

GIFT FOR BURNING

by

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**DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND FINAL READING APPROVALS**

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The following individuals read and discussed the thesis submitted by student Di Bei, and they evaluated the student's presentation and response to questions during the final oral examination. They found that the student passed the final oral examination.

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The final reading approval of the thesis was granted by Mitchell Wieland, MFA, Chair of the Supervisory Committee. The thesis was approved by the Graduate College.

## DEDICATION

To my brother, for you I would wage a war on gods.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my girlfriends who have brought this story out of me: Mahrukh, thank you for your love; Xing-Di, thank you for being my inspiration; Jackie, I miss you dearly.

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And Quan. Your indulgence has liberated me from my many fears.

## ABSTRACT

Growing up amid one-child policy in Beijing, Zhi-Nan is pursuing her PhD in Houston while living at a birth tourism house. She receives a text from her adopted cousin who has joined a monastery in Idaho. Convinced that her cousin is in a cult, Zhi-Nan starts a road trip with a white colleague to rescue her cousin from God.

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