

# The Maycomb County Tribune Guest Opinion Piece

By: Tom Robinson

Recently, in Maycomb, there has been a trial going on that has shaken the whole community. I feel so devastated, I have been convicted of a crime I did not commit. Trying to be a respectful, kind, and thoughtful person. I believe that I am innocent to this whole trial and I need people that all of this is a whole mistake. I went past her house everyday and night. As I went past the house Miss Mayella always had work for me to do. I didn't want to be rude, so I did what she told me to do. When finished, Miss Mayella would offer me a nickel. I wouldn't accept it because I did this for free. Everyday, I saw and heard commotion happening in the house always wondering what anyone is doing to help Miss Mayella. She seemed like a nice person and she shouldn't go through all these problems.

I still remember that day that started all this. I was walking past the house like every other day and I saw Miss Mayella on the porch as usual. I said hello to Miss Mayella and she replied "I gotta a job for you". But this time it was kind of strange because it looked like there was no job. So I told her that I don't see anything to work on. Miss Mayella told me that the work was inside this time. So, I went in the house to see what had to be done. I noticed that there seemed there was nothing to be fixed. But Miss Mayella said she wanted me to get something off the top shelf of the bookcase. But as I reached up there, I felt her pull on me and hug really tightly. I was scared for what would happen next. I just remember her saying, "I have never hugged a man like this before at least not someone like you". I was trying to get away but she kept asking me questions like kiss me and hug me. I didn't want to hurt her.

But my only way to get out was pushing her. I had no choice but she wouldn't let me go and I heard Bob Ewell screaming and come close to the house. I didn't know what to do. Just looking back at this situation, I feel as if I shouldn't have been put in jail for being generous to someone who has no one to help her do any of these things or that her father is too lazy to do it himself. I think I want people to understand that this was all coming out of generosity. People think I was trying to rape her but, everyone expects me to do these choices because I am a black man. Just because I'm a black man, doesn't mean that I rape women for a living. I have a wife and two kids to take care of and I love them very much. I wouldn't do anything to hurt them or make them feel like they are nothing to me. I was sent to jail for no reason. People here don't listen to black people and think that everything they hear here is the truth.

I think people need to understand that I was innocent and put on trial for helping someone who then tried to get close with me and who is abused by her father. I want to praise Atticus Finch for making the jury stay out so long to really think about this case because I would have been put in jail as soon as this case happened. If I didn't have Mr. Finch as a lawyer, I would have been thrown right in jail as soon as this happened. I would like to praise Link Deas. Even though he was a white man and I worked for him, he stood up for me in court even though it was illegal to do. That showed me that a lot of people will break the law to help someone in some way. I want to explain to the people of Maycomb that this town has some cruel, racist, cold hearted people who just don't care what happens to a black man accused of raping a white woman. Even though I served my time of thirty days for getting into a fight still doesn't mean that I am a rapist. People who just listen to one side of the story and believe that's the truth. I really want children to see this because even though they are small and don't understand this trial yet, I want them to know that you can't always believe what you hear from someone who doesn't know themselves.