



Beasts and Violins

Poems by

Caleb Barber

Beasts and Violins is a collection of American narrative poetry addressing themes of life and work in the western United States. The poems read like broken country songs sung from a paved farm: dead deer and train trips, a dog at the edge of the fire. *Beasts and Violins* begins with a dark birth and finishes at peace on the water, with the necessary stops in between.

Beasts and Violins

Poems by Caleb Barber

ISBN: 978-1-59709-469-6

6 x 9; Tradepaper

104 pages

Price: US \$19.95

Released: April 1, 2010

Biographical note:

Caleb Barber lives in Bellingham, Washington, where he works days at an aerospace machine shop. He earned a BA from Western Washington University in English/Creative Writing, and received an MFA in poetry from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts, based off of Whidbey Island. He has been widely published in literary magazines, most notably with a feature in *Poet Lore*. “Beasts and Violins,” the poem, appeared in *Best American Poetry 2009*.

Praise for *Beasts and Violins*:

“Caleb Barber is a large talent without any time for language that doesn’t strike and haunt. With his raw, chilling voice, Barber resuscitates the American narrative poem—a species dying into the anecdotal—so that it stands up again and sings. This book makes a reader more honest, more unflinching in face of the hard beauties of being alive.”

—Katie Ford

“Caleb Barber currently works in an aerospace machine shop, where he often composes his poems on a clipboard while delivering machined parts. Some of that rugged heavyweight material can be found in the sounds and rhythms and intentions of his unusual poems. He also worked in Arizona, Alaska, and Montana—and much of the flavor, fervor, and unflinching eye for realistic detail that readers find meaningful in Richard Hugo’s work can be found here, though Barber is by no means derivative. For one so young, he has an unusually mature, self-assured and convincing voice that seems to me full of promise.”

—David Wagoner