

"A soulful meditation on struggle, hope, and healing."  
—Kirkus Reviews

## American Moon

by David W. Berner

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**A road trip west for a young musician turns into a journey of self-discovery, healing, and compassion after he finds a child left alone in a roadside motel and eventually encounters the opioid-addicted mother struggling to do the right thing**

Austen, broken by a turbulent past, sets out on a cross-country journey to California, seeking the faint promise of a new beginning. But early on, he encounters a troubling scene—a baby left alone in a rundown roadside motel in a small Missouri town.

The child's mother, Taylor, is on her own desperate journey, battling addiction and the crushing weight of poverty in a town gripped by the opioid crisis. In a fragile attempt at redemption, Austen and Taylor forge an unlikely companionship. Together, they navigate the ruins of their lives, seeking hope, healing, and a chance to reclaim what remains of the American Dream.

*American Moon* is a haunting, tender exploration of survival, connection, and the resilience of the human spirit.



"Berner's characters are drawn with humanity, and he explores timely themes with heart... A soulful meditation on struggle, hope, and healing."

—Kirkus Reviews

"With the masterfully crafted novella, David W. Berner extends his literary journey toward understanding the complexities of identity and, ultimately, the meaning of life. *American Moon* is a human quest, filled with kind, honest, flawed people searching in common for that which makes life worth living."

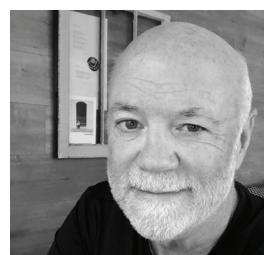
—Gary D. Wilson, author of *For Those Who Favor Fire*, winner of the 2023 Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year award for Indie Fiction

"*American Moon* abounds with insights about the sorrows and joys of the human condition. With a clear, poetic style that often brings Hemingway to mind, David W. Berner has written a work of pathos and stark beauty."

—Christine Sneed, author of *The Virginity of Famous Men* and *Please Be Advised*

"David W. Berner has written a new American Western. In prose that's tight, durable, and fit for the road, Berner adapts a timeless story for a new generation."

—Chris Fink, editor, *Beloit Fiction Journal* and the author of *Farmer's Almanac: A Work of Fiction*.



### About the Author:

David W. Berner is the author of *The Islander*, winner of the National Association of Independent Writers and Editors Award for Literary Fiction and the novel *A Well-Respected Man*, honored by the Society of Midland Authors. He is also the author of the award-winning memoirs *Accidental Lessons* and *Daylight Saving Time* and has been honored as the Writer-in-Residence at the Jack Kerouac Project and the Ernest Hemingway Birthplace Home and Museum.

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