

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

by

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To Kill a Mockingbird

FADE IN:

1 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'm. 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.

2 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.

3 CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS, SCOUT

ATTICUS

Scout, I think next time Mr. Cunningham
comes, you'd better not call me.

SCOUT

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.

ATTICUS

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

SCOUT

Why does he bring you all this stuff?

ATTICUS

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

SCOUT

(curious)
Why does he pay you like that?

ATTICUS

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

SCOUT

Is he poor?

Atticus picks up the paper and opens it.

ATTICUS

Yes.

SCOUT

Are we poor?

ATTICUS

We are, indeed.

SCOUT

Are we as poor as the Cunninghams?

ATTICUS

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:

CALPURNIA

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.

4

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:

5

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.

CAMERAL PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT

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
(YELLING)
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.

7 MED. SHOT - SCOUT, JEM

SCOUT

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

JEM

(still firm)
I can't help that.

He swings down to the lower limb in disgust and looks
down into MISS STEPHANIE CRAWFORD'S collar 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, owlsh face, a knowledge and imagination too
old for his years. He looks up at Jem.

DILL

(tentatively)
Hey --

JEM

Hey, yourself.

8 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.

9 CLOSER SHOT - DILL

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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

13 MOVING SHOT - SIDEWALK - JEM, DILL, SCOUT

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.

14 REVERSE ANGLE - EXT. RADLEY HOUSE

They are standing by a light pole now, staring at the Radley house and yard. The house is low, and was once white, with a deep front porch and green shutters. But it was darkened long ago to the color of the slate grey yard around it. Rain-spotted shingles droop over the eaves of the veranda. Oak trees keep the sun away. The remains of a picket fence drunkenly guards the front yard. A "swept" yard that is never swept, where Johnson grass and Rabbit Tobacco grass grow in abundance.

Dill's eyes have widened. He is becoming truly intrigued.

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.

15 CLOSE TWO SHOT - DILL, JEM

DILL

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:

18 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?

SCOUT

I don't know. He just started to
when he first began talking.

19 EXT. SIDEWALK - MOVING SHOT

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

JEM

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.

SCOUT

Hey, Mrs. Dubose.

20 CLOSE TWO SHOT - MRS. DUBOSE, JESSIE

MRS. DUBOSE

(snarling at the
children)

Don't you say "hey" to me, you
ugly girl. You say "good
afternoon, Mrs. Dubose".

Scout is walking slowly on past Mrs. Dubose.

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?

21 CAMERAL PULLS BACK TO MED.SHOT

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 show place 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.

24 CLOSE SHOT - MRS. DUBOSE, JESSIE

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

25 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.

26 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
went 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.

27 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.

28 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:

29 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.

30 ANGLE - SCOUT

As she reads the inscription.

SCOUT

"To Atticus, my beloved husband."
Jem says this watch is going to be
his some day.

ATTICUS
That's right.

SCOUT
Why?

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

SCOUT
What are you going to give me?

ATTICUS
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.

ATTICUS
Good night, Scout.

SCOUT
Good night.

31 INT. JEM'S ROOM

Jem, too, is in bed.

ATTICUS
Good night, Jem.

JEM
Good night.

Atticus GOES OUT.

32 INT. SCOUT'S ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - SCOUT

She lies in bed thinking.

SCOUT
(calling
Jem --

JEM (O.S.)
Yes?

SCOUT
How old was I when Mama died?

JEM (O.S.)
Two.

SCOUT
How old were you?

JEM (O.S.)
Six.

SCOUT
Old as I am now?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

SCOUT
Was Mama pretty?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

33 EXT. FRONT PORCH - CLOSE SHOT - ATTICUS

He has come back to the porch. He rocks in his chair.
From the porch he can hear the children's questions.

SCOUT (O.S.)
Was Mama nice?

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

SCOUT (O.S.)
Did you love her?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

SCOUT (O.S.)
Did I love her?

JEM (O.S.)
Yes.

SCOUT (O.S.)
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.

34 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.

35 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:

37 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.

38 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.

JEM
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.

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

39 EXT. RADLEY YARD

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.

40 EXT. SIDEWALK ACROSS THE STREET - DILL, JEM

DILL
(terrified
Go get her, Jem.

41 MOVING SHOT

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.

JEM
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.