

Hog Butcher: A Novel (Chicago Lives)

Ronald L. Fair



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It's summer on the South Side of Chicago, and ten-year-old boys Earl and Wilford are frequently courtside watching their role model Nathaniel "Cornbread" Hamilton as he prepares to leave for college on a basketball scholarship. Their world comes crashing down in an alley when two cops—one white, one black—mistake Cornbread for a fleeing burglary suspect. What follows threatens to tear apart the community. Earl and Wilford know what happened, but will they stand up for their hero in a city in which power trumps justice, and each player must decide whether to fold to the system, or risk losing it all?

Instantly recognized as a gritty classic when it was first published in 1966, *Hog Butcher* was later adapted for the 1975 film *Cornbread, Earl and Me*. This new edition brings back into print Fair's startlingly relevant indictment of Chicago's inequalities.

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