



- **Hardcover:** 48 pages
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### **Kirkus, March 2012**

Free-verse cowpoke ruminations on the trail to Abilene, with paintings of long-horned doggies and grizzled riders beneath big skies. Saddle up, pardner, leave the bunkhouse (where “bug gnaw plugs right outta your hide”) behind and look fer dusty days, freezing nights, rattlers, storms and meal after meal of beef and beans from Cookie. Harking back to cattle drives of yesteryear, Burr portrays leather-skinned figures with near-photographic realism. “You need sand in your gizzard / to wrangle wild cows, / chaps for fendin’ off thorns / or horses with a taste / for cowpoke leg.” . . . So git along, there, anyone with a mind to share cowboy dreams in romanticized, Old West style.

### **Publisher's Weekly**

In a companion to Harrison and Burr’s *Pirates* (2008), first-person poems from the perspectives of several cowboys create a candid portrait of life out west, following a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail. Harrison’s work includes traveling songs with a lullaby lilt (“One thousand miles/ of burnin’ sun,/ swollen rivers,/ stampedes, wolves/ three thousand cows,/ fifteen men,/ one thousand miles to go”) and upbeat poems in peppery dialect: “Ha!/ My granny’s quicker’n you/ and she’s eighty!/ Reckon that grizz’d/ be pickin’ his teeth by now.” Burr’s dramatically lit, realistic digital artwork nails the determined expressions of hard-working cowboys while creating a character in the sweeping prairie landscape. Readers who long to ride and wrangle should be entranced. Ages 7–9. (Apr.)