



BUTTONHOOK PRESS
AN IMPRINT OF OPEN: JOURNAL OF ARTS & LETTERS

TWIN BEAMS

A poem by SEAN WANG



2025 Broadside Series



TWIN BEAMS

Two headlights stitched the road to me,
the hood bright, lifting my face.
Crabapple petals on the median went flat,
paper pressed into a seam of white.

I thought it was a trap. The engine idled.
Only the beams pinned my coat.
Light can't lever a body, but gravel can, and did.
I had a silver saucer in mind, then said, not this.
These were high beams, steady, the belt humming.

I cut the median to save a step.
My belly rose like a curb between lanes,
doing blunt work, blocking, protecting.
I crouched. Bones clicked like hinges.
Collar, wrist, the bruise of a knee, counted.

Plain test: I pressed, and the knee refused.
Radiator heat licked my ear; I wiped.
My palm went red. That decided me.

I rose, slow as a jack takes a chassis,
the scene shrinking, then clear again:
asphalt, petals, my coat dusted with light.

The grill threw my voice back to me.
I answered; the answer was mine.

I stepped to the shoulder and waited,
eyes watering at the glare. Moths crossed the lane.
The beams stitched through the moths.
I faced the twin beams, palm up;
the light stitched my knuckles.

Copyright © 2025 by BUTTONHOOK PRESS
An imprint of OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L)

All rights reserved on behalf of OJAL Art Incorporated, O:JA&L/BHP/HBP^α/HBP^{αα} and Sean Wang.

Publishing since 2017 as OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L) and its imprints
Buttonhook Press, HOT BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Controversies*, and HIGH BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Art*,
OJAL Art Incorporated supports writers and artists across the world.



Buttonhook Press

An imprint of OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L)

Set in Garamond and GARAMOND ALLCAPS and formatted in CreateSpace

Made available online and/or printed in the USA and elsewhere as a novelty
and commemorative document celebrating the publication of Sean Wang's poem.

ABOUT THE WRITER:

Sean Wang is a poet and PhD student. His recent work appears or is forthcoming in CERASUS POETRY MAGAZINE, REMINGTON REVIEW, STONE POETRY QUARTERLY, EUNOIA REVIEW, and others.

IMAGE: *Apache* (AI-assisted digital image) by O:JA&L staff creative. 2025. Public domain via MidJourney AI.

\$