

ARLIN BUYERT  
2017

## State Road K<sub>5</sub>

hugging the Missouri River  
the winding road to Lansing Prison

spattered with drugs, sex, murder  
dads with angry straps or no dads

cattle grazing on hillsides  
John Deere tractor beneath a weeping willow

hay bales stacked along ditch  
old red barn with rusted cupola

Burlington north-bound freight  
rumbling under its lonesome whistle

young men hitting ruts, potholes  
curves too sharp, hills too steep

stop sign missed  
headlights see only so far

driving K 5 never easy  
guard tower, razor wire

await