# Character List:

* Carolyn Bryant
  + Was the woman that till supposedly “Raped”
* Emmet Till
  + A young African-American boy who was murdered in 1955 after supposedly raping Carolyn Bryant.
  + Moses Wright’s Nephew
  + Visiting from Chicago
  + A bout of Polio when he was six left him with a stutter and weak ankles
* Reverend Moses Wright
  + Emmet Till’s great uncle
* Elizabeth Wright
  + Moses Wright’s Wife
* Simeon Wright
  + Moses Wright’s son
* Robert Wright
  + Moses Wright’s son
* Maurice Wright
  + Moses Wright’s son
* Curtis Jones
  + Moses Wright’s Grandson
  + Visiting from Chicago
* Wheeler Parker Jr.
  + Moses Wright’s Grandson
  + Visiting from Chicago
* J.W. Milam
  + Carolyn Bryant’s Father in law
* Mr. Roy Bryant
  + Owns the store where till “raped” Carolyn Bryant
  + Carolyn’s Husband
  + Heavy Drinker
  + Very racist
* Maimy Carthan
  + Emmet’s mother
* Melvin Campbell
  + Heavy Drinker
  + Very racist
  + Carolyn’s Brother in law
  + Pistol-whipped an African American for not being polite enough
* Sheriff H. C. Stryder
  + In charge of the county where the body was found
  + Tried to cover it up by having the body buried the same day
* General Moore
  + Was a WWII Soldier who was discriminated against in his army, but not in Europe.
  + Used his WWII money to go to college.
  + Created the RCNL, which developed poorer citizens economically-black and white.
    - One monumental achievement was providing restrooms for African americans in gas stations all over Mississippi.

# Summaries:

* Author meets up with Carolyn Bryant
  + She admits that Till had not tried to rape her or say any obscenities.
  + She doesn’t remember what really happened, but she does know that Till did not grab her waist or swear.
    - Her notes from before the trial state that Till didn’t even grab her hand, simply had offended her.
* Moses Wright is visited by Milam and Mr. Bryant at 2 in the morning. They were very drunk
  + Elizabeth tries to get Emmet to safety, but the two kidnap him with no resistance
* Argo was a Suburb of Chicago and a popular area of immigration for African Americans from the south.
* Carolyn grew up in a good family, but when it split, she married at the age of 16 to Roy Bryant
  + He turned out to be a drinker and white supremacist, as was the rest of his family
  + Carolyn’s new brother-in-law pistol whipped an African American for not being polite enough.
    - Roy, her husband, fixed up the African American and drove him home
  + The Bryants and Campbells were unpredictable
* The boys went over to the nearby town with some friends after dropping their parents off at church
  + They disregarded their instructions to stay outside of town limits
  + They went to Bryant’s Grocery and meat Market
    - Emmet and Wheeler Parker Jr. went into the store
    - Parker paid and left
    - Something happened with Emmet and Carolyn Bryant (Who was working checkout)
      * The court case said he raped Carolyn
      * Carolyn’s notes said that till hadn’t even touched her, but had offended her
      * The Bryants seemed to think he said something offensive according to what they said when they came into the house
      * In a private meeting with her Attorney, she said that Emmet had asked her for a date, after refused said “What’s the matter, baby, can’t you take it?”
      * Ruthie Mae, a worker at the store, claimed that Till had simply placed the money in Carolyn’s hand instead of putting it on the counter, as most African Americans were “supposed to”
        + Simeon Wright agreed with this in an interview
    - Wright went back in for Emmet, and as they left, Emmet said “Goodbye” to Carolyn
    - Carolyn then went through the crowd of boys and went to get a pistol. Emmet then whistled at Carolyn
    - The boys panicked and left in a hurry
* After the kidnapping, Elizabeth fled to northern Mississippi.
* The morning after the kidnapping, Moses Wright and his brother in law Crosby Smith then went to the grocery and meat market to ask for Emmet back early in the morning
  + Carolyn was alone with her children and did not answer
  + They went to the Sheriff when the sun was up.
    - The sheriff thought that they would have killed Emmet and thrown him into the river.
    - The sheriff then helped them search for Emmet’s body until he went to question Roy
* When Roy came home the morning of the kidnapping, Carolyn asked what they had done to Emmet
  + We now know that after Emmet had been kidnapped, he was brought to the store so Carolyn could identify him
  + He said that he just whipped him and dropped him off at the side of the road
  + Roy then went to sleep
* Roy then was interrogated by the Sheriff
  + Roy said that he had kidnapped the boy, brought him to the store to be identified by Carolyn
  + He said that he wasn’t the right one, so he released him right in front of the store
    - This was the story that the entire Bryant-Milam clan agreed on
  + Then the Sheriff arrested Roy for kidnapping
  + Smith then continued searching for Till’s body
* The day after the kidnapping, J.W. Milam allowed himself to be arrested to keep Roy from spilling the story
* Three days after the kidnapping, Robert Hodges found Emmet’s body floating on the river
  + The whole Bryant-Milam clan knew that it was Melvin Campbell that actually killed Till
  + The clan kept Carolyn moving from house to house with no human contact outside of the family so that she didn’t leak any evidence that would tie the family to the murder.
    - A warrant for Carolyn’s arrest was made but they gave up after only two days of looking.
  + The body appeared to have been beaten with an axe, shot, noosed with barbed wire, then thrown into the river with a cotton gin motor tied around its neck to keep it at the bottom
  + To cover it up, the sheriff of the country that the body was found in told the men to bury it the same day, but a relative objected
* Curtis Jones phoned his mother, who then phoned Emmet’s mother, who began contacting Chicago newpapers.
* Numerous people tried to keep the funeral closed-casket, but Maimie complained publicly until it became open casket.
  + Maimie inspected his body
    - His eyeballs were gouged out
    - His nose had been cut off and his skull had been cracked all the way along it
    - There was a bullet hole in his head
* Tens of thousands came to the funeral to see the body on the first night of the weeklong funeral
* Hundreds of thousands came through the week of the funeral
* Millions of people saw Emmet’s body
* Trial
  + Only White jury
  + Emmett’s body was evidence, but it was said to have been a few weeks old by sheriff Stryder, meaning that it ‘couldn’t have been him’
  + Was nationally covered
  + There were two witnesses to the murder, but Stryder had locked them in a county jail to keep them from testifying
  + Carolyn testified that she had been raped by Till
  + A physician (who hadn’t seen the body) was taken as professional advice and said that the body couldn’t have been identified by Till’s mother as Emmet.
  + There were five black witnesses that had direct evidence against the defendants, but they still lost.
* Maimie and moses then attended and helped with many rallies all over the country
  + Tens of Millions came
* Years later, Milam and Bryant agreed to claim their guilt for money and because they couldn’t be tried again.
  + On a dare, Emmett claimed of having had sex with a white woman
  + They then kidnapped him, planning just to whip him
  + He then continued to brag about having had sex with white women
  + They then pistol whipped Till
  + They drove him to the river, convinced him to grab the fan, and shot him in the head

# Barriers:

* Having any relations with a white woman in the south was a death sentence.
* In Chicago, there were separate ethnic neighborhoods.
  + During the great migration, many African Americans moved up north to Chicago and needed a place to live
  + African Americans then began to overflow into the neighboring neighborhoods
  + When even a single African American family moved into a white neighborhood, the property value would plummet
  + Real estate investors would then jump on this opportunity, buying out whole streets, dividing them up into “kitchenettes” that they would sell at overpriced rates to the African Americans. Wherever a single African American family would move in, the ghetto would follow.
* High rate of Lynchings in the south, especially in Mississippi
* Nobody dared to challenge a white person on any subject, so making the funeral open-casket was a difficult matter.
* Many painted African Americans in the 1960s as communist
* During court cases between African americans and whites, whites would always win, even if there was direct evidence against them.