

## THURSDAY BOOK REVIEW

"To Kill a Mocking Bird" was written by the American novelist, Harper Lee, and published in 1960; her first and only book, a magnum opus. It is loosely based on events that happened during her childhood. She modeled the character of Atticus Finch, the protagonist of her novel, on her father.

The story is set in Maycomb, a fictional town of Alabama in the US, where Atticus Finch, a committed lawyer with a deeply understanding nature and a dogged sense of determination, is defending a black man who is charged with raping a white woman. The undercurrent of racism is palpable throughout, and it could have been a very grim book indeed if humour and warmth had not been so skillfully woven into it.

If I had to describe the book in one word, it would be `endearing` : the characters, the story, all of it. I found myself in awe and admiration of Atticus Finch. I can never forget a scene in which he tells his daughter, Scout Finch, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view; until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

I did not simply read this book, I feel as if I have lived it, the entire story fresh in my mind.

(Reviewed by Nithila on 7 August 2014)

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