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October Release of *Scariest Stories Ever Told* by Roberta Simpson Brown, the “Queen of the Cold-Blooded Tales”

Just in time for Halloween, August House announces the long-awaited release of ***Scariest Stories Ever Told***, a spooky collection of scary stories for kids.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlanta, Georgia (October 4, 2016) August House is thrilled to announce the publication of *Scariest Stories Ever Told* by Roberta Simpson Brown, otherwise known as the "Queen of Cold-Blooded Tales". This spooky collection of thirty-three scary stories for kids is perfect for reading aloud at Halloween and may well be the *Scariest Stories Ever Told*.

In her latest book of scary stories, Roberta has artfully compiled a memorable cast of sinister characters like the stick man, the shadows, the feathered thing and even a giant bullfrog from the swamp. As a result, this collection of haunting tales is jam-packed with enough ghouls, ghosts, and menacing spirits to give anyone the chills. In fact, *Kirkus Reviews* described her new book as, "...original short chillers just right for sharing with unsuspecting middle graders."

One of the hallmarks of Roberta's work is that she likes to incorporate familiar, everyday settings in her stories to create more suspense and make them even more threatening. Children will love seeing characters their age confront sinister creatures and work up the courage to explore supernatural occurrences in the hallway at school, in the kitchen at home, at the parking lot of a shopping mall, or on vacation in a cabin by the lake.

As a former teacher, Roberta knows her audience well, so she carefully instills just enough tension to make her stories creepy and chilling but not horrifying and never gory. Her writing style was honed over the years by creating and then telling her stories to countless students who gave her immediate feedback about themes they liked, plot twists that surprised them, and characters who frightened them.

Roberta's clever stories strike a unique balance of fear of the unknown combined with eerie, contemporary settings that make her stories unsettling yet highly entertaining for kids to read. Her spooky tales suggest that perhaps there is more going on than meets the eye, especially at night when the lights are out. These stories are not only perfect for young readers to curl up with on the couch, they also make great read-aloud tales for

sleep overs, around the campfire, or just before lunchtime at school.

Roberta Simpson Brown was born in Russell Springs, Kentucky, and attended Berea College. She believes in preserving and telling stories as part of her heritage. She has published twelve books, four of them with August House, and performs her original work from coast to coast. Roberta has appeared on National Public Radio and Lifetime TV's *Beyond Chance*. She is married to Lonnie E. Brown, also an author, and lives in Louisville, KY. The two of them enjoy ghost hunting with their friends when they aren't crafting new stories.

During October, August House will be celebrating the publication of *Scariest Stories Ever Told* with a number of ways to experience Roberta's work:

1. Downloadable sample stories from *Scariest Stories Ever Told* available through the August House website: <http://www.augusthouse.com/single-post/2016/10/03/Book-of-the-Month-Scariest-Stories-Ever-Told>
2. An in-depth interview with Roberta Simpson Brown, discussing the power of using scary stories in the classroom – see the new August House Newsletter for October: <http://www.augusthouse.com/single-post/2016/09/21/Featured-Author-Interview-with-Roberta-Simpson-Brown>
3. A promotional giveaway of seven copies of *Scariest Stories Ever Told* through a partnership with Teaching Books at <http://www.teachingbooks.net>

Scariest Stories Ever Told is now available for purchase in paperback (ISBN13: 978-1-939160-99-7) at local bookstores and through Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1939160995>

August House is a highly acclaimed and award-winning multimedia publisher of children's picture books, folktale anthologies, scary story collections, and resource books. Located in Atlanta, GA, August House has developed one of the most highly respected collections of folktales from the world's great oral traditions. You can find more information about August House at <http://www.augusthouse.com> or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/augusthouseinc/>

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