



To Kill

a Mockingbird

By Harper Lee

Retold by Doug DeBolt

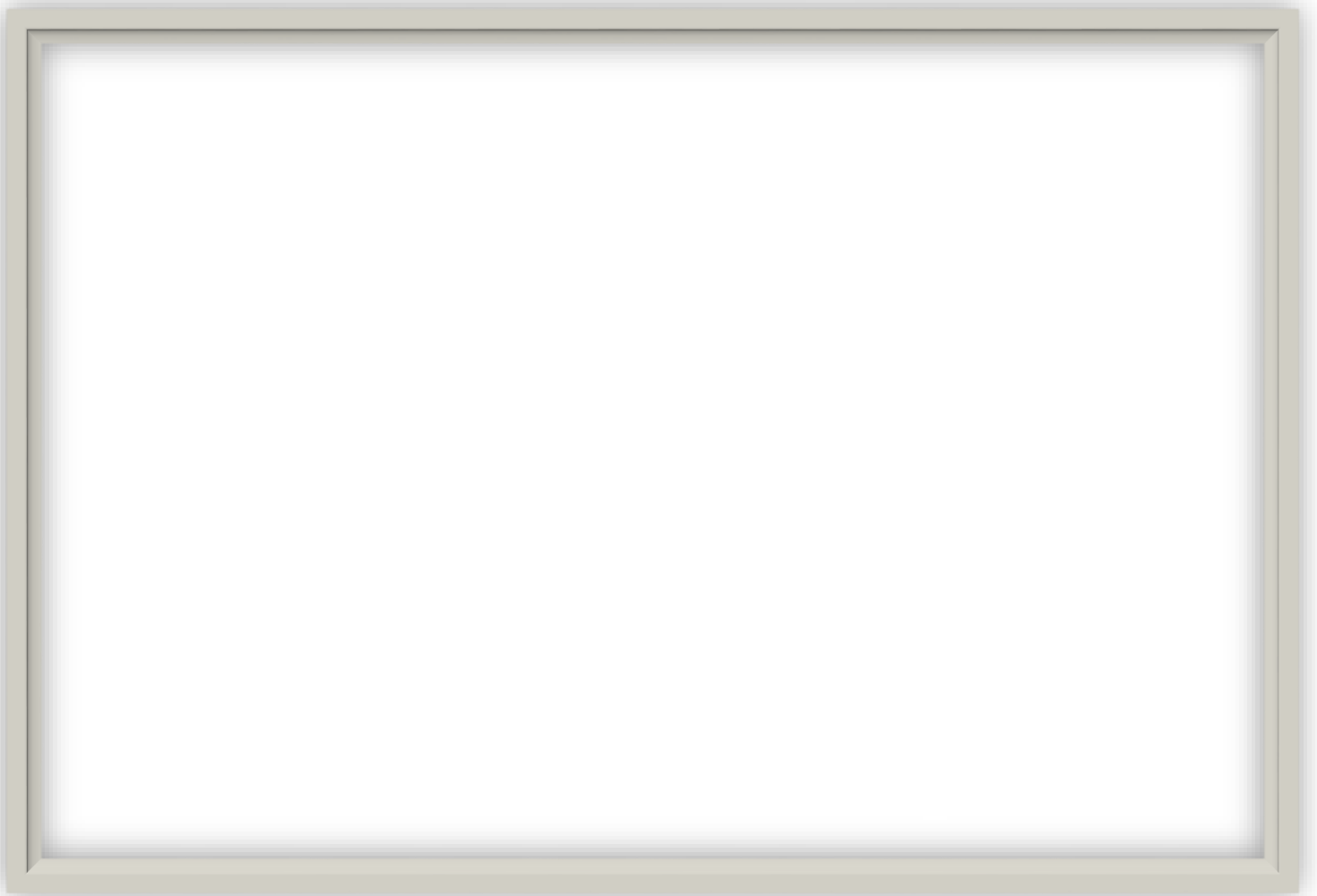
This book is dedicated to Lizzi,
who taught me how to love children's books again.



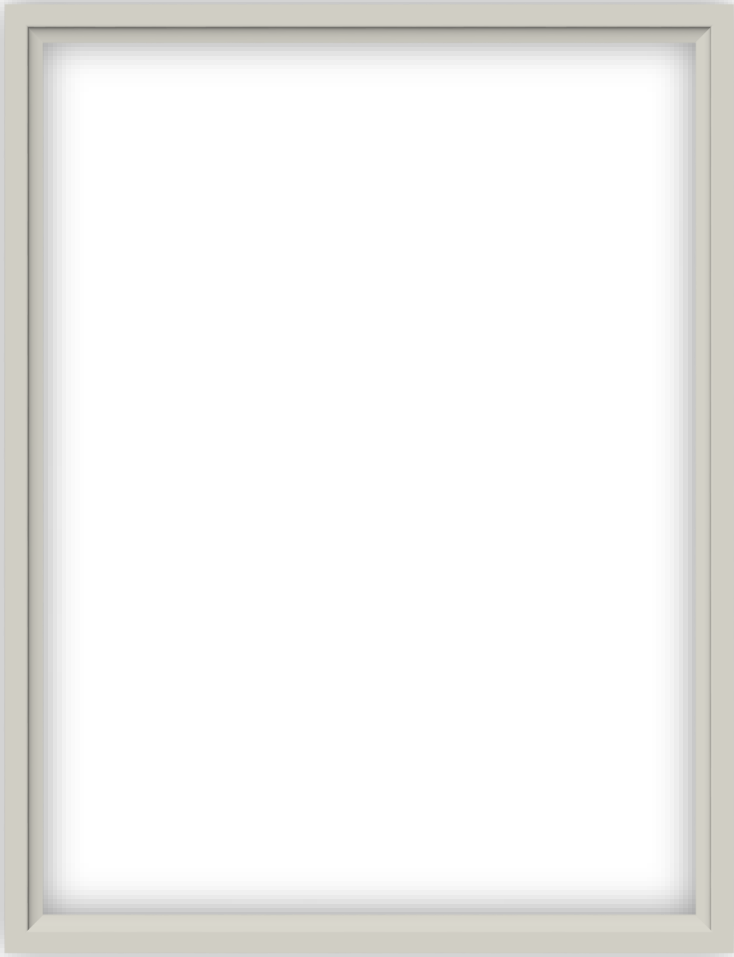
This is Scout. Scout is a young girl who lives in Alabama with her brother and father. Scout is only six years old and just started school. Scout doesn't like her teacher because the teacher isn't happy that Scout already knows how to read.

Scout is very smart, and so is her father, Atticus. He is a lawyer, and he sometimes defends people who can't afford to pay him. One man, Mr. Cunningham, paid Atticus with hickory nuts because he didn't have enough money.



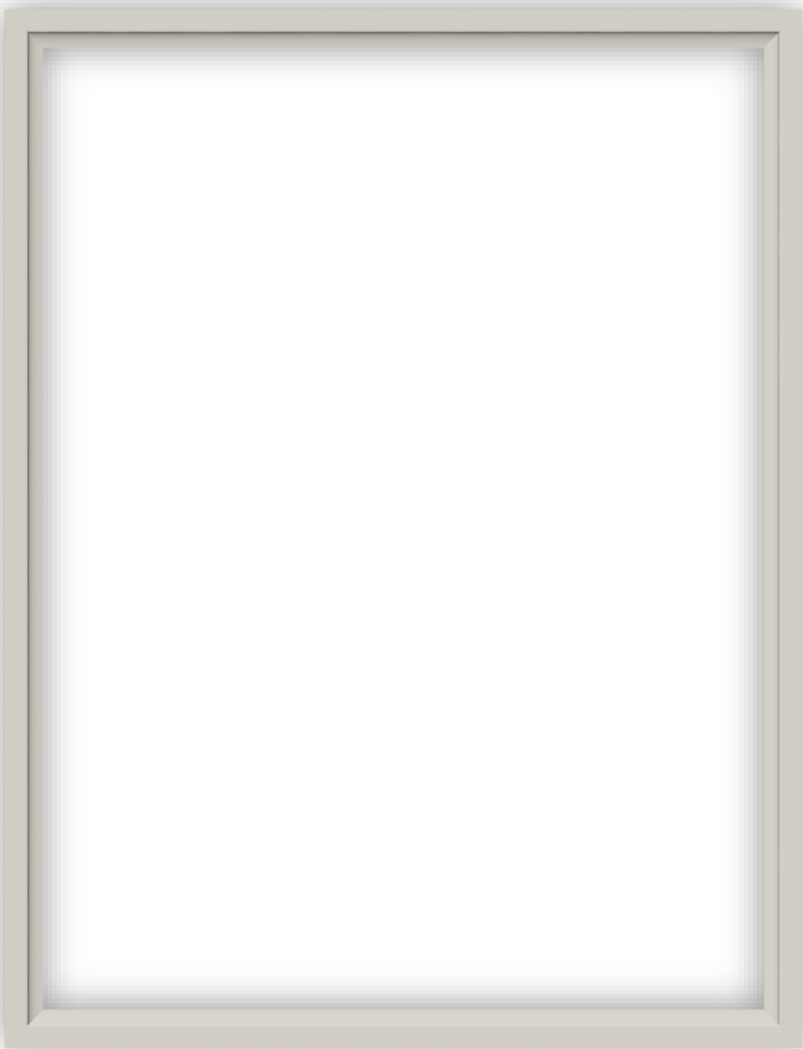


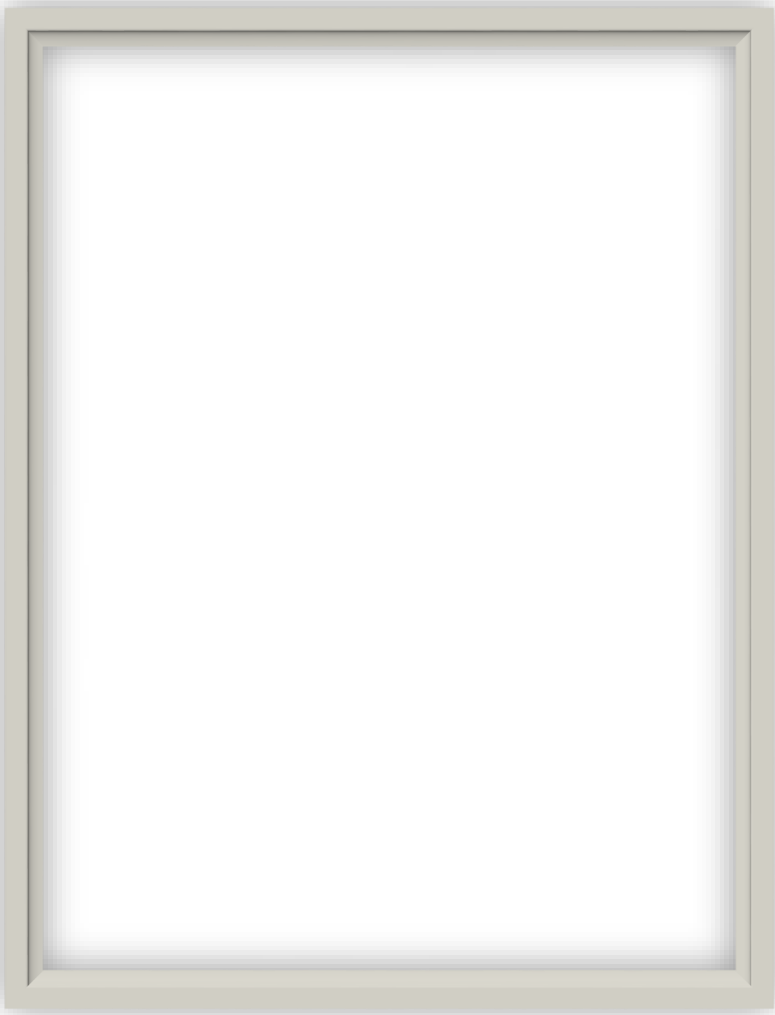
Scout has a brother, Jem, who is older. Scout and Jem often play games with their neighbor, Dill, who just moved to Maycomb. That's the name of the town where they live.



Sometimes Scout and Jem play games with another neighbor—Boo Radley. Boo is a man who people think is scary. Scout, Jem and Dill think he's scary, too. But they still go near his house to play.

The children have never seen Boo Radley. They have heard many scary stories about him. Jem think's Boo's father is "the meanest man who ever lived." That seems true, but Scout wonders if Boo is different from his father.

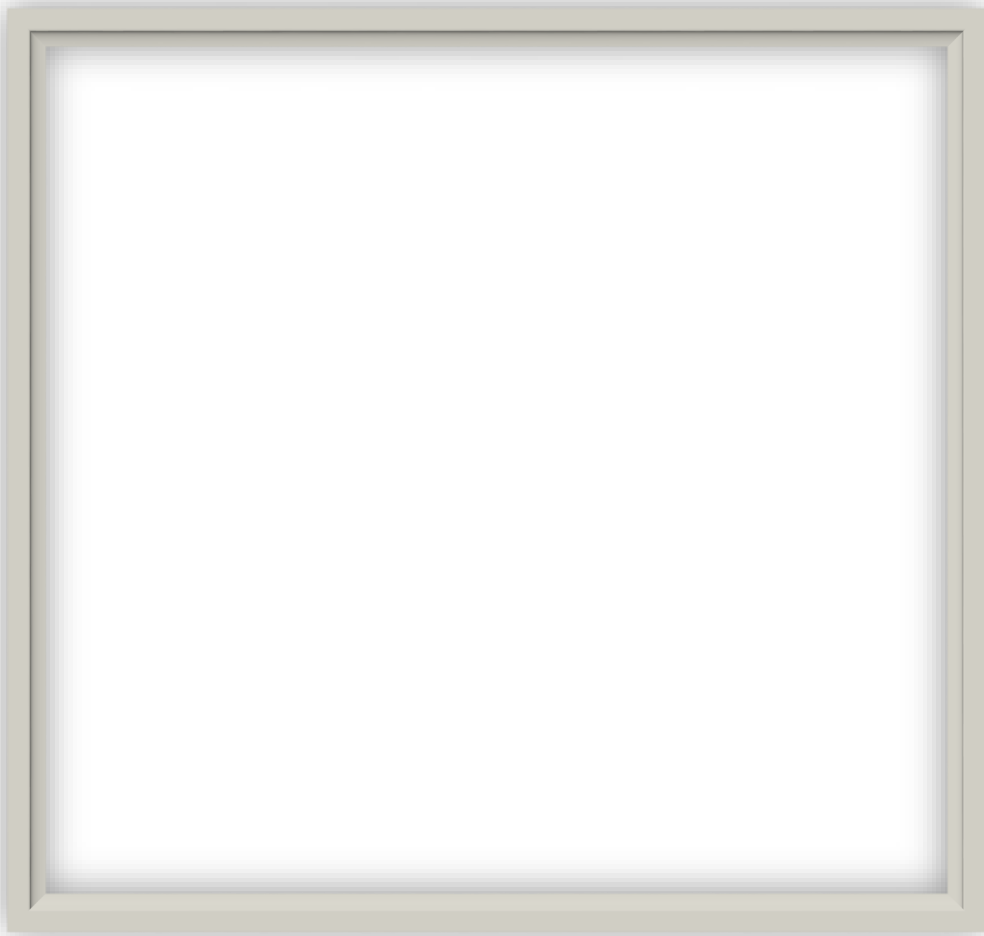




One day, the children found that someone had left some things in a hole in a tree near Boo's house. They think Boo left the items. Some of the things left there were a spelling medal, a broken watch and some gum.

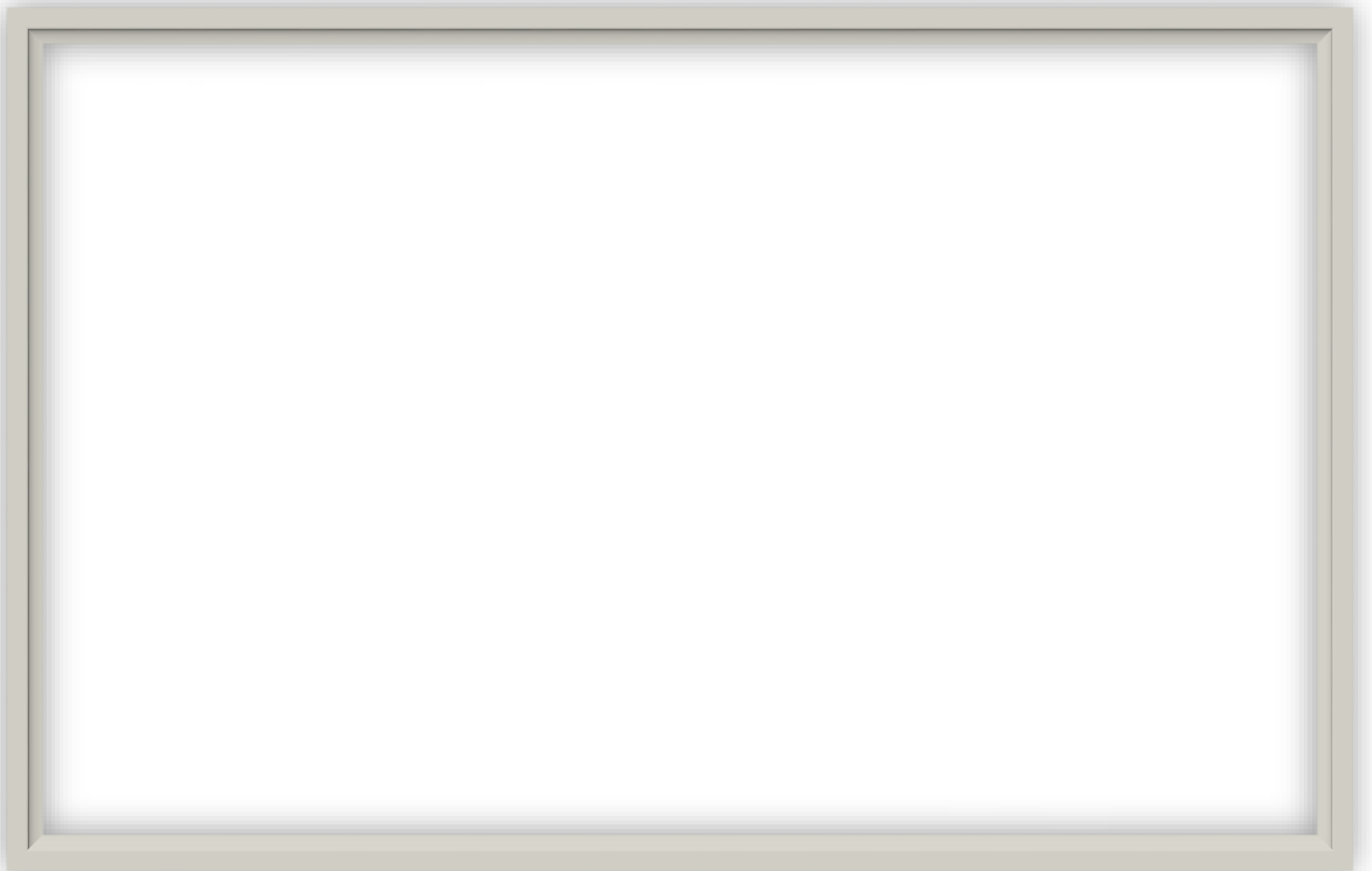


Boo's family is friends with a man named Tom Robinson. One day, a woman in town accused Tom of hurting her. Atticus did not believe the woman and he decided to be Tom's lawyer. Atticus thinks that the woman, Mayella Ewell, and her father, Bob, are lying about Tom.

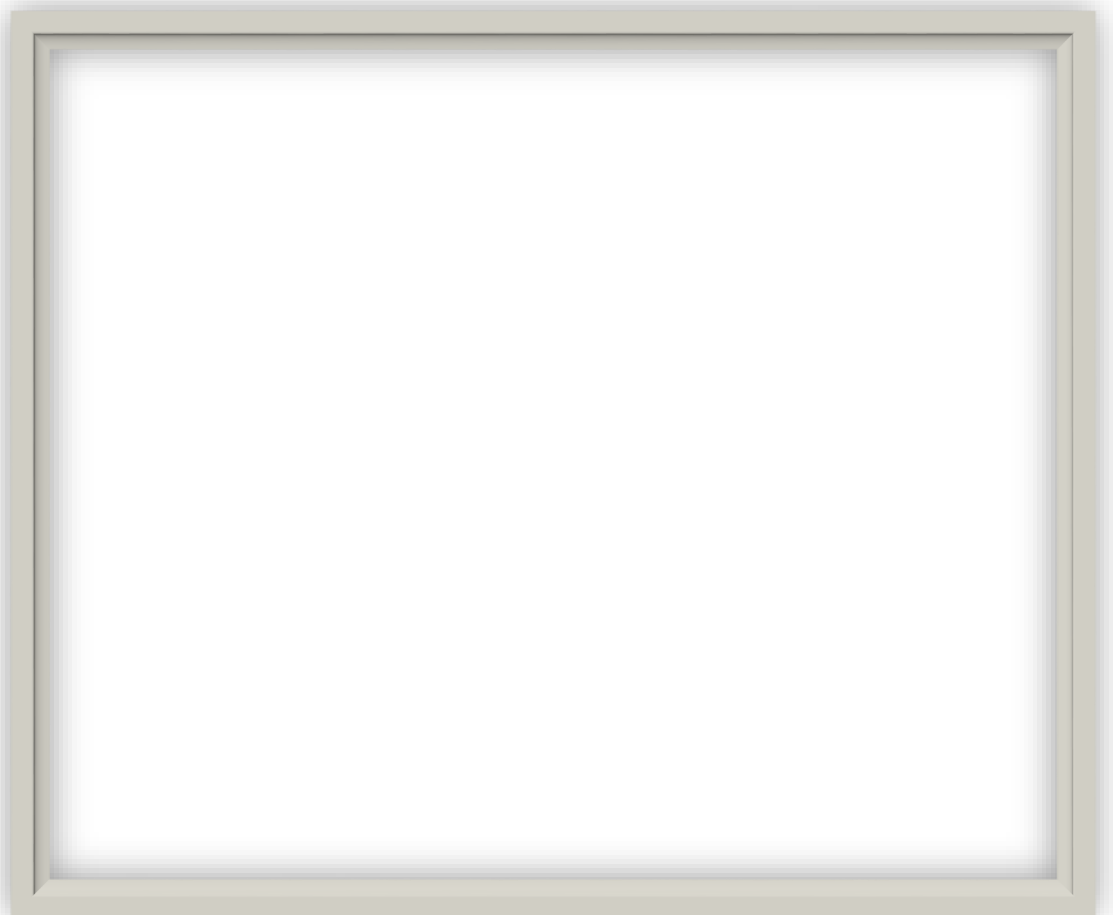


Most of the people in
Maycomb are white. Tom is
black. Many people in town
think Tom is guilty just
because he's black.

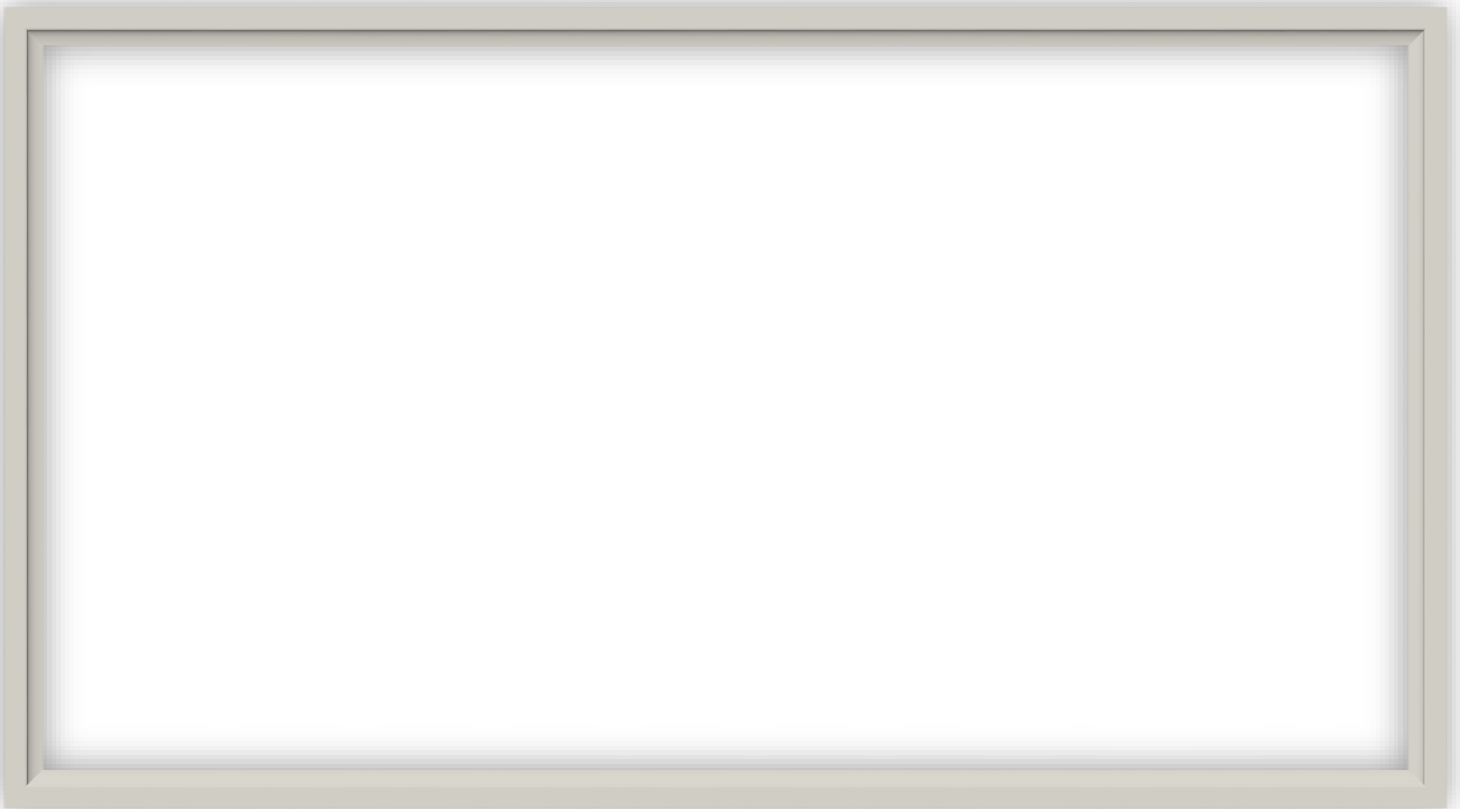
Atticus and his children don't believe that. They know that Tom is a good man. They are also more and more sure that the Ewells are lying about what happened.

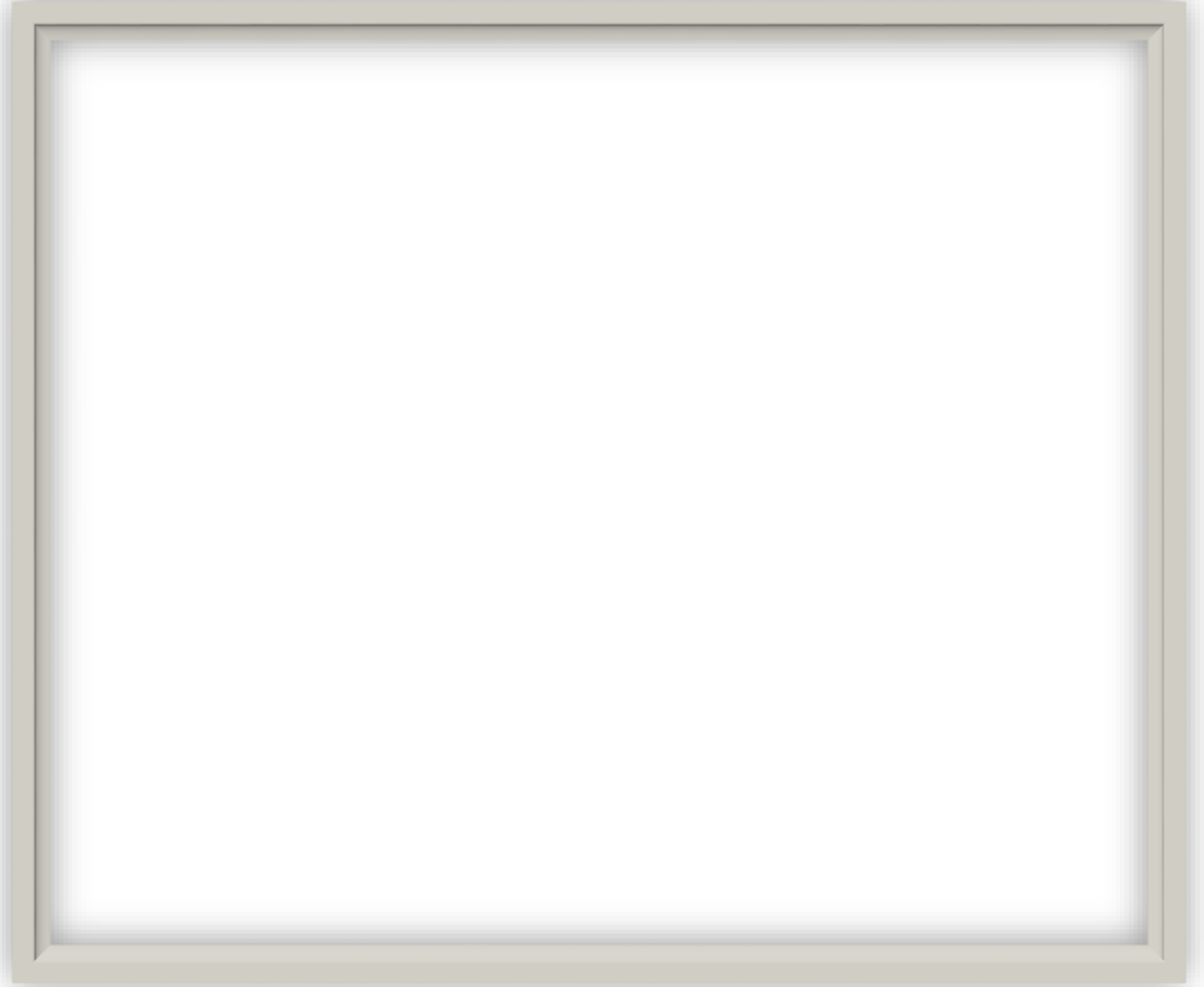


Tom is put in jail. While he is there, some of the men in town come to town to hurt him. But Atticus goes to the jail to defend Tom, and Scout, Jem and Dill show up to defend him, too. The men feel ashamed of themselves and go home.



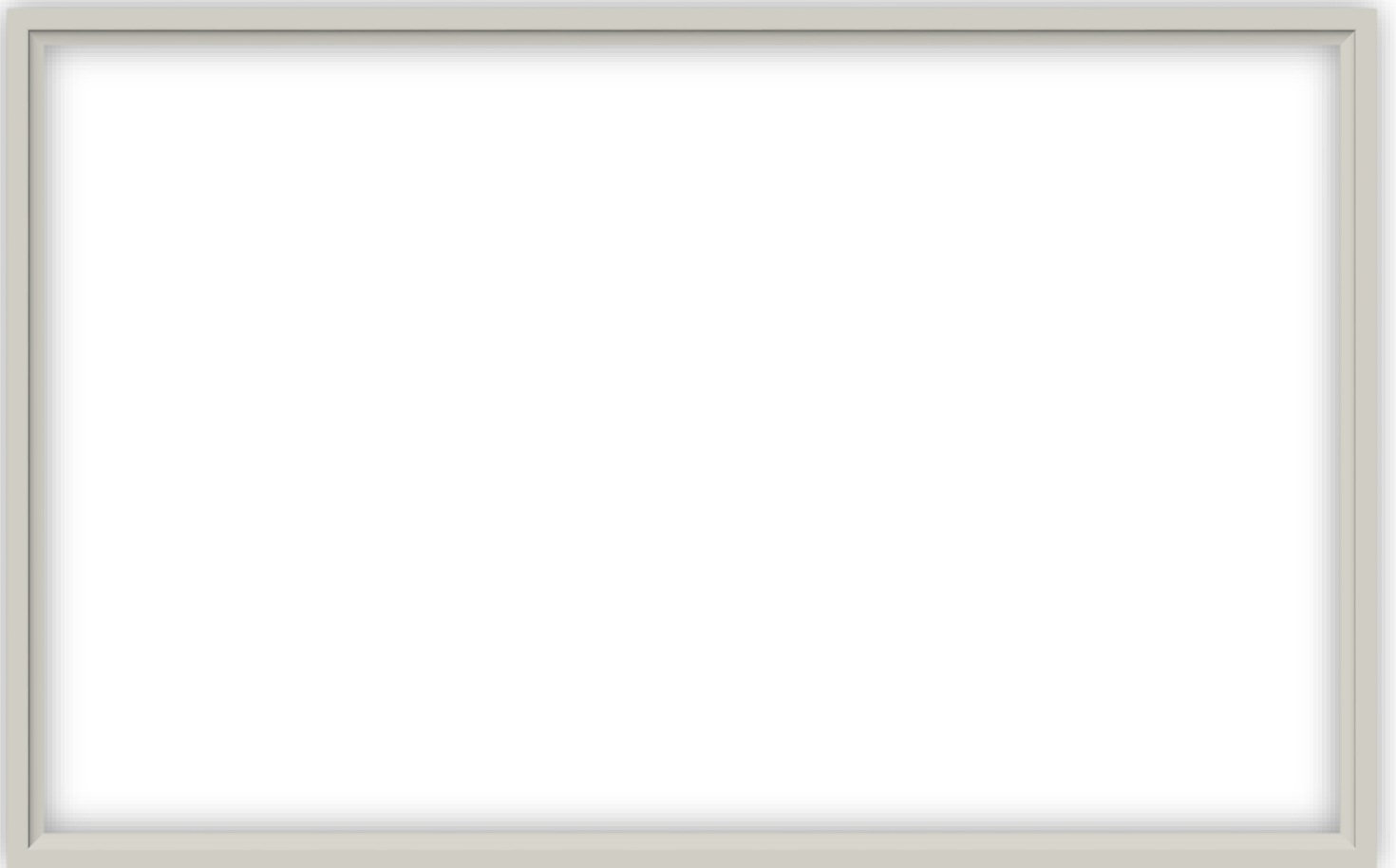
Atticus defends Tom at his trial. The courtroom is full of people—including Scout, Jem and Dill. The woman who accused Tom—Mayella Ewell—testifies at the trial. So does her father, Bob. The questions that Atticus asks the Ewells make them look bad, because their lies are easy to see.



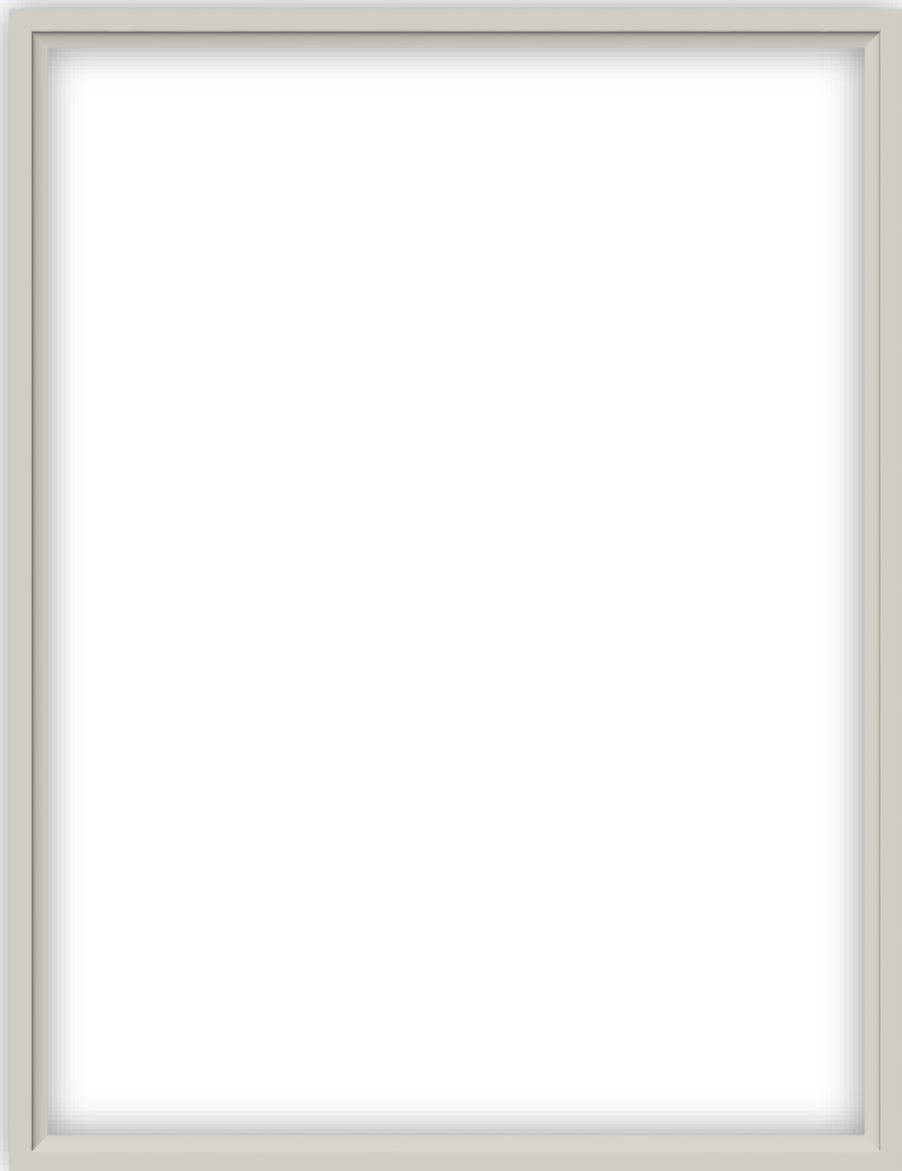


By the end of the trial, everyone can tell that Mayella and Bob are lying. Tom testifies and tells the truth. It doesn't make a difference. The jury convicts Tom anyway.

Atticus and his family are sad when Tom is taken to jail, but Atticus is hopeful that he can get Tom free one day. But they get even more sad when they find out that Tom died when he tried to escape from jail.



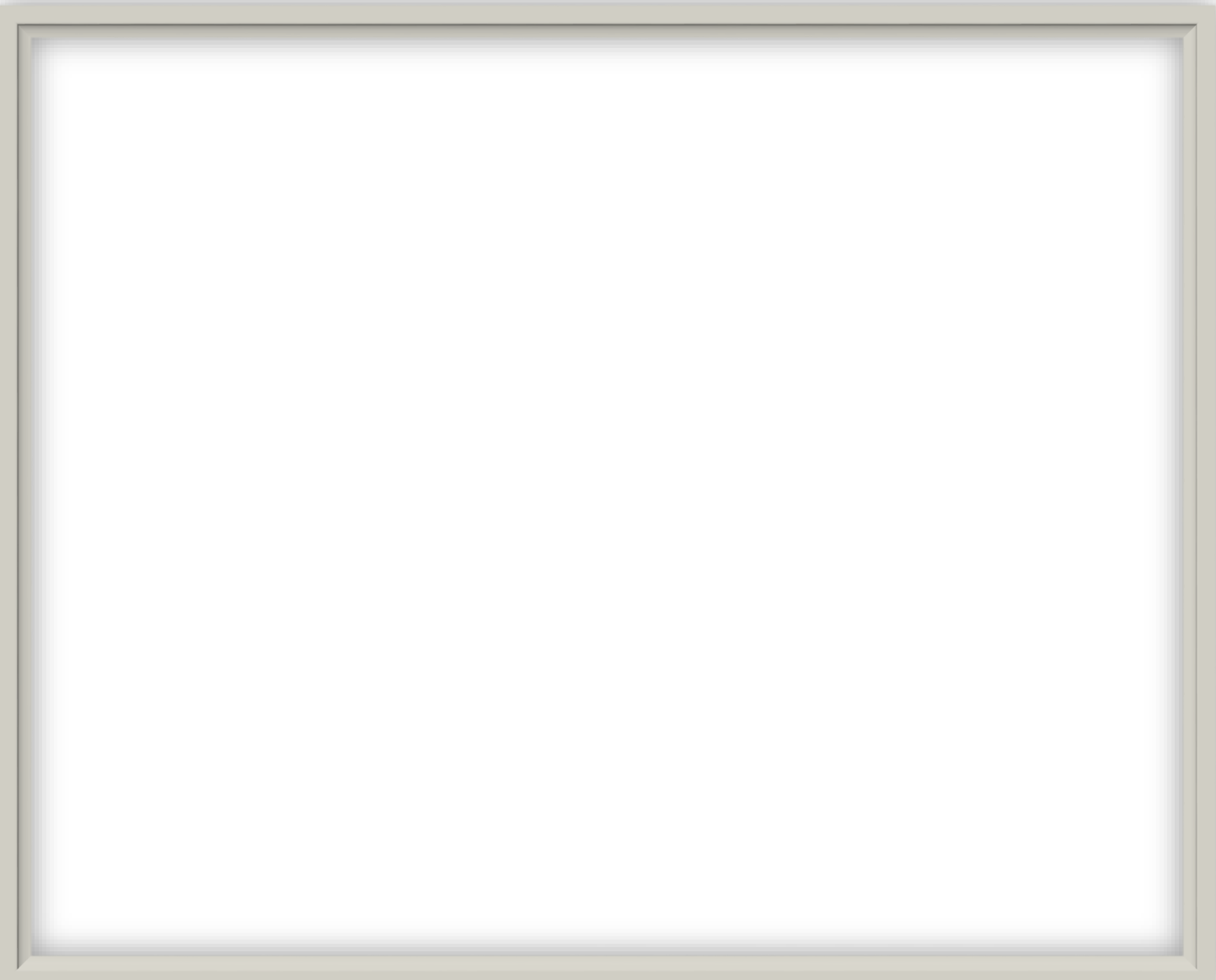
Later that year, Jem and Scout went to the town's Halloween festival. On the way home, they could tell that someone was following them. Suddenly, the mysterious person attacked Jem!





Another "mystery man" appeared and fought with the attacker. During the fight, the attacker was killed. The children learned that their defender was none other than Boo Radley!

The sheriff decides to leave Boo alone because Boo isn't used to being around lots of people. Scout remembers something her father told her—that shooting mockingbirds is wrong because they just make nice music. Scout decides that to make Boo a hero for helping the children would be kind of like shooting a mockingbird.



Scout and her family live in a small town in Alabama. He has fun with her brother and best friend, but a terrible event turns one summer upside-down.

