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Maycomb Times

FINCH'S CHILDREN ATTACKED!



Photo-Jem and Jean Louise Finch sitting by a tree.

By Bianca Knight

Yesterday evening after the Maycomb Halloween school pageant, two of Maycomb's loyal young children were suspiciously attacked. Jem and Jean Louise Finch (better known as Scout) are the children of a highly respected lawyer, Atticus Finch. Jem and Jean Louise were walking home through the school yard after the pageant when the surprise attack sprang into action. The attacker is claimed to be Mr. Robert Ewell, whose body was found at the scene with a knife wound to his chest.

It is believed Ewell was seeking revenge on Atticus Finch by going for the ones he loves dearly & who are also defenceless. His hatred towards Atticus Finch stems from a recent court case involving Tom Robinson, a negro, accused of sexually assaulting Ewell's daughter, Mayella. During the trial Mr. Finch proved to the jury, and to the county, that Tom Robinson was innocent and it was her own father who had inflicted the injuries. But the jury went with the practice of 'white before black'. Tom Robinson was then sent to jail and tried to escape but unfortunately was shot dead. Ewell had regret over sending an innocent man to his death.

Ewell then became an unpleasant man to know and visited Tom Robinson's house and verbally abused Tom's wife Helen. He would also make it difficult for Mrs. Robinson to walk to where she worked as she would have to pass Ewell's house and he would stand there and yell more abuse. He also tried to break into Judge Taylor's house but ran as fast as he could when he realized Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were home.

The two children had cut through the school yard, behind the Radley's house, to get home quicker when Ewell sprang at them with a knife. Young Jem suffered numerous lacerations to his left arm. Jean Louise was fortunate to be wearing her costume from the pageant. The structure of the costume was made from chicken wire. This stopped the knife that Ewell was attempting to injure her with going through to her skin. The costume provides evidence of this happening as it reveals scratch marks on the front where Ewell attempted to stab.

'All I could see was a frightening dark shadow attacking me, then my brother tried to stop him from behind and then he pushed me to the ground and turned to my brother. That's when he broke Jem's arm. I was so scared, I couldn't do anything.' Jean Louise stated in an interview.

Mr. Heck Tate, the County's Sheriff, stated that medical results revealed there was positive alcohol reading in Ewell's blood. It is also thought that after Ewell broke Jem's arm, he tripped and fell on his own knife which resulted in his death.

One of the Finch's neighbours, Ms Stephanie Crawford, has confirmed she saw a suspicious person carrying Jem Finch home while Jean Louise running behind.

After a tiring night, the Finch children are recovering from their terrifying experience. Mr Finch is relieved that he still has his two beloved children. The suspicion that another person was at the scene has been dismissed by Sheriff Heck Tate.

What a real-life Halloween experience Jem and Jean Louise had.



Photo- Mr. Ewell with his daughter Mayella in the court case of Tom Robinson.