his
trial is tomorrow.

He gets up and GOES INTO the house.

From under the house Jem and Scout hear the SOUND of
“Psst.” They look at each other, HEAR “Psst” again.
They look under the house and see Dill there, hiding.

JEM
God A’mighty.

Scout and Jem gather around Dill. They watch him in
speechless wonder.
DILL
It’s a wonder my hair’s not white, what I’ve been through. Did my Aunt tell you my mama married again?

JEM
No.

DILL
Well, she did, and he took a dislike to me, bound me in chains and left me to die in the basement of our house. I would have starved except for a farmer --

JEM
(interrupting)
Dill, how did you get here?

DILL
I took thirteen dollars out of my mother’s purse. I caught the nine o’clock from Meridian and I got off at ...

Atticus comes into the yard. Dill looks up at him and he looks at Dill. Dill starts to scurry back under the porch.

ATTICUS
(surprised)
Dill!

Dill turns. He realizes he has been caught. He comes back toward Atticus.

DILL
Mr. Finch, don’t tell my Aunt Stephanie I’m here, please, sir. Don’t make me go back. I’ll run off again.

ATTICUS
Whoa, son. Nobody’s gonna make you do anything but go to bed pretty soon. I’m just going to call Stephanie and ask her if you can’t spend the night here. You’d like that, wouldn’t you?
Yes, sir.

Atticus leaves.

DILL

182 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The children are listening to Kate Smith on the radio. Atticus is reading his paper. There’s a KNOCK at the front screen door. Atticus goes and sees Heck Tate standing there.

ATTICUS


Tate comes inside.

TATE

Mr. Finch, news has gotten around the County about my bringin’ Tom Robinson back to the jail, and I’ve heard there might be trouble from the Cunninghams and that bunch out at Old Sarum.

ATTICUS

Oh.

He goes to the radio and turns it down.

ATTICUS

Jem, you and Scout and Dill run to your room and play. I have to talk to the Sheriff.

JEM

Yessir.

He starts OUT. Scout and Dill follow after him. Atticus goes over to Tate.

ATTICUS

Have a seat, Heck.

TATE

Nosir, I won’t take the time. Mr. Link Deas and some of the other prominent citizens around town heard about the Old Sarum bunch too and they asked me to come to you to see if we can’t hold up the trial for awhile.
ATTICUS
Heck, we’ve gotten one postponement of this case just to make sure there’s nothin’ to be uneasy about. You can keep Tom one night, can’t you? I don’t think anybody in Maycomb’ll begrudge me a client with times this hard.

TATE
Nobody around here is up to anything, Mr. Finch. It’s just that Old Sarum bunch we’re worried about. You know how they are when they get stirred up. That’s why the men here in town think you should ask for another postponement. Mr. Link Deas even feels we should take him back to the Abbottsville jail tonight.

ATTICUS
I’m sure. According to Link Deas, I shouldn’t have taken this case in the first place. Heck, you know the people here in town, or the people out in Old Sarum wouldn’t be upset if they didn’t think I really intended defending Tom Robinson. An’ Heck, that’ll never change, not if the trial is tomorrow or in six months or next year. I’m going to defend him to the best of my ability. He may go to the chair, Heck, but he’s not going until the truth is told, and you know what the truth is.

There is a SOUND of children ROUGHHOUSING from the bedrooms.

ATTICUS
Now you better go back and tell them that. I’ve got to get my children to bed.

HECK
Yessir.

He GOES. The NOISE from the children’s rooms continues. Atticus closes the door after him. The NOISE now continues in the children’s rooms and Atticus goes into the hall.
186-A INT. JEM’S ROOM

Jem, Scout and Dill are having a pillow fight. Atticus COME IN.

ATTICUS
All right. All right, children. Let’s get to bed.
(they continue with their play
All right now. Come on, come on.
It’s getting late.
(takes the pillow from them.
Scout, you go in your room and get undressed.

SCOUT
Can’t I read to you?

ATTICUS
Not tonight, Scout.

SCOUT
Please, Atticus.

ATTICUS
Not tonight - now scoot.

She GOES to her room.

ATTICUS
Now get undressed, boys.

They start to undress and he GOES OUT of the room.

186-B INT. KITCHEN

Calpurnia is there finishing up the dishes. Atticus COMES IN.

ATTICUS
Cal, if I need you to stay here tonight, can you do it?

CALPURNIA
Yessir, I can.

ATTICUS
Thank you.

He starts out. He pauses.
ATTICUS
I think you better count on staying.

CALPURNIA
Fine.

He GOES on out.

DISSOLVE TO:

186-C  INT. JEM’S ROOM
Jem and Dill are in bed. Dill is asleep, but Jem is awake.

186-D  JEM’S POINT OF VIEW
He sees Atticus carrying something under his arm, pass by the door of his bedroom going towards the kitchen.

186-E  BACK TO JEM IN BED
He jumps out of bed and goes to the door of his room.

186-F  JEM’S POINT OF VIEW
He sees Atticus going into the kitchen, the living room lamp under his arm.

186-G  BACK TO JEM AT DOOR
He starts to get dressed in his street clothes.

O.S. We HEAR Atticus’ car starting up. Scout COMES sleepily in from her room.

SCOUT
What’s going on? Where’s Atticus taking the car? He never takes the car hardly any place.

JEM
I know. An’ I seen him leave with the floor lamp and an extension cord.

Dill wakes up.

DILL
What’s going on?
Tell you later. You and Scout hurry up and get your clothes on, we’re goin’ down town.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT

The children walk down the sidewalk towards town.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE - MOVING SHOT

It is deserted and dark. The stores around the square are dark except for night lights burning back by the safes and cash registers. The three children walk down the street toward Atticus’ office. They see his car parked in front of the building. They look in the doorway of the building. It is dark. Jem tries the knob of the door. It is locked.

JEM

There’s his car. Let’s go back up the street.

They walk up the sidewalk. They see a solitary light burning in the distance. It is from the jail. As they approach the jail, they can see the long extension cord Atticus brought from home running between the bars of the second-floor window and down the side of the building. In the light from its bare bulb they see Atticus propped against the front door. He is sitting on one of his office chairs and he is reading, oblivious of the night bugs hovering about his head. Scout starts to run toward him.

JEM

Scout.

(she pauses
Don’t go to him. He might not like it. He’s all right. Let’s go home. I just wanted to see where he was and what he was up to.

The children start back across the square taking a short cut, when they HEAR a NOISE and pause.
They see four dusty cars come IN from the Meridian Highway moving slowly, in a line. They go around the Square, pass the Bank Building and stop in front of the jail. Nobody gets out. Atticus looks up from the newspaper, closes it, deliberately fold it, drops it in his lap, and pushes his hat to the back of his head. He seems to be expecting the men.

GROUP SHOT - SOUT - JEM - DILL

JEM
(whispering
Come on. Follow me.

MOVING SHOT - SCOUT - JEM- DILL

They run across the Square, across the street. They take refuge for a moment in a store door. They peer out at Atticus waiting at the jail.

JEM
(whispering
Come on. Careful. We can get closer.

They scurry down the street to the doorway of Tyndal’s Hardware Store. They peer out, watching.

EXT. THE JAIL

In ones and twos, the men get out of the cars. They are country men. Walter Cunningham is among them. They surround Atticus.

MAN
He in there, Mr. Finch?

ATTICUS
He is. And he’s asleep. Don’t wake him.

CUNNINGHAM
You know what we want. Get aside fro the door Mr. Finch.

ATTICUS
You can turn around and go home again, Walter. Heck Tate’s around somewhere.
ANOTHER MAN
The hell he is. Heck’s bunch is
so deep in the woods they won’t
get out till mornin’. Called ‘em
off on a snipe hunt. Didn’t you
think a that, Mr. Finch?

ATTICUS
Thought about it but didn’t
believe it. Well, then, that
changes things doesn’t it?

193   EXT. DOORWAY OF HARDWARE STORE - GROUP SHOT
Dill, Scout and Jem. Scout turns to her brother.

SCOUT
I can’t see Atticus. Come on.
Let’s go where we can watch him.

She darts out towards the men, Dill behind her, before
Jem can reach out and grab them.

194   MOVING SHOT
Scout and Dill, Jem behind them. They run to the men and
push themselves through them until they reach Atticus.

SCOUT
Hey, Atticus.

She smiles up at him, but when she catches the look of
fear on his face, she becomes insecure. Scout looks
around a the men surrounding her. These are strangers to
her, country men, not the men she saw on her porch.
Atticus gets up from his chair and begins to move slowly,
like an old man, toward them.

195   GROUP SHOT - ATTICUS - JEM - SCOUT - DILL

ATTICUS
Go home, Jem. Take Scout and Dill home.

Scout looks up at Jem. She sees he is not thinking of
leaving.

ATTICUS
Go home, I said.

Jem shakes his head “no”. Atticus’ fists go to his hips
and so do Jem’s, and they face each other in defiance.
ATTICUS
Son, I said go home.

196 ANOTHER ANGLE

Jem again shakes his head. A burly man grabs Jem roughly by the collar.

MAN
I’ll send him home.

The burly man almost yanks Jem off his feet. Atticus flushes. His fists clench. He reaches for Jem, but before he gets him Scout kicks the man swiftly.

SCOUT
Don’t you touch him.

The man falls back in pain. Atticus puts his hand on her shoulder.

ATTICUS
That’ll do, Scout. Don’t kick folks.

SCOUT
Ain’t nobody gonna do Jem that way.

A man GROWLS in the back.

MAN
All right, Mr. Finch, get ‘em outa here. We’ll give you fifteen seconds.

197 CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS - JEM

ATTICUS
Jem, I want you to please leave.

JEM
No, sir.

ATTICUS
Please, Jem.

JEM
I tell you I ain’t goin’...

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO MED. SHOT. As Scout becomes bored by this exchange, she looks back at the man. She sees a man she recognizes. She moves toward him.
SCOUT
Hey, Mr. Cunningham...

Walter Cunningham does not seem to hear her.

SCOUT
I said, hey, Mr. Cunningham. How’s your entailment gettin’ along?

The big man blinks and hooks his thumbs into his overall straps. He seems uncomfortable. He clears his throat and looks away. Scout walks a little closer to him.

SCOUT
Don’t you remember me, Mr. Cunningham? I’m Jean Louise Finch. You brought us some hickory nuts one early morning, remember? We had a talk. I went and got my daddy to come out to tank you. I go to school with your boy. I go to school with Walter. He’s a nice boy. Tell him “hey” for me, won’t you? You know something, Mr. Cunningham, entailments are bad. Entailments --

Suddenly, Scout realizes she is the center of everyone’s attention: the men, her brother, Dill, Atticus. She becomes self conscious. She turns to Atticus.

SCOUT
Atticus, I was just sayin’ to Mr. Cunningham that entailments are bad, but not to worry, it takes a long time sometimes.

She begins to dry up. She looks up at the country men staring at her. They are quite still.

SCOUT
What’s the matter?

She looks at Atticus. He says nothing. She looks back at Mr. Cunningham.

SCOUT
I sure meant no harm, Mr. Cunningham.

CUNNINGHAM
No harm taken, young lady.
Mr. Cunningham moves forward and takes Scout by the shoulders.

**CUNNINGHAM**
I’ll tell Walter you said “hey”, little lady.

**CAMERA PULLS BACK TO MED. SHOT.** Mr. Cunningham straightens up and waves a big hand.

**CUNNINGHAM**
Let’s clear out. Let’s get going, boys.

As they had come, in ones and twos, the men straggle back into their cars. We hear doors slam, engines cough and the cars drive off.

**GROUP SHOT - SCOUT, JEM, DILL**

They watch them leave.

**ATTICUS**
Now, you go home, all of you. I’ll be there later.

**JEM**
Yes, sir.
(to Scout and Dill
Come on.

The three children go on down the street.

**CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS**

He sits again in the chair, waiting. Tom Robinson calls out from the darkness of the jail.

**TOM’S VOICE**
Mr. Finch. They gone?

**ANGLE WIDENS** as Atticus steps back and looks up.

**ATTICUS**
They’ve gone. Get some sleep, Tom. They won’t bother you any more.

He sits back in his chair and continues his watching.

**DISSOLVE TO:**
The next morning, people are coming from all parts of the county for the trial. It is like Saturday. Wagons carrying country people on the way to the trial stream past the house. Some men ride horseback. Scout, Jem and Dill sit on the curb of the sidewalk watching the wagons and the horses go by.

SCOUT
Did you ever see so many people.
It’s Jus’ like Saturday.


SCOUT
Where are you going?

JEM
I can’t stand it any longer. I’m going down to the courthouse to watch.

SCOUT
You better not. You know Atticus told us to keep away from there.

JEM
I don’t care if he did. I’m not going to miss the most exciting thing that ever happened in this town.

He starts on. Scout and Dill look at each other and start to follow him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE

It is deserted, as everyone is inside watching the trial. Scout, Jem and Dill come into the yard. They stand looking up at the courthouse.

JEM
Come on.

They all start towards the entrance.
Scout, Jem and Dill go up the stairs towards the entrance. When they get to the entrance, Jem peeks through the hole of the door. He looks back at the other two.

JEM
It’s packed solid. They’re standing all along the back.

REVEREND SYKES, the Negro Baptist preacher, comes up the stairs. Jem and the children go over to him.

JEM
Reverend Sykes, you going upstairs?

SYKES
Yes, I am.

JEM
Could we go with you? Every seat is taken down here and they’re standing all along the back.

SYKES
Why, I guess so. Come on.

He starts up the stairs and they follow after him.

Rev. Sykes ENTERS with Jem, Dill and Scout. He leads them gently into and among the black people in the gallery. Four Negroes in the front row get up and give them their seats when they see them come in. They sit down and peer over the balcony. The colored balcony runs along three walls of the courtroom like a second-story veranda, and from it the children see everything.

The jury sits to the left under long windows. Sunburned, lanky, they are nearly all farmers, but this is only natural. Town folk rarely sit on juries, they are either struck or excused. The Circuit Solicitor and another man, Atticus and Tom Robinson, sit at tables with their backs to the children. Just inside the railing which divides the spectators from the Court, the witnesses sit on cowhide-bottomed chairs, their backs also to the children. Judge Taylor is on the bench, looking like a sleepy, old shark.
SCOUT
(pointing down to
courtroom
Jem, are those the Ewells sittin’
down yonder?

JEM
(whispering
Hush. Mr. Heck Tate’s testifyin’.

INT. COURTROOM

The Solicitor, MR. GILMER, is cross-examining Heck Tate.

TATE
On the night of August 21st I was
just leaving my office to go home
when Bob -- Mr. Ewell -- came in.
Very excited he was, and said to
get to his house quick, that his
girl had been raped.

CLOSE SHOT - HECK TATE

TATE
I got in my car and went out there
as fast as I could. She was
pretty well beat up. I asked her
if Tom Robinson beat her like
that, she said yes, he had. Asked
her if he took advantage of her
and she said yes he did. So I went
down to the Robinson’s house and
brought him back. She identified
him as the one, so I took him in.
That’s all there was to it.

GILMER
Thank you.

ANGLE WIDENS, as Judge Taylor turns to Atticus.

JUDGE
Any questions, Atticus?

ATTICUS
Yes.

He is sitting behind his table, his chair skewed to one
side, his legs crossed, and one arm is resting on the
back of his chair.
ATTICUS
Did anybody call a doctor, Sheriff?

TATE
No, sir.

ATTICUS
Why not?

TATE
‘Cause I didn’t think it was necessary. She was beat up. Somethin’ sho happened, it was obvious.

ATTICUS
Sheriff, you say she was mighty beat up. In what way?

TATE
Well, she was beaten around the head. There were already bruises comin’ on her arms. She had a black eye startin’...

ATTICUS
Which eye?

TATE
Let’s see --

Heck Tate blinks and runs his hand through his hair. He points to an invisible person five inches in front of him.

TATE
Her left.

ATTICUS
Was it her left facin’ you, or her left looking the same way you were?

TATE
Oh, yes, that’d make it her right. It was her right eye, Mr. Finch. I remember now, she was beat up on that side of her face.

Heck Tate blinks again and then turns and looks at Tom Robinson as if something has been made clear to him at the same time. Tom Robinson raises his head. Something has been made clear to Atticus, too, and he gets to his feet. He walks toward Heck Tate.
ATTICUS
Which side again, Heck?

TATE
The right side. And her arms were bruised and she showed me her neck. There were definite finger marks on her gullet.

ATTICUS
All around her throat? At the back of her neck?

TATE
I’d say they were all around.

Atticus nods to Mr. Gilmer as he sits down. Mr. Gilmer shakes his head at the Judge. The Judge nods to Heck Tate, who rises stiffly and steps down from the witness stand.

Feet are scraped, babies are shifted to shoulders, and a few children scamper OUT of the courtroom.

The Negroes whisper softly amongst themselves.

DILL
Reverend, what was that all about?

SYKES
I’m jus’ not sure, son.

Jem is leaning over the railing.

The Clerk booms out:

CLERK
Robert E. Lee Ewell.
Robert E. Lee Ewell rises and struts to the stand. He raises his right hand, takes the Bible and is sworn in as a witness. Mr. Gilmer addresses him.

215  MED. SHOT - WITNESS STAND

   GILMER
   Mr. Ewell, will you tell us just in your own words what happened August 21st?

216  CLOSE SHOT - EWELL

   EWELL
   Well, that night I was comin’ in from the woods with a load of kindlin’ and I heard Mayella screamin’ as I got to the fence. So I dropped the kindlin’ and ran as fast as I could but I run into the fence. But when I got distangled, I run up to the window and I seen him with my Mayella.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT, as the rest of the testimony is DROWNED OUT by the people in the courtroom, who begin to MURMUR with excitement. Judge Taylor begins to BANG his desk with his gavel. Heck Tate goes to the aisle, trying to quiet the crowd. Atticus is on his feet whispering to the Judge.

217  INT. COLORED BALCONY - GROUP SHOT - REV. SYKES, JEM, DILL, SCOUT

Behind them the Negroes are giving angry, muffled GROANS.

   SYKES
   Jem, you better take your sister home, you hear me?

   JEM
   I think it’s okay, Reverend, she doesn’t understand it.

   SCOUT
   (indignantly)
   I most certainly do. I can understand anything you can.

   JEM
   (furious with her)
   Oh, hush.

   (MORE)
She doesn’t understand it, Reverend. She ain’t seven yet.

SCOUT

Jem --

JEM

Shh, I want to hear what’s going on.

INT. COURTROOM - WITNESS STAND - ANGLE ON BOB EWELL

Mr. Gilmer is still questioning Ewell. The spectators have quieted.

GILMER

What did you do when you saw the defendant?

EWELL

Well, I run around the house to get in, but he ran out the front door just ahead of me. I sawed who it was, all right. I run in the house and po’ Mayella was lyin’ on the floor quallin’, then I run for Mr. Tate quick as I could.

GILMER

Thank you, Mr. Ewell.

Mr. Gilmer sits down. Atticus rises and goes to the stand and faces Ewell. CAMERA PULLS IN TO CLOSE SHOT of Atticus and Ewell.

ATTICUS

Mr. Ewell, did you call a doctor for your daughter?

EWELL

Wasn’t no need to. I seen what happened.

ATTICUS

(casually

Mr. Ewell, you heard the Sheriff’s testimony. Do you agree with his description of Mayella’s injuries?

EWELL

I hold with everything Tate said. Her eye was blacked and she was mighty beat up.
ATTICUS
Mr. Ewell, can you read and write?

EWELL
Yes, sir.

ATTICUS
Will you write your name and show us?

Atticus takes paper and pen out of his coat. He hands them to Ewell. ANGLE WIDENS to SHOW the Judge and Mr. Gilmer watching. Ewell looks up and sees their attention.

EWELL
What’s so interesting’?

JUDGE
You’re left-handed, Mr. Ewell.

Ewell turns angrily to the Judge.

CLOSE SHOT – EWELL

EWELL
What’s that got to do with it? I’m a God-fearing man. Atticus Finch is trying to take advantage of me. Tricky lawyers like Atticus Finch is always tryin’...

Judge Taylor BANGS his gavel. ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Atticus and Judge Taylor.

JUDGE
Quiet, sir. You may be seated.

Ewell sullenly leaves the witness stand.

INT. COLORED BALCONY – GROUP SHOT – DILL, JEM, SCOUT, SYKES

Jem is having a quiet fit, POUNDING the railing.

JEM
We’ve got him.

INT. COURTROOM – WITNESS STAND

CLERK
Mayella Violet Ewell.
A silence comes over the court as MAYELLA EWELL, a young girl, walks to the witness stand. She raises her right hand and swears to tell the truth, the whole truth. She is a thick bodied girl, accustomed to strenuous labor. Mr. Gilmer raises and begins to question her.

222 ANGLE ON MAYELLA

GILMER
Now, Miss Mayella, you just tell us what happened.

Mayella stares at him and then burst into tears.

223 CLOSE SHOT - MAYELLA

MAYELLA
Well, sir, I was on the porch and - and he came along and, you see, there was this old chiffarobe in the yard. I said, “Come here, boy, and bust up this chiffarobe and I’ll give you a nickel.” So he came in the yard and I go in the house to get him the nickel, and I turn around and ‘fore I know it, he was on me. I fought’n hollered but he had me around the neck. He hit me again and again. Next thing I knew, Papa was in the room a -standin' over me hollerin’ :Who done it, who done it?”

ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Mr. Gilmer and the Judge.

GILMER
Thank you. Your witness, Atticus.

Gilmer walks away. Atticus gets up grinning. He opens his coat, hooks his thumbs in his vest, walks slowly across the room to the windows.

ATTICUS
(smiling at her)
Miss Mayella, how old are you?

MAYELLA
(sullenly
Won’t answer a word you say, long as you keep mockin’ me.

ATTICUS
Ma’m?
MAYELLA
Long as you keep makin’ fun of me.

JUDGE
$gently
Mr. Finch is not making fun of you. What is the matter with you?

MAYELLA
Then why does he call me “Miss Mayella’ and “Ma’m?

JUDGE
That’s just his way. He’s just trying to be polite
(leans back and sighs wearily
Atticus, let’s get on.

ATTICUS
How old are you?

MAYELLA
Nine teen.

ATTICUS
How long has your mother been dead?

MAYELLA
I don’t know. A long time.

ATTICUS
Did you ever go to school?

MAYELLA
Yes, sir. Two or three years. I don’t know.

ATTICUS
Is your father good to you, Miss Mayella? Is he easy to get along with?

MAYELLA
He does tol’able, ‘cept when --

ATTICUS
(softly
Except when he’s drinking?

A pause. She glares at Atticus.

ATTICUS
When he’s riled, has he ever beaten you?
Mayella looks at the Judge.

JUDGE
(sternly now
Answer the question, Miss Mayella.

MAYELLA
(defiantly
My Pa’s never touched a hair o’ my head in my life.

Atticus’s glasses slip a little and he pushes them back on his head.

CLOSE ANGLE - TWO SHOT - MAYELLA AND ATTICUS

ATTICUS
You say you asked Tom Robinson to come chop up a ... what was it?

MAYELLA
A chiffarobe.

ATTICUS
Was this the first time you ever asked him to come inside the fence?

Mayella flinches.

MAYELLA
Yes, it was.

ATTICUS
Didn’t you ever ask him to come inside the fence before?

MAYELLA
(evasively
I mighta.

ATTICUS
Remember any other occasion?

MAYELLA
No.

ATTICUS
All right. Now to what happened. You say: “He caught me and choked me and took advantage of me.” Is that right? Do you remember him beating you about the face?

Mayella hesitates.
ATTICUS
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
Thank you. Now will you identify the man who raped you.

MAYELLA
I will.
(points to Tom)
That’s him, yonder.

Atticus turns. ANGLE WIDENS to include Tom Robinson, the Judge, and Mr. Gilmer.

ATTICUS
Tom stand up. Let Miss Mayella have a good, long look at you.

Tom Robinson rises to his feet. It is our first good look at him. He is thirty. Atticus goes to the table and picks up his brief case.

ATTICUS
(throwing brief case
Here, Tom, catch this please.

Tom catches it in his right hand. Atticus takes the brief case from him.

ATTICUS
Now this time catch it in your left hand.

TOM
I can’t, sir.

ATTICUS
Why can’t you?

TOM
I can’t move my left hand at all. I got it caught in a cotton gin when I was twelve years old. All my muscles were tore loose.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT. Again the courtroom is in an uproar.
INT. COLORED BALCONY - GROUP SHOT - JEM, SCOUT, DILL AND SYKES

Jem almost falls out of the balcony with excitement. He pounds the railing.

JEM
Scout, Reverend, look. He’s crippled. We’ve won. We’ve won. He couldn’t possibly have done it.

JEAN LOUISE

INT. COURTROOM - WITNESS STAND - ANGLE - MAYELLA

The Judge is RAPPING for silence.

JUDGE
Proceed, Atticus.

ATTICUS
Is this the man who raped you?

MAYELLA
It most certainly is.

ATTICUS
How?

MAYELLA
(raging)
I don’t know how he done it, but he done it.

ATTICUS
(calmingly, but firmly)
Now, Miss Mayella, you’ve testified that the defendant choked you and beat you. You didn’t say that he sneaked up behind him and knocked you out cold, but you turned around and there he was. Do you wish to reconsider any of your testimony?

MAYELLA
I got somethin’ to say.

ATTICUS
(gently)
Do you want to tell us what happened?

Mayella gives him a defiant look.
MAYELLA
I got somethin’ to say and then I gonna say no more. He took advantage of me an’, if you fine, fancy gentlemen don’t wanna do nothing’ about it, then you’re all yellow, stinkin’ cowards, the lot of you. Your fancy airs don’t come to nothin’. Your Ma’m-in’ and Miss Mayellerin’ don’t come to nothin’, Mr. Finch.

ANGLE WIDENS as she burst into real tears. Her shoulders shake with angry sobs. Atticus has hit her in a way that is not clear to him, but it has given him no pleasure in doing it. He sits with his head down.

GILMER
The State rests, Judge.

Mayella gets down out of the chair, still crying. When she passes Atticus, she glares at him with real hatred.

CLERK
Tom Robinson.

ANGLE - TOM ROBINSON
Tom stand up and goes to the witness chair. When the Clerk calls out his oath, Tom can’t manage the Bible with his bad arm, though he tries twice.

JUDGE
That’ll do, Tom.

Tom finishes the oath verbally and then sits down in the witness chair.

ATTICUS
Were you acquainted with Mayella Violet Ewell?

CLOSE ANGLE - TWO SHOT - ATTICUS, TOM

TOM
Yes, sir. I had to pass her place goin’ to and from the field every day.

ATTICUS
Is there any other way to go?
TOM
No, suh, none’s I know of.

ATTICUS
Tom, did she ever speak to you?

TOM, JR.
Why, yes, suh. I’d tip m’hat when I’d go by, and one day she asked me to come inside the fence and bust up a chiffarobe for her.

TOM
She gave me the hatchet and I broke it up an’ she said, “I reckon I’ll hafta give you a nickel, won’t I?” And I said, “No, ma’m, there ain’t no charge.” Then I went home, Mr. Finch. That was way last spring, way over a year ago.

ATTICUS
Did you ever go on the place again?

TOM
Yes, suh.

ATTICUS
When?

TOM
Well, I went lots of times. Seemed like ever time I passed by yonder she’d have some little somethin’ for me to do -- choppin’ kindlin’, totin’ water for her.

ATTICUS
Tom, what happened to you on the evening of August 21st of last year?

The spectators, white and black, all lean forward. It is very quiet in the room.
Mr. Finch, I was goin’ home as usual that evenin’, and when I passed the Ewell place, Miss Mayella were on the porch, like she said she were, an’ she says for me to come there an’ help her a minute. Well, I went inside the fence an’ looked aroun’ for some kindlin’ to work on, but I didn’t see none. An’ she said now come in the house, she has a door needs fixin’. So I follows her inside and looked at the door and I say it look all right, an’ she shut the door in my face. All the time I was wonder’ why it was so quiet like and it came to me there was not a child on the place, an’ I said, Miss Mayella, where the children? An’ she says, they all gone to town to get ice creams. She says it took her a slap year to save seb’m nickels, but she done it an’ they all gone to town.

Tom’s black, velvet skin has begun to shine. He runs his hand over his face. He is obviously very uncomfortable.

What did you say then, Tom?

I said somethin’ like, why, Miss Mayella, that’s right smart o’ you to treat ‘em. An’ she said, you think so? Well, I said, I best be goin’, I couldn’ do nothin’ for her, an’ she says, oh, yes, I could. An’ I ask her what, an’ she says to jus’ step on that chair yonder an’ git that box down from on top of the chiffarobe. So I done what she told me, an’ was reachin’ when the next things I knew she -- grabbed me aroun’ The legs. She scared me so bad I hopped down an’ turned the chair over. That was the only thing, only furniture ‘sturbed in the room, Mr. Finch, I swear, when I left it.
ATTICUS
What happened after you turned the chair over?

Tom comes to a dead stop. He glances at Atticus, then at the jury.

ATTICUS
Tom, you’ve sworn to tell the whole truth. Will you tell it?

Tom runs his hand nervously over his mouth.

ATTICUS
What happened after that?

JUDGE
Answer the question

233 ANGLE - TOM

TOM
Mr. Finch, I got offa that chair an’ turned around an’ she sorts jumped on me. She hugged me aroun’ the waist. She reached up an’ kissed me on the face. She says she never kissed a grown man before an’ she might as well kiss me. She says, for me to kiss her back. I say, Miss Mayella, let me out of here, an’ tried to run, but she got her back to the door, when Mr. Ewell cussed at her from the window an’ says he’s gonna kill her.

ATTICUS
Then what happened?

TOM
I was runnin’ so fast I didn’t know what happened.

ATTICUS
Tom, did you rape Mayella Ewell?

244 CLOSE SHOT - TOM

TOM
I did not, suh.

ATTICUS
Did you harm her in any way?
TOM
I did not, suh.

ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus sits down. Mr. Gilmer goes to the witness chair.

GILMER
(very sarcastically
Robinson, you’re pretty good at bustin’ up chiffarobes and kindlin’ with one hand, aren’t you? Strong enough to choke the breath out of a woman and sling her to the floor?

TOM
(meekly
I never done that, suh.

GILMER
But you’re strong enough to.

TOM
I reckon so, suh.

GILMER
Why were you so anxious to do that woman’s chores?

Tom hesitates. He searches for an answer.

TOM
Looks like she didn’t have nobody to help her, like I says ---

GILMER
(with great sarcasm
With Mr. Ewell and seven children on the place. You did all this choppin’ and work from sheer goodness, boy? You’re a mighty good fellow it seems. Did all this for not one penny?

TOM
Yes, suh. I felt right sorry for her, she seemed --

GILMER
(indignantly
You felt sorry for her, a white woman... you felt sorry for her?

Tom realizes his mistake. He shifts uncomfortably in his chair.
THRU 249 INTERCUTS

DURING GILMER’S EXAMINATION OF TOM TO LET US KNOW NO ONE IN THE WHITE SECTION LIKES TOM’S ANSWER

INT. COLORED BALCONY - GROUP SHOT - DILL, SCOUT, JEM

Dill looks pale and distressed. He gets up and starts away. Scout follows after him. Jem turns to see them go.

INT. COURT HOUSE HALL

Dill is by the water fountain crying.

SCOUT
What’s the matter?

DILL
I just couldn’t stand that old Gilmer doin’ him that way, talkin’ so hateful to Tom.

SCOUT
Dill, that’s his job.

DILL
(wiping his eyes and controlling his crying
Well, Mr. Finch didn’t act that way to Mayella or old man Ewell when he cross-examined them.

He gets a drink of water. He wipes his eyes again and blows his nose.

DILL
Come on. Let’s go back in. I feel fine now.

INT. COLORED BALCONY - GROUP SHOT

Scout and Dill slip down into their seats. They lean over the railing and look down.

INT. COURTROOM - SOUT AND DILL’S POINT OF VIEW

Atticus is in front of the jury box. He has his handkerchief and is wiping his glasses.
254 BACK TO COLORED BALCONY - GROUP SHOT - SCOUT, DILL, JEM

SCOUT
What’s goin’ on?

JEM
Atticus is doing his summing up.

SCOUT
How long has he been at it?

JEM
He’s gone over all the evidence. We’re gonna win, Scout. I don’t see how we can’t. He made it plain an’ easy ... like I’d a explained it to you.

255 INT. COURTROOM - CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS

ATTICUS
Gentlemen, I would like to use my remaining time with you to remind you that this case is not a difficult one.

We see the jurors from Atticus’ P.O.V. They watch with no show of emotion. These are the faces of farmer -- lined and careworn.

BACK TO ATTICUS - As he talks he looks into the eyes of the men of the jury as if to find one to encourage him.

ATTICUS
To begin with, this case should never have come to trial. The State has not produced on iota of medical evidence to the effect that the crime Tom Robinson is charged with ever took place. It has relied instead upon the testimony of two witnesses whose evidence has not only been called into serious question on cross examination, but has been flatly contradicted by the defendant. There is circumstantial evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left... and Tom Robinson now sits before you with the only good hand he possesses... his right hand.

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I have nothing but pity in my heart for the chief witness for the state. She is the victim of cruel poverty and ignorance -- but my pity does not extend so far as to her putting a man’s life at stake which she has done in an effort to get rid of her own guilt. I say guilt, gentlemen, because it was guilt that motivated her. She has committed no crime, she has merely broken a rigid and time honored code of our society, a code so severe that whoever breaks it is hounded from our midst as unfit to live with. She must destroy the evidence of her offense. What was the evidence of her offense? Tom Robinson, a human being. She must put Tom Robinson away from her. Tom Robinson was her daily reminder of what she did. What did she do? She tempted a Negro. She was white, and she tempted a Negro. She did something that in our society is unspeakable: She kissed a black man. Not an old Uncle, but a strong, young Negro man. No code mattered to her before she broke it, but it came crashing down on her afterwards. The witnesses for the state, with the exception of the Sheriff of Maycomb County, have presented themselves to you gentlemen, to this Court, in the cynical confidence that their testimony would not be doubted, confident that you gentlemen would go along with them on the assumption -- the evil assumption -- that all Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings, that all Negro men are not to be trusted around our women, an assumption one associates with minds of their caliber, which, gentlemen, we know is in itself a lie I do not have to point out to you. And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated temerity to “feel sorry” for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people’s.

(MORE)
ATTICUS (CONT'D)
The defendant is not guilty, but somebody in this courtroom is.

THE JURY - ATTICUS' P.O.V.
Their faces haven’t changed expression. One man’s chin itches, and he scratches it. One man brushes a fly off his knee.

BACK TO ATTICUS
His face is beginning to perspire. He wipes it with a handkerchief.

ATTICUS
In this country our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts all men are created equal. I’m no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system. That is no ideal to me...It is a living, working reality. Gentlemen, a court is no better than each man of you sitting before me on this jury. A court is only as sound as the men who make it up. I am confident that you gentlemen will review without passion the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family. In the name of God, do your duty. In the name of God, believe Tom Robinson.

Atticus turns away from the jury. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT of courtroom. Calpurnia COMES INTO the courtroom. She makes her way down the middle aisle toward Atticus. She stops shyly at the railing and waits to get Judge Taylor’s attention.

JUDGE
Yes, Calpurnia?

CALPURNIA
Could I just pass this note on to Mr. Finch? It hasn’t got anything to do with the trial.

Judge Taylor nods and Atticus takes the note. He reads it.

ATTICUS
Judge, Calpurnia says my children have been missing since noon. Could --
JUDGE
(interrupting
I know where they are, Atticus. They’re right up yonder in the colored balcony.

Atticus turns and looks up at the balcony. He sees the children and calls:

ATTICUS
(sternly
Jem, come down from there.

Scout, Dill and Jem climb over Rev. Sykes and start out.

INT. COURTHOUSE - BOTTOM OF BALCONY STAIRS

Atticus and Calpurnia are there. Jem comes running to his father in excitement.

JEM
We’ve won, haven’t we?

ATTICUS
(coldly
I’ve no idea. You’ve been here all afternoon? Go home with Calpurnia and get your supper -- and stay home.

JEM
(disappointed)
Aw, Atticus, let us come back. Please let us hear the verdict. Please, sir.

ATTICUS
(looks at Jem and sees how much he wants to be there
Well, you’ve heard it all, so you might as well hear the rest. Tell you what: you all can come back when you’ve eaten your supper. But I expect it’ll be over before you get back.

JEM
(eagerly)
You think they’ll acquit him that fast?
Atticus opens his mouth to answer but shuts it and leaves them. Calpurnia and the children leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

257  EXT. COURTHOUSE - NIGHT

Four or five men loiter around the entrance waiting for the court to begin. Three couples cross the square towards the courthouse entrance. Around the square are cars, trucks, and wagons to which the hitched horses and mules stand sleepily.

258  INT. COLORED BALCONY - NIGHT - JEM, SCOUT, DILL, REV. SYKES

Dill is asleep, leaning his head against the Reverend’s shoulder.

JEM
How long the jury been out now, Reverend?

Sykes takes out his watch and looks at it.

SYKES
Almost an hour.

JEM
I think that’s an awful good sign, don’t you?

Rev. Sykes doesn’t answer him.

DISSOLVE TO:

259  INT. COURTHROOM - MED. SHOT

Heck Tate COMES IN and goes over to Atticus. He whispers to him and then calls out:

TATE
This Court will come to order.

Everyone comes to attention. Tate leaves the room and brings Tom Robinson IN. He takes him to his seat beside Atticus. The jury COMES IN. They, none of them, look at Tom. The Foreman hands a piece of paper to Heck Tate, who hands it to the Clerk, who hands it to the Judge.
They have shut their eyes from excitement.

JUDGE
Gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?

The Foreman rises.

FOREMAN
We have, your honor.

JUDGE
Will the defendant please rise and face the jury.

He rises and looks at the jury.

JUDGE
And what is your verdict?

FOREMAN
We find the defendant guilty as charged.

Judge Taylor starts to say something, but it is lost in the noise of the crowd in the white section starting to go home. Atticus pushes some papers from the table into his brief case. He snaps it shut, goes to the Court Reporter and says:

ATTICUS
I’d like a copy of the trial.

COURT REPORTER
Yes, sir.

Atticus goes over to Gilmer and they shake hands and then he goes over to Tom.

He puts his hand on Tom’s shoulder. He seems very tired.
ATTICUS
Don’t worry, Tom. I’m going to ask for an appeal. We can still win.

A pause. Tom looks up at him but doesn’t answer.

ATTICUS
Did you hear me, Tom? I say we can still win.

Tom looks at him with a kind of mute hopelessness on his face.

ATTICUS
I’ll go and see Helen first thing in the morning. I told her not to be disappointed, that we’d probably lose this time.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT. Tom is taken away.
Atticus leaves the courtroom but not by his usual exit. He walks quickly down the middle aisle to the South exit. Scout is leaning over the rail watching her father and the people below. As atticus walks down the aisle all the Negroes rise. Scout is so busy watching Atticus that she isn’t aware of this. Rev. Sykes taps her on the shoulder.

SYKES
(whispering)
Miss Jean Louise...

She looks around.

SYKES
Miss Jean Louise, stand up, your father’s passin’.

Everyone in the colored balcony remains standing until Atticus leaves the courtroom. After he goes out, the Negroes start to leave the balcony.

INT. COLORED BALCONY

Rev. Sykes goes among them. Scout and Dill watch the Negroes leave. Jem sits not looking in any particular direction. He is very depressed. The courthouse quickly is cleared of the spectators, and the three children are alone. Scout looks all around the courthouse and sees they are alone. She looks at her brother. She senses his mood and watches him for a beat, and then she and Dill exchange glances. Atticus comes into the balcony. He looks down and sees the children. He goes to them. Jem begins to cry bitterly when he sees his father.
Miss Maudie is alone on her porch. She sees Atticus and the children coming down the sidewalk. She goes out to her yard, Atticus and the children come up to her.

MAUDIE
I’m sorry, Atticus.

ATTICUS
Thank you, Maudie.

O.S. SOUND: CAR COMING DOWN ROAD. It stops in front of Miss Maudie’s house. Heck Tate gets out.

TATE
Atticus, can I see you for a minute?

ATTICUS
Excuse me.

He goes to Heck Tate.

GROUP SHOT - MISS MAUDIE, JEM, DILL, SCOUT

MAUDIE
I don’t know if it’ll help, but I want to say this to you. There are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us. Your father’s one of them.

JEM
(wearily
Oh, well.

DILL
I’m gonna be a clown when I grow up. There ain’t one thing to do about folks but laugh. So I’m gonna join the circus and laugh my head off.

SCOUT
You got it backwards, Dill. Clowns are sad, it’s folks that laugh at them.

DILL
I’m gonna be a new kind of clown. I’m gonna stand in the middle of the ring and laugh at the folks.
ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Atticus. Heck Tate is driving off. Atticus stands quietly for a moment and then comes back to them.

MAUDIE
(sensing something is wrong)
What’s the matter?

ATTICUS
Tom Robinson’s dead. A deputy shot him just now. He was a new deputy and when taking him to the jail in the next county for safe keeping, Tom broke loose and ran. Deputy called to him to stop. He fired a few shots in the air and then when Tom didn’t stop, the deputy lost his head, shot towards him, he says, to would him, but missed his aim and killed him. The deputy says Tom just started to run like a crazy man. I don’t understand it. The last thing I told him was not to lose heart, we’d try for an appeal.
(a pause)
I have to go out to Helen’s and tell her. Would you see to my children, Maudie?

MAUDIE
Yes, I will, Atticus.

Jem starts after him.

JEM
Want me to go with you, Atticus?

ATTICUS
No, son, I think I’d better go out alone.

He starts for his yard. Jem starts after him.

JEM
Atticus, I’m coming with you.

ATTICUS
All right, son. Come on.

He waits for Jem to catch up with him. Miss Maudie, Scout and Dill are huddled together, watching them go.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. TOM ROBINSON’S HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is dark and quiet as are all the little houses near it. Spence, Tom’s father, sits on the steps of the house. Atticus and Jem drive up to the house. He stops the care and gets out.

ATTICUS
You wait here, son.

JEM
Yes, sir.

Atticus starts for the yard. Spence sees who it is and comes to him.

CLOSE TWO SHOT - ATTICUS, SPENCE

SPENCE
Hello, Mr. Finch. I’m Spence, Tom’s father.

ATTICUS
Hello, Spence. Where is Helen?

SPENCE
She’s inside lying down trying to get a little sleep. I couldn’t sleep and was out here thinkin’ everythin’ over. Helen and I were talking about the appeal. How long do you think that will take, Mr. Finch?

ATTICUS
Spence, there’ll be no appeal now. You see -- Tom was killed. Was trying to run away and they shot him.

ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Helen COMING OUT the door. She sees the two men. Atticus sees her and starts for her.

ATTICUS
Helen...

Helen gives a little moan and falls over into the dirt of the yard. Spence and Atticus go to her.

SPENCE
She knew what happened without you even tellin’ her, she knew.
Atticus and Spence lift Helen off the ground. She is crying; then she controls herself. Spence and Atticus half carry her into the house.

News of Tom’s death has spread among the colored people. Friends are coming into the yard.

Bob Ewell comes into the road in front of the yard. He calls to a Negro man at the edge of the yard.

EWELL
Boy.

The Negro man turns and sees who is calling.

EWELL
Go tell Atticus Finch I said to come out here.

The man doesn’t answer, but quietly goes into the house. Atticus comes out of the house. He starts down the steps as Ewell sees him and goes toward him. They meet in the center of the yard. Ewell walks directly up to Atticus and spits in his face. Atticus stares at him for a beat, then wipes his face and starts for the car.

EWELL
(yelling after him
What’s the matter? You too proud to fight?

Atticus doesn’t answer or react. He gets in the car beside Jem and they drive off. Ewell turns to a Negro man.

EWELL
I hear the Sheriff killed him.

The Negro man doesn’t answer. He starts for the house.

EWELL
Well, there’s somebody else needs killin’.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT

The knothole of the oak is front of the Radley house. The trunk is swelling around the cement patch. The patch itself is turning yellow. Leaves fall from the branches of the tree. CAMERA PULLS BACK as WE SEE the Radley house and sidewalk.
By October things had settled down again. I still looked for Boo every time I went by the Radley place. Maybe some day I would still see him. I imagined how it would be when it happened. He’d just be setting on the swing when I came along, “Hidy do, Mr. Arthur,” I would say as if I had said it every afternoon of my life. “Evenin’, Jean Louise,” he would say as if he had said it every afternoon of my life. “Right pretty spell we’re having, isn’t it?” “Yes, sir, right pretty” I would say and go on.

Scout and Jem walk past Radley house towards school. Jem has her by the hand and in the other he is carrying a costume that Scout is to wear in a pageant that evening.

This night my mind was filled with Halloween. There was to be a pageant representing our country’s agricultural products. I was to be a Ham. My duties, as I gathered from our two rehearsals, were to come on stage left when Miss Stephanie call “Pork.” Jem said he would escort me to the school auditorium. Thus began our longest journey together.

Cars, trucks and farm wagons are parked in front. A few late comers move quickly toward the lighted building and we can HEAR the SOUND of the SCHOOL BAND TUNING UP.

The confusion of this amateur theatrical is at its peak. The curtain is about to go up and the adult performers are scrambling for their opening position.

Miss Stephanie is in the midst of it all, surrounded by men and women in costumes covering the entire history of Maycomb.
Scout, now dressed in her Ham outfit, bumps her way through the crowd and into Miss Stephanie, busily arranging the pages of a tome-like manuscript.

**SCOUT**

Miss Stephanie, where am I supposed to --

**MISS STEPHANIE**

Oh heavens, child, my mind is on my pageant. Run on now. We’re about to start.

The Band CRASHES into a rousing fanfare. Miss Stephanie clears her throat with a loud COUGH. The curtain is pulled and she charges out onto the stage to great APPLAUSE. Scout, standing in the wings, watches Miss Stephanie place her speech on a bunting draped lectern, and raise her hand for quiet. The Band finishes with a flare and several extra notes from the trumpet section.

**MISS STEPHANIE**

Maycomb County -- “Ad Astra Per Asperum.”

(BASE DRUM BOOMS

THAT MEANS - “From the mud to the Stars.”

(BASE DRUM BOOMS

The audience APPLAUDS. A man dressed as an Indian bumps into Scout.

**INDIAN**

(whispering

Move on. Don’t block up the entrance, honey!

He pushes her aside. Scout crashes into a woman wearing a hoop skirt

**BOY’S VOICE(O.S.)**

C’mon back here, Scout.

**INDIAN**

Shhh.

Scout stumbles through the crowd of adults and joins the children dressed in costumes representing COTTON, CORN, BEEF, MILK, PEANUTS, etc...

DISSOLVE TO:
THE STAGE

The Band finishes a fanfare

STEPHANIE
Our county has been abundantly blessed with a rich and fertile soil, from which, each year we receive many wonderful products. I now call on the spirit of these products.

Beef ---
(DRUM ROLL)

BACKSTAGE

“Beef” steps out as the CAMERA MOVES past CORN, COTTON, PORK, PEANUT and through the legs of the crowd to Scout still asleep and forgotten.

MISS STEPHANIE

Corn ---
(DRUM ROLL)
Cotton --
(DRUM ROLL)
Peanut ---
(MORE)
MISS STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

(DRUM ROLL)
Pork ---
(DRUM ROLL)

Miss Stephanie’s voice repeats “Pork,” a little more desperately this time. There is another DRUM ROLL. Then one final “Pork,” DRUM ROLL, and the band goes CRASHING into a LOUD version of “DIXIE.”

Miss Stephanie comes running. She sees the sleeping Scout. Angrily she shakes her.

MISS STEPHANIE
I hope you’re satisfied, young lady. You have ruined my pageant.

Scout jumps up, looking bewildered. Miss Stephanie stalks OUT of the room.

CLOSE SHOT - SCOUT

Although most of her face is hidden by her costume, we should feel by the slump of her body that she feels miserable. ANGLE WIDENS as Jem comes running into the room.

JEM
(almost overly cheerful)
What happened to you?

SCOUT
I fell asleep. Miss Stephanie says I ruined her show.

JEM
Aw, she’s crazy. Come on, take your costume off and we’ll go outside.

SCOUT
(very subdued)
No, I think I’ll just keep it on and wait back here until they’ve all gone if you don’t mind.

JEM
Suit yourself. I’ll come back for you when the coast is clear.

SCOUT
Okay.
He GOES outside. She sits back against the wall.

DISSOLVE TO:

277 BACKSTAGE

It is empty. Only Scout is back there alone. She looks very forlorn. Jem comes running in.

JEM
Okay. They’ve gone now. Let’s go.

He takes her by the hand, picks up her dress, and they start OUT.

278 EXT. OUTSIDE

It is black dark out here.

JEM
Here, Scout, let me hold on to your back. You might lose your balance.

SCOUT
You should have brought the flashlight, Jem.

JEM
Didn’t know it would be this dark.

279 MOVING SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

They start across the black schoolyard. They move slowly. When they get half way across, Scout stops.

SCOUT
Jem, I forgot my shoes.

JEM
Well, let’s go get them.

They turn around and go for them.

280 EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE - SCOUT AND JEM’S POV

The auditorium lights are turned off.

JEM
You can get ‘em tomorrow.
But tomorrow’s Sunday.

You can get the janitor to let you in.

He turns her around in the direction of their home.

Scout ---

Hun?

Nothing.

He puts his hand on top of her head and starts guiding her.

Jem, you don’t hafta.

(interrupting)

Hush a minute, Scout --

They walk along in silence.

Minutes’ up. Watch thinkin’ about?

(whispering)

Thought I heard something. Stop a minute.

They stop.

Hear anything?

No.

They go about five paces when he makes her stop again.

Are you tryin’ to scare me, Jem? You know I’m too old.

(sternly)

Be quiet.
There is a stillness except for the breathing of the children. Far away a dog HOWLS.

SCOUT
Heard an old dog then.

JEM
It’s not that. I hear it when we’re walkin’ along, but when we stop, I don’t hear it.

SCOUT
(trying to be cheerful but beginning to be genuinely afraid now)
You hear my costume rustlin’. Aw, it’s just Halloween got you ---

They begin to walk again. We should begin to HEAR the FAINT RUSTLE now that Jem has been talking about.

SCOUT
I hear it now. I’ll bet it’s just old Cecil Jacobs tryin’ to scare us. Let’s don’t let him think we’re hurryin’.

They begin to move very slowly now.

SCOUT
I’m gonna let him know we know he’s behind us
(she yells
Cecil Jacobs is a big wet hen.

They stop. There is not a sound, except the word H--E--N reverberating on the school house wall.

JEM
(whispering
Scout, can you take that off?

SCOUT
I think so, but I ain’t got anything on under it much.

JEM
I’ve got your dress here.

SCOUT
I can’t get it on in the dark.

JEM
Okay. Never mind.
SCOUT
Jem, are you afraid?

JEM
No. Think we’re almost to the tree now. Few yards from that, an’ we’ll be to the road. We can see the street lights then.

SCOUT
You reckon we ought to sing?

JEM
No, be real quiet again, Scout.

They continue on. We can HEAR more than a RUSTLE of PANTS now. We can HEAR FOOTSTEPS, as if someone were walking behind them in heavy shoes. Jem presses Scout’s head. They stop to listen.

SCOUT
(whispering
I feel the sand cold under my feet, Jem. We’re near the big oak.

JEM
Shh.

They can HEAR SOMEONE RUNNING towards them.

JEM
(SCREAMING
Run, Scout! Run! Run!

She takes a big step and she reels. She can’t keep her balance in the dark.

SCOUT
(in terror
Jem, help me! Help me!

281 EXT. SCHOOL YARD UNDER OAK – SCOUT’S POINT OF VIEW

It is pitch dark. A form descends on her and grabs her and she falls to the ground and rolls. From nearby, she can HEAR SCUFFLING, KICKING SOUNDS, SOUNDS of SHOES and FLESH SCRAPING DIRT and ROOTS. Jem rolls against her and is up like lightning pulling Scout with him but she is so entangled by the costume they can’t get very far. They are nearly to the road when Jem’s hand leaves her. There is more scuffling and a DULL CRUNCHING SOUND and Scout screams. She sees a MAN’S FORM and runs into it, hitting his stomach with her head. He says “Uf” and grabs her.
Suddenly, he is jerked backward and Scout is dragged with him; then she is released. She can see nothing again now but the darkness. She HEARS the SCUFFLING slowly DYING AWAY and then silence. Then she HEARS a HEAVY, BONE SHAKING COUGH.

SCOUT
(calling Jem.

There is no answer but a MAN’S HEAVY BREATHING.

SCOUT
(calling again Jem.

Again no answer. She can see a man now. He GROANS and is pulling something heavy along the ground. The man walks away from her, walking heavily and unsteadily towards the road.

BACK TO SCOUT AT THE OAK

She moves to where she thought the man was and begins to search frantically on the ground.

EXT. THE GROUND UNDER THE OAK - SCOUT’S POINT OF VIEW

A body lies there. Scout’s hand touches it.

SCOUT
Jem.

She touches the trousers, a belt buckle, buttons, a collar, a face. It is a man’s face, but it is too dark to tell whose.

BACK TO SCOUT ON THE GROUND

She makes her way to where she thinks the road is. She looks down the road to the street light.

EXT. STREET LIGHT - SCOUT’S POINT OF VIEW

A MAN passes under it. He is carrying the limp body of Jem. The man continues on, crosses the Finch front yard, the Finch front door opens and Atticus runs down the steps.
She is at the Radley corner now. In the distance she can hear Atticus say, “Call Dr. Reynolds. Where’s Scout?”

She crosses to their front yard. We HEAR Calpurnia call: “Here’s Scout.” Calpurnia COMES hurrying OUT of the house, down the steps and towards Scout.

SCOUT
(calling out)
I’m all right, Cal.

Cal takes her by the arm and they start for the house.

Cal and Scout COME IN. ATTICUS IS AT THE PHONE.

ATTICUS

He hangs up. He goes to Scout.

SCOUT
Atticus, is Jem dead?

ATTICUS
No, Scout. Look after her, Cal.

He runs down the hall towards Jem’s room. Cal begins to undress Scout and get her out of the costume.

CALPURNIA
Are you sure you’re all right?

SCOUT
Sure.

She is free of the costume now and begins to rub her little body.

SCOUT
Cal, is Jem dead?
CUNNINGHAM
No, he’s unconscious. We don’t know how badly he’s hurt until Dr. Reynolds gets here. Honey, what happened?

SCOUT
I swear, I don’t know.

Calpurnia rushes OUT of the hall and into Scout’s room and then APPEARS again with clothes for Scout.

CALPURNIA
Put these on, honey.

She hands the clothes to her and rushes down the hall towards Jem’s room. DR. REYNOLDS, in his fifties, carrying his doctor’s bag COMES IN the front door. He takes a look at Scout and pats her on the head.

DR. REYNOLDS
JEAN LOUISE
Well, you’re still standing.

He goes past her down the hall to Jem’s room.

CLOSE SHOT—SCOUT

She is all alone. She glances in terror towards Jem’s room. She slowly puts on her overalls Calpurnia has given her. After she has dressed, she starts slowly down the hall towards Jem’s room. ANGLE WIDENS as the door opens and Dr. Reynolds COMES OUT. He sees Scout and goes to her.

SCOUT
Is Jem dead?

DR. REYNOLDS
Far from it.

He squats down beside her.

TWO SHOT—SCOUT AND DR. REYNOLDS

He pats her head.

DR. REYNOLDS
He has a bump on his head like you and a broken arm. He’s got a bad break, so far as I can tell, like somebody tried to wring his arm off.

(MORE)
DR. REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
We can’t do much tonight except try to make him as comfortable as possible. We’ll have to X-ray his arm. Looks like he’ll be wearing his arm way out by his side for awhile. Don’t worry though. He’ll be as good as new. Boys his age bounce.

While he has been talking to her, DR. REYNOLDS has been fingering her bump and looking keenly at her.

DR. REYNOLDS
You don’t feel broke anywhere, do you?

SCOUT
No, sir.

DR. REYNOLDS
Then go in and look at your brother.

ANGLE WIDENS as Heck Tate COMES down the hall.

HECK
You all right, Scout?

SCOUT
Yes, sir. I’m goin’ now to see Jem. Atticus is in there.

HECK
I’ll go with you.

291 INT. JEM’S ROOM

The room is dim. Jem’s reading light is shaded with a towel. Jem lies on his back. There is an ugly mark on the side of his face. His left arm is out from the side of his body. The man who brought Jem stands in a corner, leaning against the wall. Atticus is by Jem’s bed. Calpurnia is standing to one side. Scout and Heck Tate COME IN.

ATTICUS
Come in, Heck. Did you find anything?

Heck glances sharply at the man in the corner, nods to him, then looks around the room -- at Jem, Calpurnia and Atticus.
HECK
Mr. Finch, I’ll tell you what I found. I found a little girl’s dress. It’s out there in my car. That your dress, Scout?

SCOUT
Yes, sir. If it’s pink.

HECK
An’ I found some funning-lookin’ pieces of muddy colored cloth.

SCOUT
That was m’ costume.

Heck runs his hands down his thighs. He rubs his left arm along the wall of Jem’s room.

ATTICUS
What is it, Heck?

HECK
(rubbing his neck
Bob Ewell’s lyin’ on the ground under that tree down yonder with a kitchen knife stuck up under his ribs. He’s dead, Mr. Finch.

Atticus rises.

ATTICUS
(bleakly
Are you sure?

HECK
Yes, sir. He won’t bother these children again.

ATTICUS
Maybe we’d better go into the living room, Heck.

HECK
No, if you don’t mind, I’d rather stay here if it won’t hurt Jem any, and I can have a look at his injuries while Scout tells me what happened.

Scout goes to Atticus. He puts his arms around her. Heck goes to Jem and looks at him.

HECK
You think you can tell us what happened, Miss Scout?
SCOUT
All of a sudden, somethin’ grabbed me and mashed my costume an’ I ducked and then Mr. Ewell, I reckon, grabbed him again and Jem hollered an’ then somebody grabbed me, Mr. Ewell, I guess, and somebody grabbed him and then I heard somebody pantin’ and coughin’...

HECK
Who was it?

SCOUT
Why, there he is, Mr. Tate. He can tell you his name...

She points to the MAN in the corner who brought Jem home. He leans against the wall. He has a pale face and his hair is thin and dead white, and as she points to him, a strange spasm shakes him. At this moment it comes to Scout who he is, and she gazes at him in wonder, as a timid smile comes to his face.

SCOUT
Hey, Boo...

ATTICUS
(gently correcting her)
Mr. Arthur, honey. Jean Louise, this is Mr. Arthur Radley. I believe he already know you.

Scout is embarrassed and trying to hide her embarrassment. She goes to cover Jem up. Dr. Reynolds COMES back IN.

DR. REYNOLDS
Everybody out.
(glances at Boo)
Evenin’, Arthur. Didn’t notice you the first time I was here.

ATTICUS
(glancing at Boo)
Er -- Heck, let’s go out on the front porch. There are plenty of chairs out there and it’s still warm enough.

Atticus and Heck Tate GO ON OUT. Scout goes to Arthur.
SCOUT
Come along, Mr. Arthur. You don’t
know the house real well. I’ll
take you to the porch, sir.

He looks down at Scout and nods. She leads him out of
the door.

292 EXT. FING FRONT PORCH - NIGHT
Atticus and Heck Tate are there. Scout brings Arthur
out.

SCOUT
Won’t you have a seat, Mr. Arthur?
This rocking chair’s nice and
comfortable.

She leads him to the chair farthest from Atticus and
Heck. It is in deep shadow. Atticus is seated in the
swing, Heck on a chair next to him. Scout sits next to
Arthur.

293 TWO SHOT - ATTICUS AND HECK

ATTICUS
Well, Heck, I guess the thing to
do -- Good Lord, I’m losing my
memory.

294 ANGLE FAVORING ATTICUS
Atticus pushes up his glasses and presses his fingers to
his eyes.

ATTICUS
I can’t remember if Jem is ten or
eleven. Anyway, it will come
before the County court. Of
course, it was a clear cut case of
self-defense, but I’ll have to go
to the office and hunt up --

295 ANGLE FAVORING TATE

TATE
Mr. Finch, do you think Jem killed
Bob Ewell? Do you think that?

ATTICUS
You heard what Scout said.
TATE
(quietly, firmly)
Mr. Finch, Bob Ewell fell on his knife. He killed himself. Your boy never stabbed him.

Atticus walks to the corner of the porch and looks at the wisteria vine.

TATE
(exploding)
There’s a black man dead for no reason, and now the man responsible for it is dead. Let the dead bury the dead this time, Mr. Finch. I never heard tell that it’s against the law for a citizen to do his utmost to prevent a crime from being committed, which is exactly what he did, but 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, includin’ my wife, ‘d be knockin’ on his door bringin’ angel food cakes. To my way of thinkin’, Mr. Finch, takin’ the one man who’s done you and this town a great service, and draggin’ him with his shy ways into the limelight... To me, that’s a sin. It’s a sin and I’m not about to have it on my head.

He is trying to dig a hole in the floor with the toe of his boot. Atticus looks over at Boo. Heck’s meaning dawns on him.

TATE
I may not be much, Mr. Finch, but I’m still Sheriff of Maycomb County, and Bob Ewell fell on his knife. Good night, sir.

He LEAVES.

O.S. SOUND: CAR DRIVING OFF

Atticus looks out into the yard and then over at Scout.

ATTICUS
Scout, Mr. Ewell fell on his knife. Do you think you can possibly understand?
TWO SHOT - SCOUT AND ATTICUS

SCOUT
Yes, sir. I understand. Mr. Tate was right.

ATTICUS
What do you mean?

SCOUT
Well, it would be sort of like shooting a mockingbird, wouldn’t it?

Atticus puts his face in her hair and rubs it. ANGLE WIDENS as Atticus gets up and starts for the house. Before he goes inside, he stops in front of Arthur Radley.

ATTICUS
Thank you for my children, Arthur.

He goes on inside. Arthur gets up and nods toward the front door.

SCOUT
You’d like to say good night to Jem, wouldn’t you, Mr. Arthur? Come right in.

They go in the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Scout and Arthur COME IN. They go to the door of Jem’s room.

INT. JEM’S ROOM

Scout and Arthur ENTER.

SCOUT
Dr. Reynolds gave him a heavy sedative, Cal says, so he’d sleep.

Scout leads him to Jem’s bed. Arthur looks at him from head to foot as though he had never seen a boy before. His hand comes up, but he lets it drop to his side.

SCOUT
You can pet him, Mr. Arthur. He’s asleep. You couldn’t if he was awake, though, he wouldn’t let you. Go ahead.
His hand comes lightly on Jem’s hair. Then he tugs at Scout’s arm and she understands he wants to leave. They GO OUT.

299  INT. HALLWAY

Scout and Arthur ENTER from Jem’s room. She leads him to the front door. They stand there. He holds her hand.

ARTHUR
(whispering
Will you take me home?

SCOUT
Mr. Arthur, bend your arm down here like that. That’s right, sir.

She slips her hand into the crook of his arm. They walk out the front door.

300  EXT. FING FRONT PORCH AND SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT - NIGHT

They walk in the yard, up the walk and onto the Radley porch. Arthur finds the door knob and goes in, leaving Scout alone on the porch.

JEAN LOUISE (V.O.)
Neighbors bring food with death, and flowers with sickness, and little things in between. Boo was our neighbor. He gave us two soap dolls, a broken watch and chain, a knife and our lives. One time Atticus said you never really knew a man until you stood in his shoes and walked around in them. Just standing on the Radley porch was enough.

301  MOVING SHOT

Scout starts home. A fine rain is falling. She runs up the steps and goes into her house.

DISSOLVE TO:

302  INT. JEM’S BEDROOM

Atticus is there, sitting beside Jem’s bed.
SCOUT
Has Jem waked up yet?

ATTICUS
Sleeping peacefully. He won’t wake until morning.

She climbs into his lap.

JEAN LOUISE (V.O.)
Well, the summer that had begun so long ago had ended, and another summer had taken its place, and a fall, and Boo Radley had come out and Jem was to live. I was to think of these days many times, of Jem, and Dill and Boo Radley and Tom Robinson and the Ewells and Atticus -- his fairness, his stubbornness, his devotion, his courage, his love.

303  EXT. FINCH HOUSE - JEM’S WINDOW

We can see Atticus through the window, sitting by his son’s bed, holding Scout.

JEAN LOUISE (V.O.)
He would be in Jem’s room all night and he would be there when Jem waked up in the morning.

CAMERA SLOWLY PULLS BACK as Atticus looks at the sleeping Jem.

FADE OUT

THE END