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Media Contact: Hannah Grieco
hannahgriecoasp@gmail.com

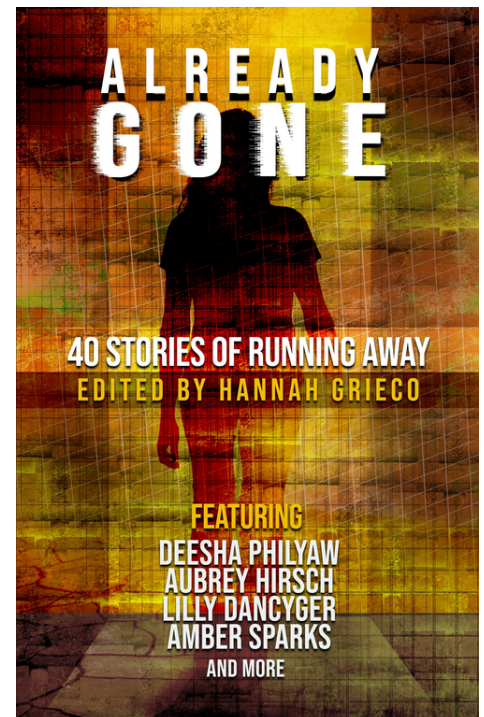
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ALREADY GONE

40 STORIES OF RUNNING AWAY

Did you ever wish, with every cell in your body, that you could run away? From home, from a person, from your job, from yourself? Physically or emotionally, on foot or purely in your own mind? In *Already Gone*, forty of today's most exciting writers take flight in all these ways and more.

In an electrifying hybrid collection of fiction and memoir, authors such as Deesha Philyaw, Amber Sparks, and Lilly Dancyger finish what *Thelma & Louise* started. From a reimagined tale of Lot's wife fleeing a burning city to a secret elopement to avoid an arranged marriage, from a mother who wins the lottery and abandons her family to a rich man's obsessive search through space and time, from a drag queen who transforms into her fantasy to a teenager who walks the city streets at night in search of a way out, *Already Gone* is a collection of runaway stories that explores what it means to fly, to flee, to escape—to search for who we are. These stories and essays take us to dangerous places in order to free us from what holds us back.



MATT BARRETT • DEMISTY D. BELLINGER • AHIMSA TIMOTEO BODHRÁN • JAMY BOND • MELISSA BOWERS •
MELISSA LLANES BROWNLEE • MATT CANTOR • CHLOE N. CLARK • LILLY DANCYGER •
CAROLINE MACON FLEISCHER • KELSEY FRANCIS • LORI YEGHIAYAN FRIEDMAN • CAROLJEAN GAVIN •
KATE GEHAN • MIRIAM GERSHOW • ANNA GATES HA • KATHLEEN MCKITTY HARRIS • MATTHEW E. HENRY •
AUBREY HIRSCH • EMILY JAMES • RUTH JOFFRE • DAVON LOEB • DW MCKINNEY • K.C. MEAD-BREWER •
EDIE MEADE • SARAH FAWN MONTGOMERY • ELLEN BIRKETT MORRIS • HEMA NATARAJU • MEGHA NAYAR •
DEESHA PHILYAW • ZACH POWERS • AURELEO SANS • ALYSIA LI YING SAWCHYN • JEN SOONG •
AMBER SPARKS • AMY STUBER • MICHAEL B. TAGER • SARAH TOLLOK • HANANAH ZAHEER •
TARA ISABEL ZAMBRANO



PRAISE FOR ALREADY GONE

“The artistry on display within *Already Gone* is next level—these are not just stories, they're offramps and exit routes for readers and writers looking to break free from the hum mundanity of daily living. Here is an oasis. Grieco has curated a vibrant, pulsing mosaic of human experience.”

-Chris Gonzalez, author of *I'm Not Hungry but I Could Eat*

“Escapist lit at its best, the *Already Gone* anthology features forty stories infused with humanity and heart. Without pretense, the collection presents new definitions of what it means to be present, gone, and left behind. Grieco's skillful and empathetic editing is evident in each of the selected works. Readers will find well-known names interspersed with new writers, stories of love and relationships, pain and loss, movement and stasis, community and individuality, with touches of humor. Through the integration of a range of stories, readers can feel and identify with the overarching theme. But there's more here - a rawness, an emotionality that makes each story memorable on its own and together; a guidebook to running away from, and towards, life.”

-Amy Cipolla Barnes, author of *Mother Figures*, *Ambrotypes*, and *Child Craft*

“There's something deeply human about the urge to run away. We all, at one point or another, have longed for escape—be it from the mundane, the stress, or the fear that exists in our daily lives. Those feelings are captured succinctly, and sometimes beautifully, in the new release of short stories from Alan Squire Publishing.”

-Sarah Marloff of *Washington City Paper*

Already Gone: 40 Stories of Running Away
is available for preorder on

BOOKSHOP.ORG

AMAZON

BARNES & NOBLE

MEET THE EDITOR



Hannah Grieco is a writer and editor based in Washington, DC. She edits novels and prose collections for Alan Squire Publishing and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the ASP Bulletin, the press's online literary magazine. She edited the anthology *And If That Mockingbird Don't Sing: Parenting Stories Gone Speculative*, from Alternating Current Press (January 2022). Her own writing has been nominated for The Pushcart Prize, Best American Essays, Best of the Net, Best Small Fictions, and Best Microfiction, and has been selected for the Wigleaf Top 50. Her work can be read in a variety of publications, including *The Washington Post*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Rumpus*, *Poet Lore*, *Fairy Tale Review*, and more. She teaches writing at American University and The Writer's Center. Find her online at www.hgrieco.com and on Twitter/IG @writesloud.

What inspired this anthology? How did your vision for it change throughout the process?

I've been writing about running away for a long time. Life is complicated, often difficult, and the roles I play as caregiver and partner require a lot of sacrifice and energy. Which I willingly give! I love these people very much! But when I'm tired or scared or sad, of course I daydream (or night dream) about escaping responsibility and the weight I carry. Of course I imagine different worlds, different me's, different lives. I wanted to know what that was like for other people. This book is the result of that curiosity.

How did genre factor into the creation of *Already Gone*? What does the combination of fiction and nonfiction bring to this anthology?

Fiction is often thinly-veiled nonfiction. Nonfiction is often memory-based, and so its truth is shaped by time and an evolving lens. There are books that must be fact-checked, books that must be precise. This is not that type of book! This is a book about what could be. For better or worse!

It's all speculative, in a way. So it didn't matter to me, as the editor, if the story was "true" or more of a creative "what if."

How do the stories in *Already Gone* subvert, and/or reframe the act of running away?

These authors are simply brilliant at subverting expectation. You think you're reading a traditional story about a mother...and then wait—she's a bird? Is this man an astronaut? Wait, he's escaping earth because....OH. (Cue your heart exploding.) Every story and essay in here reimagines the very concept of running away. Beautifully, sometimes painfully, other times hysterically.

BOOK LAUNCH EVENTS



**NOV
18**

@ The Gin Mill, 7-10 PM

442 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY, United States

Hannah Grieco hosts this dazzling reading and launch party in the Upper West Side, featuring contributors Matt Cantor, Lilly Dancyger, Aubrey Hirsch, Emily James, K.C. Mead-Brewer, and Kathleen McKitty Harris. Cocktails, book sales, and signings galore.

**DEC
2**

@ The Writer's Center, 7-9 PM

4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda, MD, United States

Join us for a star-studded night in our hometown! Featuring readings from contributors Matt Barrett, DeMisty D. Bellinger, Deesha Philyaw, Zach Powers, Amber Sparks, and Michael B. Tager. Wine, snacks, book sales, and signings just in time for the holidays.

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A small press with big ideas.

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Alan Squire Publishing is an independent literary press founded in 2010 to publish books of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry that are beautifully written and beautifully made, with the avid reader and book-lover in mind. We are committed to bringing to the public books of great merit that deserve a wide readership, and to forging a new model of collaboration with other independent presses here and abroad.

Our collaborators on various projects include Left Coast Writers in San Francisco, California, Chris Andrews Publications, Ltd., in Oxford, England, and the Santa Fe Writers Project, now based in Bethesda, Maryland.

Email: rsolariasp@gmail.com

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