

ARLIN BUYERT
2017

State Road K₅

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