

Victim Testifies in Robinson Rape Trial

It was an emotional day of testimony for Mayella Ewell as the Tom Robinson rape case rocked the courthouse.

Miss Ewell, the victim of a savage rape and attack, broke out into sobs several times as defense attorney Atticus Finch grilled her over the events of November 21.

Miss Ewell explained to the court that she asked the Negro Tom Robinson to come into the Ewell's yard to bust up a chifforobe. Miss Ewell said her father, Bob Ewell, had asked her to bust up the chifforobe while he was away in the woods.

"He could have done it easy enough," Miss Ewell explained, saying that she was not feeling strong enough to do the job when she saw Robinson passing by the Ewell property.

Miss Ewell went on to describe the vicious attack, explaining that Robinson hit her in the face, choked her, and raped her.

Bob Ewell also testified.

"I was coming in from the woods with a load of kindling, and just as I got to the fence I heard Mayella screaming," Mr. Ewell told the court. "So, I dropped my load and ran as fast as I could, but I ran into the fence. When I got distangled, I ran up to the window, and I saw Tom Robinson rutting on my Mayella!"

Mr. Ewell's eyewitness account was challenged by Mr. Finch, who boldly suggested that it wasn't Robinson who attacked Miss Ewell, but her father.

However, Finch could only offer circumstantial evidence and speculation.

While Robinson insists he is innocent of the charge brought against him, he admitted to the court that he has broken the law in the past and was jailed for his offense. Judge Taylor, who is presiding over the trial, noted that Robinson indeed had been convicted of disorderly conduct.

Sources say most men who end up raping young girls already have a criminal record. Sources also say that most rapists know their victims and groom them over a period of time before attacking.

Robinson told the court he passed by the Ewell property daily, which Miss Ewell confirmed.

The jury is out, but one thing is clear: Mayella Ewell was the victim of a brutal crime.



Mayella Ewell is brought to tears as she recounts the attack she suffered on November 21.