

## BESSIE

### #1

I'll tell you, the way those rebby types treated colored folks – well, it just makes me sick. If I had a pet buzzard I'd treat him better than the way some white folks have treated me! There isn't a Negro this side of Glory who doesn't know exactly what I mean. Those rebby types don't give colored folks credit for a thing. They learn to hate. Why, colored folks *built* this country, and that is the truth. We were the laborers, honey! We were the backbone of this country.

### #2

It's been a little harder for me, partly because I'm darker than she is, and the darker you are, honey, the harder it is. But it's also been harder on me because I have a different personality than Sadie. She is a true Christian woman. I wish I were more like her but I am afraid I am a naughty little darky! Ha ha! I know it's not fashionable to use some of the words from our heyday, but that's who I am! And who is going to stop me? Nobody that's who! Ain't nobody going to censor me, no sir! I'm a hundred-and-one years old and at my age, honey, I can say what I want!