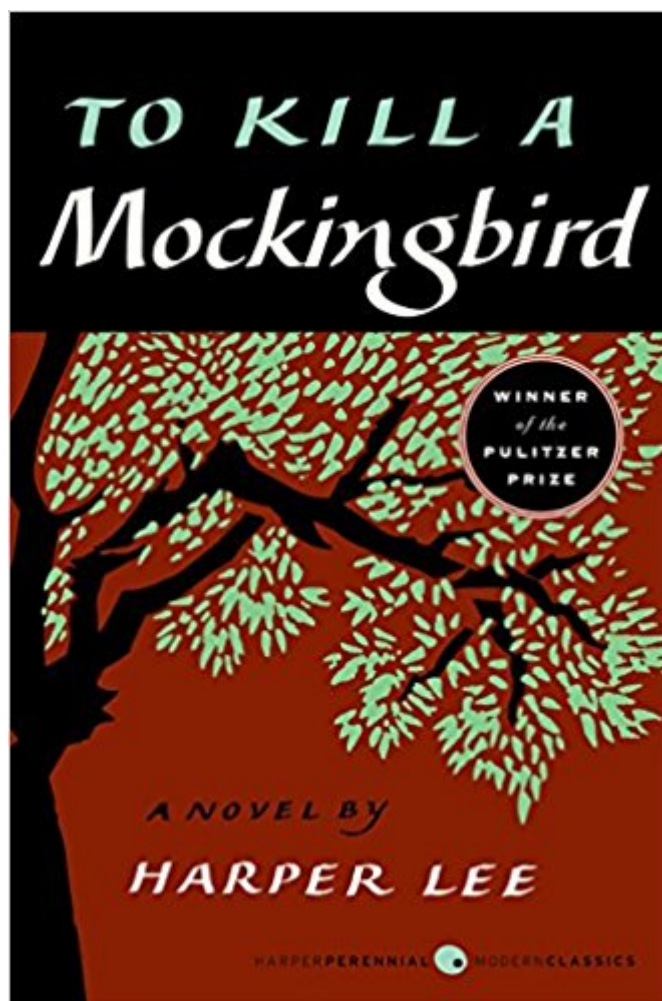


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To Kill A Mockingbird



Synopsis

Harper Lee's Pulitzer prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep south—and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred. One of the best-loved stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.... When enough years had gone by to enable us to look back on them, we sometimes discussed the events leading to his accident. I maintain that the Ewells started it all, but Jem, who was four years my senior, said it started long before that. He said it began the summer Dill came to us, when Dill first gave us the idea of making Boo Radley come out." Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and

tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up. Like the slow-moving occupants of her fictional town, Lee takes her time getting to the heart of her tale; we first meet the Finches the summer before Scout's first year at school. She, her brother, and Dill Harris, a boy who spends the summers with his aunt in Maycomb, while away the hours reenacting scenes from *Dracula* and plotting ways to get a peek at the town bogeyman, Boo Radley. At first the circumstances surrounding the alleged rape of Mayella Ewell, the daughter of a drunk and violent white farmer, barely penetrate the children's consciousness. Then Atticus is called on to defend the accused, Tom Robinson, and soon Scout and Jem find themselves caught up in events beyond their understanding. During the trial, the town exhibits its ugly side, but Lee offers plenty of counterbalance as well--in the struggle of an elderly woman to overcome her morphine habit before she dies; in the heroism of Atticus Finch, standing up for what he knows is right; and finally in Scout's hard-won understanding that most people are essentially kind "when you really see them." By turns funny, wise, and heartbreaking, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is one classic that continues to speak to new generations, and deserves to be reread often. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Lee's beloved American classic makes its belated debut on audio (after briefly being available in the 1990s for the blind and libraries through Books on Tape) with the kind of classy packaging that may spoil listeners for all other audiobooks. The two CD slipcases housing the 11 discs not only feature art mirroring Mary Schuck's cover design but also offers helpful track listings for each disk. Many viewers of the 1962 movie adaptation believe that Lee was the film's narrator, but it was actually an unbilled Kim Stanley who read a mere six passages and left an indelible impression. Competing with Stanley's memory, Spacek forges her own path to a victorious reading. Spacek reads with a slight Southern lilt and quiet authority. Told entirely from the perspective of young Scout Finch, there's no need for Spacek to create individual voices for various characters but she still invests them all with emotion. Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1960 novel, which quietly stands as one of the most powerful statements of the Civil Rights movement, has been superbly brought to audio. Available as a Perennial paperback. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like perhaps 10 other literate Americans, I had never read "To Kill a Mockingbird" - or, for that matter, seen the movie - until piqued by curiosity roused by the publication of its "lost" predecessor,

"Go Set a Watchman." I found "Mockingbird" indeed charming, if not particularly gripping or intellectually stimulating. Harper Lee is a wonderful storyteller, with a sharp but warm command of the Southern vernacular suitable to her characters and a terrific eye for the little details that bring her tale to vivid life. She has the great gift of intimacy. Her narrative, told through the peppery voice of her pre-adolescent protagonist, Scout Finch, seems utterly direct, warmly personal, without literary artifice (except for the few occasions when Scout makes observations clearly beyond the scope of a someone so young). Scene for scene, the book is a delight. But I found its moral lessons - the layer of narrative that has made it a staple in schools for so many years - a bit pat. OK, I'm looking at it from the perspective of someone who's lived through the Civil Rights era, the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., the recent spate of police killings of unarmed black men. And it is a story of events set in a much earlier America - the pre-Jim Crow South of the 1930s, as seen through the eyes of a 9-year-old. For me, its shortcoming - what keeps it from becoming a truly great book - is Lee's rendering of her most beloved character, Atticus Finch. Revered by his children, a struggling, "good" single father, he remains a curiously remote figure. We see nothing of his personal anguish over the death of his wife, and very little of what anguish he presumably feels over the incendiary case he takes on. We don't know his intellectual interests or even anything about his social life or friendships. All Lee shows is his "goodness." She does this with fine wit. But Atticus remains more an emblem than a man of flesh-and-blood. Perfect for an actor like Lincolnesque Gregory Peck, but not so compelling on the printed page. I'm now 50 pages into "Go Set a Watchman" and finding that what it reveals about Atticus is more interesting, if disturbing, than anything in "Mockingbird."

This is one of my all-time favorite books, right next to "The Five People you Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom. I do not want to give any of the story away, and so I will just recommend that you purchase it if able. This was a book that I read in school many years ago, and I don't know if I just didn't appreciate it then, or if I don't remember it, but I read it again as a 24 year old and it really moved me. It made me laugh, made me cry, and made me think. I even bought a copy for my grandmother and though it took her a bit longer to read, she thoroughly enjoyed it as well. During one of our conversations we even laughed and talked about some of the characters in the book as if they were real people, or even family members. I think that it is appropriate for ages 12+ as some of the things may not be comprehensible or you may not want your children to be exposed to certain things or ideas without first having a chance to teach them about it yourself. This will definitely be one that you will want to read over and over again. This is a classic!

To Kill a Mockingbird is a story that takes the reader to 1930's Alabama with the story of Scout, her brother Jem, and their father, an attorney, Atticus Finch. It is a walk back in time, that pictures vividly the people and racial tension when a young black man is accused of raping a white girl. The family, and the whole town are drawn in to the upcoming trial. Told through the voice of young Scout, the story unfolds with a quiet strength that held me captivated throughout. What a wonderful modern classic. Worthy of ten stars!

An American classic. I'm sure there are better, literary reviews than what I would be able to give so I'll let you spend your time reading them. I would like to say . . . This is a wonderful book to help explain the early to mid 20th century life in a rural southern town. There is good and bad in all of us sprinkled with a bit of ignorance and preconceptions.

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