

Summary of “The Dark End of the Street”

Commentary on the Experience of Recy Taylor:

Reading the Epilogue, I was happy to see that Recy Taylor lived a long life. She saw and experienced so many changes and improvements in the lives of many in the Black community over the years.

She lived long enough to see the implementation of Affirmative Action, it's benefits and for the program to eventually go by the wayside. She lived to see improvement in the relationship between Blacks and law enforcement and then the subsequent deterioration of that fragile bond. She played a significant part in the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement. She was brave and fearless in the face of constant threats and perpetual danger with little protection. She lived through the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and 911.

She saw the election of the first black man to the Presidency of the United States and his wife take her place as First Lady of the White House. A significant milestone for her as she noted “Growing up in the Jim Crow South, Black women were not even considered *ladies*.”

Technological changes went from their beginning stages to smart phones and smart TV's. She saw her life story told onscreen and finally had her voice heard. I hope that *The Dark End of the Street*, and the recognition that followed its publication was a sort of validation for her, showing her that she mattered.

The story of this terrible thing that happened to her deserved to be told. Despite all these changes, her assailants and their families went about their daily business a short distance from the home she grew up in, a constant reminder of the one thing she never did get to see in her lifetime, justice.