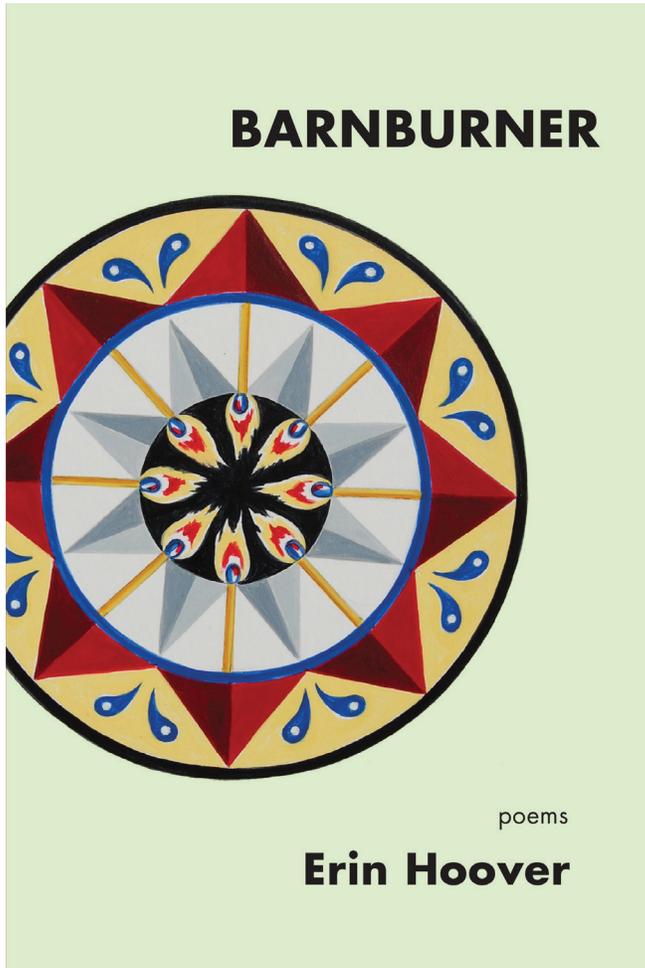


# ELIXIR PRESS

**BARNBURNER** by ERIN HOOVER (October 1, 2018)



*"Hoover's debut poetry collection is a fitting attempt to kick down staid, prim, even academic poetic doors. These poems are preternaturally apt in their presentation of voices of rage, dejection, injustice, and fear. Collectively, they feel like a primal scream ... Hoover comes out swinging as she expresses her support for those who courageously fight both obvious and insidious forms of political and personal criminality."*

—BOOKLIST

"The epigraph to *Barnburner* is a call to burn it all down: 'According to an old story, there was once a Dutchman who was so bothered by the rats in his barn that he burned down the barn to get rid of them. Thus a *barn burner* became one who destroyed all in order to get rid of a nuisance.' There is honesty in this epigraph, raw and brutal, like the narrative voices in Erin Hoover's poems. But there's an irony at play here, an irony perhaps borrowing a bit from the ironies of Frost's 'Mending Wall': these poems don't burn down the cruelties of a homogeneous, racist patriarchy. Instead, they make a muse of it. A muse that can be objectified, stripped bare, and put on a pedestal for all to scorn. Hoover fridges that muse so that one speaker of a heroine after another is vaulted by the shock of such violence into a journey of personal discovery. There are mean-spirited, ruthless characters in these poems and, in a kind of reverse Bechdel test, Hoover wipes away their inner lives and never lets them talk to each other about anything except those they have hurt."

—Kathryn Nuernberger, prize judge and author of *Rag & Bone* and *The End of Pink*

Release date: October 1, 2018

*Barnburner* by Erin Hoover, Poetry  
Elixir Press, ISBN 9781932418675  
Perfect bound paperback, 6 x 9  
96 pages, \$17, Small Press Distribution

**Winner of the 2017 Antivenom Poetry Award**

selected by Kathryn Nuernberger

Erin Hoover was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Her poems have appeared in *The Best American Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, and in journals such as *Prairie Schooner*, *Narrative*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Pleiades*. She earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University and now lives in Tallahassee, Florida, where she teaches writing. Erin has volunteered for *The Southeast Review* (editor in chief), VIDA: Women in Literary Arts (lead PR advisor), Writers Resist/Write Our Democracy (PR advisor), and Late Night Library (co-founder). Visit her website at [www.erinhooverpoet.com](http://www.erinhooverpoet.com)



Photo: Kira Derryberry

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## Advance Praise for *BARNBURNER* by Erin Hoover (Elixir Press, October 1, 2018)

Selected by Kathryn Nuernberger for the 2017 Antivenom Poetry Award

"Hoover's debut poetry collection is a fitting attempt to kick down staid, prim, even academic poetic doors. These poems are preternaturally apt in their presentation of voices of rage, dejection, injustice, and fear. Collectively, they feel like a primal scream ... Hoover comes out swinging as she expresses her support for those who courageously fight both obvious and insidious forms of political and personal criminality."

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"Hoover exhumes the skeletons buried neatly behind the white picket fences of modern America in a debut that's rife with outspoken disillusionment. ... [This] candid portrait of normalized cruelty is likely to get readers to question their own malignant perceptions and passivity in the face of injustice."

—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**



"Hoover's assault on the most problematic corners of a capitalistic and patriarchal society lives up to the title *Barnburner*."

—**PANK MAGAZINE**

"Even as they explore a wide range of topics — our fraught relationship with the technologies we have created, our desperate search for love in all the wrong places, our self-medication, our work-lives, our hunger for that which outlives us (whether children or creative work) — the poems in *Barnburner* form a cohesive whole. ... In short, these are poems no reader should miss, poems that make us wince and sober us up."

—**GLASS: A JOURNAL OF POETRY**

"Erin Hoover's supple, lucid voice, her storytelling skill, and the sheer linguistic and emotional intelligence of her poems make it hard to believe that *Barnburner* is a first book. There are poems here about bad jobs, environmental threat, about having or not having children, about sex, violence and many kinds of coercion, and maybe most of all about helplessness and control: who has control, how do we go out of control, how do we find our way back—if we do. A political, personal and timely book."

—**Daisy Fried**, author of *Women's Poetry*



"Tough, sly, and profane in confronting the absurd in conventional white feminine sexual identity, Erin Hoover's poems chronicle the coming-of-age of a wounded yet increasingly liberated psyche of an ingénue who has survived the wants, disappointments, and outrages of having become a serious and considerable woman. Narrative and irony are her major modes as she navigates through origins in nondescript yet sexualized experience and what she eloquently calls 'the hierarchies of the flesh,' cumulatively reaching, poem-by-poem, a Walpurgisnacht of reckoning that takes down the lashes and lies of false female consciousness. Erin Hoover's poems burn like freebase on the delicate tissues of female innocence."

—**Garrett Hongo**, author of *Coral Road: Poems*

"Erin Hoover's debut poetry collection, *Barnburner*, announces a poet of serious gifts and immense range. With landscapes moving from the hollowed-out towns and broken wilderness of central Pennsylvania to the grinding financial bustle of New York City, *Barnburner* explores nothing less than what it means to be human in a virtual age, capturing both the deep loneliness and intense connectivities of our present moment. In an era of poetry that sometimes feels built for disposability and diminished attention spans, Hoover is a poet of earnest intellectual weight and historical awareness."

—**Erin Belieu**, author of *Black Box* and *Slant Six*