

## AGAPE EDITIONS. SPRING 2024.



### ABOUT THE BOOK

Kiara Nicole Letcher's *Oxblood* is an exquisite indulgence, an unfettered plunge into the chaos and beauty of unmitigated desire. These poems are lush, violent, intoxicating, seductive, and — perhaps above all else — honest. This book is as lawless and turbulent as it is lavish and sensual. Upon immersion in *Oxblood*'s ardent world of hunger and fervor, even the most austere and self-possessed reader encounters delicious sensations of surrender. This vortex of craving, conflict, and scarlet-stained cogitation spares no one.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kiara Nicole Letcher is the author of *Scream Queen* (The Orchard Street Press, 2019). Spinning lush imagery with magic and horror, she explores shame, want, and growth. She received her MFA from The University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2014.

Her work has appeared in *Green Mountains Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *Plainsongs Magazine*, *Querencia Press*, *Mulberry Literary*, *Solstice Literary Magazine* and *Alice Says Go Fuck Yourself*. Her work is forthcoming in *Laurel Review*.



You can find her at her website, [kiananicoleletcher.com](http://kiananicoleletcher.com) or on Instagram @kiananicolebang.

### PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"A tour de force through the landscape of desire, Kiara Letcher's *Oxblood* revels in the pulse of creation and being. This collection, named for the deep, purplish red color of dye made from ox's blood, is passionate, luxuriously fine. Letcher's poems are spells that mix the depths and mysteries of life where 'lust tastes like cherry limeade.'"

—Elizabeth AI Powell, author of *Atomizer* (LSU Press)

"Letcher mixes transformation, mourning, and witchcraft: 'the dye bleeds, making murky circles/ distorted vision of violet.' This collection, once devoured, its taste still on your tongue, illuminates '[t]he end of the spell/ climaxes with finding/ the hope of everything.' *Oxblood* is raw vitality of all human Experience."

—Bonnie Johnson-Bartee

"*Oxblood* comes on as a swarm of desires . . . seek[ing] to secure a space for the self — however strange, however unsettling — to thrive. Kiara Nicole Letcher is a poet of depth and nuance, summoning us to bravery with her 'halo tipped back/ heat you cannot reason with.'"

—Todd Robinson, author of *Mass for Shut-Ins*



**AGAPE EDITIONS** is a literary micropress that was originally created in southern California, now ensconced in a haunted town amidst the bright hills of upstate New York. We publish work that enacts or engages with various aspects of the mystical or the Numinous. We are interested in ecstatic experience, moments of vision, and the potential of spirituality & religion to serve as conduits for cultural identity & survival. Our purpose is interfaith and intercultural as well as literary.