

Go Set A Watchman

Harper Lee

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As you may already know, *Go Set A Watchman* is the highly anticipated sequel to the renowned classic, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Set two decades after, the main character, Jean Louise Finch “Scout”, returns to her hometown of Maycomb, Alabama. She’s here to take care of her aging father, Atticus. Scout looks forward to coming home, but there’s a damper to her homecoming. She finds out how changed Maycomb is, and truths that she’d never noticed before as a child. She’s different, the town’s different, and the townspeople, including her father, Atticus, are even more changed.

I originally had such high expectations for this book. I loved *To Kill A Mockingbird*, it was funny and heartwarming and so realistic. The characters were so real and likable and *honest*. I could vividly see the town in which they lived in and their lives. This sequel had none of that. Besides a beautiful blue-and-gold front cover, *Go Set A Watchman* was far from satisfactory. Almost all of the characters from its prequel are either gone, not mentioned, dead, or drastically, uncharacteristically changed. Beloved Jem, Scout’s older brother, died from a sudden heart attack. Their childhood friend Dill is off in Italy. Boo Radley, who played a huge role in *To Kill A Mockingbird* seems to have been forgotten by both Scout and all of Maycomb. Atticus has strange, twisted views on race. And Scout no longer goes by her nickname; she’s not the same impulsive tomboy of her past.

There was no plot in this book. Trouble arose out of the blue, the whole town seems to have become a pale ghost compared to the past lively Maycomb. The only thing I liked was the frequent flashbacks to Scout’s childhood. There, I saw a bit of the Maycomb life from *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

I do not recommend this book for anyone; in my opinion, it taints the memory of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. If anyone were to read it though, I’d say this is an appropriate book for high-schoolers and older, maybe even mature middle-school students.

Recommended Books:

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

The Catcher in The Rye by J.D. Salinger

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya