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APPENDIX

1. Synopsis of the Novel *To Kill A Mocking Bird*

To Kill a Mockingbird takes place in Alabama during the Depression, and is narrated by the main character, a little girl named Jean Louise "Scout" Finch. Her father, Atticus Finch, is a lawyer with high moral standards. Scout, her brother Jem, and their friend Dill are intrigued by the local rumors about a man named Boo Radley, who lives in their neighborhood but never leaves his house. Legend has it that he once stabbed his father in the leg with a pair of scissors, and he is made out to be a kind of monster.

The children are curious to know more about Boo. The children begin moving closer to the Radley house, which is said to be haunted. They try leaving notes for Boo on his windowsill with a fishing pole, but are caught by Atticus, who firmly reprimands them for making fun of a sad man's life. Other mysterious things happen to the Finch children. A certain tree near the Radley house has a hole in which little presents are often left for them, such as pennies, chewing gum, and soap carved figures of a little boy and girl who bear a striking resemblance to Scout and Jem. The children don't know where these gifts are coming from, and when they go to leave a note for the mystery giver, they find that Boo's brother has plugged up the hole with cement.

Atticus decides to take on a case involving a black man named Tom Robinson who has been accused of raping a very poor white girl named Mayella Ewell, a member of the notorious Ewell family, who belong to the layer of Maycomb society that people refer to as "trash". The Finch family faces harsh

criticism in the heavily racist Maycomb because of Atticus's decision to defend Tom. But Atticus insists on going through with the case because his conscience could not let him do otherwise. He knows Tom is innocent, and also that he has almost no chance at being acquitted, because the white jury will never believe a black man over a white woman. Despite this, Atticus wants to reveal the truth to his fellow townspeople, expose their bigotry, and encourage them to imagine the possibility of racial equality.

Because Atticus is defending a black man, Scout and Jem find themselves whispered at and taunted, and have trouble keeping their tempers. At a family Christmas gathering, Scout beats up her cloying relative Francis when he accuses Atticus of ruining the family name by being a "nigger-lover". Jem cuts off the tops of an old neighbor's flower bushes after she derides Atticus, and as punishment, has to read out loud to her every day. Jem does not realize until after she dies that he is helping her break her morphine addiction. When revealing this to Jem and Scout, Atticus holds this old woman up as an example of true courage: the will to keep fighting even when you know you can't win.

The trial pits the evidence of the white Ewell family against Tom's evidence. According to the Ewells, Mayella asked Tom to do some work for her while her father was out, and Tom came into their house and forcibly beat and raped Mayella until her father appeared and scared him away. Tom's version is that Mayella invited him inside, then threw her arms around him and began to kiss him. Tom tried to push her away. When Bob Ewell arrived, he flew into a rage and beat her, while Tom ran away in fright. According to the sheriff's testimony, Mayella's bruises were

on the right side of her face, which means she was most likely punched with a left hand. Tom Robinson's left arm is useless due to an old accident, whereas Mr. Ewell leads with his left. Given the evidence of reasonable doubt, Tom should go free, but after hours of deliberation, the jury pronounces him guilty. Scout, Jem and Dill sneak into the courthouse to see the trial and sit in the balcony with Maycomb's black population. They are stunned at the verdict because to them, the evidence was so clearly in Tom's favor.

Though the verdict is unfortunate, Atticus feels some satisfaction that the jury took so long deciding. Usually, the decision would be made in minutes, because a black man's word would not be trusted. . Meanwhile, Mr. Ewell threatens Atticus and other people connected with the trial because he feels he was humiliated. He gets his revenge one night while Jem and Scout are walking home from the Halloween play at their school. He follows them home in the dark, then runs at them and attempts to kill them. The elusive Boo Radley stabs Mr. Ewell and saves the children. Finally, Scout has a chance to meet the shy and nervous Boo. At the end of this fateful night, the sheriff declares that Mr. Ewell fell on his own knife so Boo, the hero of the situation, won't have to be tried for murder. Scout walks Boo home and imagines how he has viewed the town and observed her, Jem and Dill over the years from inside his home. Boo goes inside, closes the door, and she never sees him again.

2. Biography of Harper Lee

Nelle Harper Lee was born on April 28, 1926, in Monroeville, Alabama, the same state in which *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set. She was the youngest of four children born to Amasa Coleman Lee and Frances Cunningham Finch Lee.

Certain aspects of Lee's upbringing seem to have planted the seeds for the characters and story found in the novel. Much like Scout, Lee was a professed tomboy whose father—thought to be the inspiration of Atticus Finch—was also a lawyer and legislator who had once defended two black men accused of murdering a white man. As a child she often sat in on court proceedings in which her father practiced.

It's often speculated that Lee's childhood friend and next-door neighbor, Truman Streckfus Persons—who would grow up to be famed author Truman Capote—was the inspiration for Dill (Charles Baker Harris).

Lee finished high school and enrolled in Huntingdon College in 1944. There she occasionally wrote articles for the college newspaper. The following year she transferred to law school at the University of Alabama, inspired by her father's legal career. She also continued her interest in writing, contributing to the university's student magazine and eventually becoming its editor. The summer before her senior year, she studied as an exchange student at the University of Oxford in England. There she began to formulate a plan for the future: her career would be in writing, not the law.

In 1949 after a final semester at the University of Alabama, she moved to New York City to pursue a literary career. There she fell in again with her childhood friend, Truman Capote. To support herself while writing, she served as Capote's research assistant, traveling with him to Holcomb, Kansas, where they worked on Capote's nonfiction narrative *In Cold Blood*.

Lee earned her own literary achievement in 1960 with the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961. Despite the critical and commercial success, Lee didn't publish any more books until 2015. Her second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, features many of the same characters as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, although it is set 20 years after that novel's events. Although *Go Set a Watchman* was initially publicized as a sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the book is actually a first draft of Lee's prize-winning novel. When *Go Set a Watchman* was rejected for publication in 1957, Lee's editor suggested she revise the story to focus on the character of Scout. Two years later *To Kill a Mockingbird* was accepted for publication. Harper Lee, the author of the literary classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, has died. She was 89 on February 19, 2016. Her publisher said that Lee “died peacefully.

