

At the Dark End of the Street

*Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—a New History
of the Civil Rights Movement
from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*

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- 235 County prosecutor James Dukes and district attorney James Finch outside the Forrest County Courthouse (Moncrief Photograph Collection, #607, Mississippi Department of Archives & History [<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us>])
- 239 The front page of the November 12, 1965, *Hattiesburg American* highlights the historic verdict.
- 242 Mildred and Richard Loving share a laugh with friends during an outing in Virginia, 1965. (© Photo by Grey Villet/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images)
- 247 Joan Little surrenders to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, September 7, 1975. (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 255 Attorney Jerry Paul defied the state's racial status quo by representing African Americans and working on civil rights cases. (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 257 Joan Little, 1975 (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 266 Demonstrators outside the Wake County Courthouse. (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 267 An eclectic group of protesters join forces to "Free Joan Little," 1975. (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 268 An African-American woman pickets outside the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh, 1975 (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 269 The Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, July 14, 1975 (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 269 Outside the Joan Little trial, 1975 (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 275 Joan Little and Karen Galloway, July 14, 1975 (Photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives. Reprinted with the permission of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 278 Joan Little, published in the *Baltimore Afro-American*, 1975 (Courtesy of the *Baltimore Afro-American*)

Prologue

ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1944, the Rock Hill Holiness Church, in Abbeville, Alabama, rocked late into the night. It was nearly midnight when the doors of the wooden, one-story church swung open releasing streams of worshippers, all African American, into the moonlight. After a night of singing and praying, Recy Taylor, Fannie Daniel, and Daniel's eighteen-year-old son, West, stepped out of the country chapel and strolled toward home alongside the peanut plantations that bounded the Abbeville-Headland highway. Taylor, a slender, copper-colored, and beautiful twenty-four-year-old mother and sharecropper, noticed a rattletrap green Chevrolet pass them at least three times, young white men gawking from its windows.

"You reckon what they are up to?" Taylor asked.

Taylor and Daniel, a stout sixty-one-year-old woman, watched the car creep by one last time and roll to a stop a few feet ahead of them. Seven men, armed with knives and guns, got out of the car and walked toward the women.

Herbert Lovett, the oldest of the crew at twenty-four and a private in the U.S. Army, shouted, "Halt!"

When they ignored the order, Lovett leveled his shotgun. West tugged at his mother's sleeve, begging her to stop. "They might shoot you," he whispered.