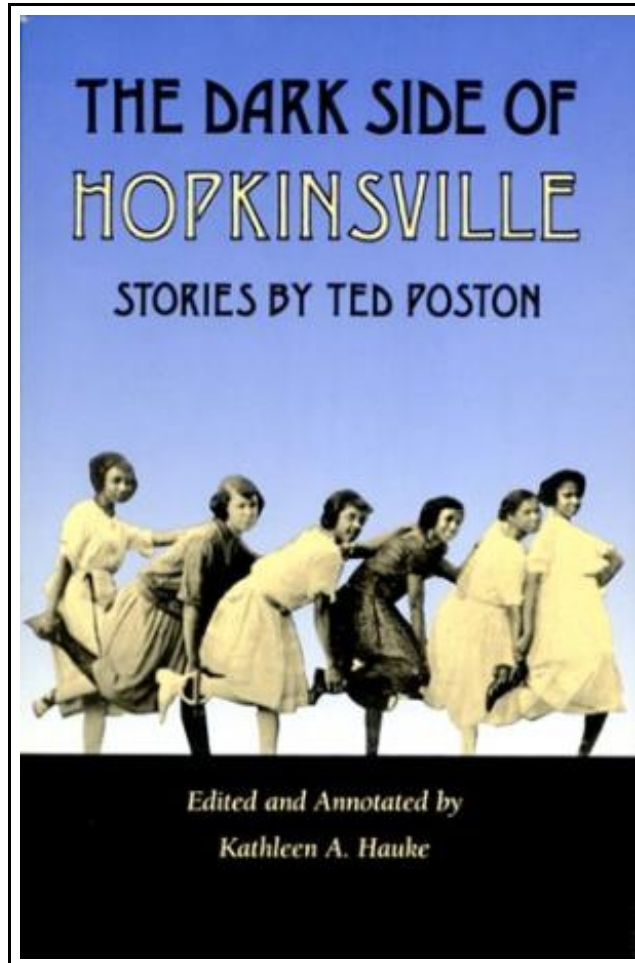


Dark Side of Hopkinsville



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Reviews

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DARK SIDE OF HOPKINSVILLE

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University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 144 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 6.1in. x 0.4in. Preserving an engaging, little-known slice of American life, *The Dark Side of Hopkinsville* is a collection of ten picaresque tales bearing witness to a black child's life in a southern town at the turn of the century. Born and reared in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Ted Poston (1906-1974) became the first black career-long reporter for a major metropolitan daily (the *New York Post*) and served as a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Negro Cabinet in Washington in 1940. After thirty-five years at the *Post*, Poston was without question the Dean of Black Journalists. Acquainted with the major figures of the Harlem Renaissance, Poston regaled his associates with tales of his childhood. These memories resulted in the stories collected in *The Dark Side of Hopkinsville*. Told from the vantage point of Ted, a bright, high-spirited student at Booker T. Washington Colored Grammar School, the stories focus on a coterie of imaginative children, their entertainments and games, ties to the church, and relations with immediate and extended families. The memorable, recurring characters in the stories are based on individuals Poston knew: Cousin Blind Mary, a fortune teller who can see into someone's future only after consulting with the servants of the family in question; Ted's father, Ephraim, the only Negro Democrat in our Hopkinsville, Kentucky, or in the whole state of Kentucky for that matter; Fertilizer Ferguson, whom Ted credits with coining the phrase eating higher up on the hog; and Ted's schoolmate Knee Baby Watkins, the catalytic agent who precipitated the most disastrous social feud in the history of Hopkinsville. Though the presence of prejudice--both within and outside the race--is acknowledged throughout the stories, that social reality does not lessen the characters' exuberant enjoyment of being young....

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