

I-5

Summer Brenner

I-5 tells the brutal story of Anya and her journey north from Los Angeles to Oakland on the interstate that bisects the Central Valley of California.

Someone has lied to Anya, and because of these lies she is kept under lock and key, used to service men, and indebted for the privilege. In exchange, she lives in America. "Would she rather be fucking a dog...or living like a dog?" In Anya's world, it's a reasonable question.

It's a macabre journey up the interstate: a drop-off at Denny's, a patch of tule fog, a visit to a "correctional facility," a rendezvous with an organ grinder, and a fiery entry into Oakland. Only one last task stands between Anya and the freedom promised when she was lured away from Russia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Summer Brenner was raised in Georgia and migrated west, first to New Mexico and eventually to northern California where she has been a longtime resident. She has published books of poetry, fiction, and novels for youth. Her works include the noir thrillers from PM Press, *I-5* and *Nearly Nowhere*; from PM Press/Reach and Teach, *Ivy*, *Homeless in San Francisco*, winner of the Moonbeam award; and *Richmond Tales*, *Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle*, winner of the Historic Preservation award from the City of Richmond. She lives in Berkeley.

ACCOLADES

"It has a quality very rare in literature: a subtle, dark humor that's only perceivable when one goes deep into the heart of this world's absurd tragedy, or tragic absurdity."
—R. Crumb

"In *I-5*, Summer Brenner deals with the onerous and gruesome subject of sex trafficking calmly and forcefully, making the reader feel the pain of its victims. The trick to forging a successful narrative is always in the details, and *I-5* provides them in abundance. This book bleeds truth—after you finish it, the blood will be on your hands."
—Barry Gifford, poet, screenwriter, novelist, author of *Wild at Heart*

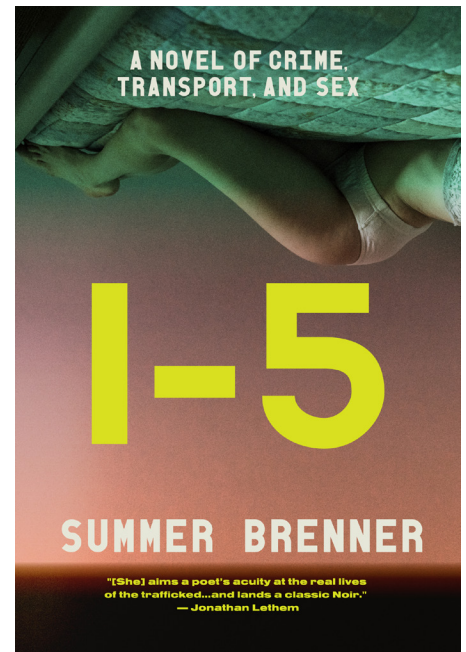
"...hard-boiled feminist thriller...without a superfluous word, it's a big chase, practically a movie on the page."
—Ned Sublette, author of *Cuba and Its Music* and *The Year Before the Flood: A Story of New Orleans*

"Anya is a wonderful, believable heroine, her tragic tale told from the inside out, without a shred of sentimental pity, which makes it all the stronger."
—Denise Hamilton, editor of *Los Angeles Noir* and author of *The Last Embrace*

"Summer Brenner provides an insider's look at the seedy world of sexual slavery... Nothing gets sugar-coated, yet Brenner shows sincere sympathy and warmth for her characters. I found it hard to stop turning the pages."
—David Batstone, author of *Not for Sale*, founder of the Not for Sale campaign

"We learn Anya's story in layers, and we learn her character in actions that are never quite what we expect them to be. She kept me guessing all the way through this hallucinatory shadow-world tour."
—Jedidiah Ayre, Ransom Notes: The BN Mystery Blog

"I'm in awe. *I-5* moves so fast you can barely catch your breath. It's as tough as tires, as real and nasty as road rage, and best of all, it careens at breakneck speed over as many twists and turns as you'll find on The Grapevine. What a ride! *I-5*'s a hard-boiled standout."
—Julie Smith, editor of *New Orleans Noir* and author of the Skip Langdon and Talba Wallis crime novel series



SUBJECT CATEGORY

Fiction: Thrillers / Crime / Noir / Political

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