These 10 spine-tinglers range from straight-up ghost stories to eerie narratives. The tales in this winner of the 1993 Coretta Scott King Award depict racism, haunting and vengeance in a manner that can be read out loud around a campfire or savored privately, offering middle readers (fourth through eighth graders) thoughtful exposure to important, though frightening, historical themes. One tale, set in the segregated South of the 1940s, tells of a black man's ghost avenging his murder by a white klansman. McKissack's prose is smooth and understated, and its sense of foreboding is powerfully enhanced by Brian Pinkney's black-and-white scratch board illustrations.
Sitting down with Patricia McKissacks The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural (Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), readers expect a good ghost story or two. But in this collection of short stories, McKissack does more than tell a spooky tale; she roots each of her stories in history or folklore. Of the ten stories in this volume, six take the readers on a trip through African American history, from the The Legend of Pin Oak, the mysterious tale of a slave family's attempt at escape in the 1860s, to Justice, where a victim of a 1930s Klan lynching haunts his murderer, to The Woman in the Snow, whose tale ties in with the 1950s bus boycott that was part of the American civil rights movement. Other stories, like The Sight, The Conjure Brother, and The Gingi, recount folklore from old Southern or African traditions. The final story in the book, a semi-autobiographical tale from the authors own life, ends the collection on a personal note, while retaining the supernatural feel of the earlier stories.

McKissack intended these stories to be shared in the twilight hour, just before nightfall, a time known as The Dark Thirty. Read the stories for a good spooky or suspenseful tale. Pair them with McKissacks introductions and you just might learn something along the way. Scratchboard artwork by Brian Pinkney provides an eerie accompaniment to McKissacks words in this award-winning collection.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural (Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner) by Patricia McKissack - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!