

Ventura Book Reviews

Where will
the next book
take you?

Go Set A Watchman

by Harper Lee



Lee

Harper Lee stirred up some controversy after releasing the sequel of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) last year. The main character, Jean Louise (aka Scout), comes home from New York City to visit for a couple weeks. While she is in Maycomb County she feels like an outsider and that her home is not what it used to be. The conflict embedded in the story is that Jean Louise' perfect, loving father is a racist; which causes Jean Louise to feel emotions that she really hasn't before, especially towards Atticus. The controversy around the novel is the fact that Atticus is a racist,

but the story is set in the 50s and in the South, so if he was not a racist the story would have been too perfect. There would have been no argument or tension and readers would have been bored and unsatisfied by the end. The reader spends a lot of time in the mind of Jean Louise and the dialogue that does exist flows very well. Lee also did a great job expressing the raw frustration that Jean Louise feels. The novel did lack in parts such as the ending which seemed forced and too easy.

With that being said, I will admit that I did not "read" *Go Set a Watchman*; I listened to the audiobook. I don't know if a lot of people know about this option but it is a wonderful thing! I downloaded the novel from the "OverDrive" App where you simply add your library card and are then able to download books onto a phone or tablet. *Go Set a Watchman* is read by Reese Witherspoon and it is easy to listen to while driving, around the house, out for a walk, etcetera.

Reviewed by Grace Ventura