



Precious and the Boo Hag (Anne Schwartz Books)

By Patricia C. McKissack, Onawumi Jean Moss

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When Precious is left home alone with a stomachache, she's got nothing but a warning from Mama -- "*Don't let nothing or nobody into this house*" -- to keep her company. You see, "nothing or nobody" could turn out to be *something* awful: the Boo Hag! The Boo Hag's got a voice that rumbles like thunder and hair that shoots out like lightning. And she can disguise herself to look like *anything*. So when the Boo Hag comes calling, will Precious be clever enough to outwit even the trickiest trickster?

Here's an oh-so-funny -- and not-*too*-scary -- story from Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia C. McKissack and Onawumi Jean Moss that's paired with spirited, folksy illustrations by Kyrsten Brooker.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A young African-American girl named Precious has a stomachache, so she has to stay at home alone while the whole family leaves to plant corn. Mama tells her, "Now remember, don't let nothing and nobody in this house--not even me, 'cause I got a key." Precious's older brother warns her with a wink that, you never know, Pruella the Boo Hag could even try to get in: "She's tricky and she's scary, and she tries to make you disobey yo' mama." Sure enough, the shapeshifting Pruella shows up, first as a big, mean force with lightning hair and burning-cinder eyes; then as a friendly-looking, but more-than-slightly *off* visitor asking for a drink of dirty dishwasher; then as a strange, raspy-voiced facsimile of her friend Addie Louise; and finally, as a copper penny. Clever Precious never falls for the Boo Hag's half-baked disguises (the Boo Hag "aine too smart") and her family is proud to find her at home safe and sound. That night, as Precious hums her victory song in bed, the reader is asked to look just outside her window... have we really seen the end of Boo Hag? Kyrsten Brooker's wonderfully expressive, mixed-media collage illustrations shine with as much humor, motion, and texture as the story. Young readers will revel in this original, vivacious, suspenseful-but-not-too-scary, read-aloud tale about a child's conquest of a genuinely spooky foe. (Ages 6 to 8) --*Karin Snelson*

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 3--When Precious's bellyache keeps her from helping in the fields, she is left at home alone, with Mama's strict instructions to let no one inside the house for any reason, no matter what. This admonition is reinforced by Brother's warning that if she is not careful, Pruella the Boo Hag might sneak in. Frightening Boo Hags tell lies and are rude, and try to get children to disobey their mamas. Worst of all, they change shapes, so they are hard to recognize. Temptation comes in many forms and Precious is surely baited. But she is a plucky girl who confronts her fears and, in the end, clings to what she knows is right. The spirited language and vivid images will draw out the performer in every reader. The authors have produced an enchanting tale that is a pinch scary but a peck of fun. Brooker's oil-and-collage illustrations enhance the excitement while providing a glimpse of a modest home with peeling paint, braided rugs, and homemade jam. These images evoke real warmth and comfort, fortifying Precious--and readers--to meet her challenges. Find a comfy chair, gather an audience, and enjoy this wonderful book.--*Mary Hazelton, Elementary Schools in Warren & Waldoboro, ME*

From [Booklist](#)

K-Gr. 2. With the grand feel of a folktale, this lively story speaks to choosing right in a world full of temptation and peril. Precious isn't feeling well, so when her family leaves, she stays home. Before they go, Mama reminds her not to let anyone in, and Brother tells her to watch for the Boo Hag, "who tries to make you disobey yo' mama!" Precious thinks Brother is kidding--until Hag swoops down from an angry sky, demanding entry. Fearful yet fierce, Precious isn't intimidated; nor is she fooled when Hag returns in clever disguise. Kids will be as excited as Precious after she bests the crone, and her catchy song of triumph is contagious. Expressive and fluid, Brooker's mixed-media art, comical yet scary, too, pops from the pages, and her window sill-like picture borders add intimacy to the story of feisty Precious--strong, smart, and oh so pleased with herself. Adults will want to discuss the surprising, slightly unsettling end----which points to more adventures coming Precious' way. *Stephanie Zvirin*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theresa Gordon:

The particular book Precious and the Boo Hag (Anne Schwartz Books) will bring someone to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to read, this book very ideal to you. The book Precious and the Boo Hag (Anne Schwartz Books) is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Aaron Covington:

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