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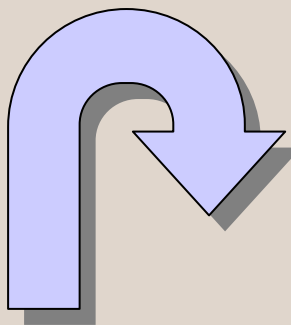


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Lydia Paar

The Exit Is the Entrance Lydia Paar

Essays on Escape

The Exit is the Entrance

Lydia Paar joined the American workforce at age fourteen, holding a wide variety of jobs (twenty-seven, at last count) between then and now, across twenty-five different homes in eight states. The essays in this collection explore her attempts to evade or transform the lower-middle class American experience across various cityscapes, towns, deserts, and in-between places. As she moves through these spaces, she seeks peace, connection, and freedom: from the hip streets of Portland to desolate deserts, Army basic training to cross-country bus trips, to eerie St. Louis funeral homes, and more.

Each essay interrogates the interior emotional work that accompanies such grappling: labors of love and friendship, of learning, of motion, of maintenance, and of finding faith in potential for positive change. Across a range of interior and exterior landscapes, Paar meditates on sub-cultures, agendas, violences, alliances, and the intersection of the natural world with our human endeavors. Ultimately, she considers how what we try to transform so often transforms us.

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Lydia Paar



Thin Air Magazine Number 17

From the Thin Air Magazine [website](#):

Thin Air Magazine proudly cultivates a Flagstaff-based, MFA student-led literary community with global reach to publish emerging authors with intriguing ideas. Based at 7,000 feet out of Northern Arizona University, we have no choice but to invite work that takes us to dizzying heights with its innovation and insight. We aspire to foster diversity, authenticity, surprise, and excitement while making the literary world accessible to everyone. Three decades in, we still can't forget these words from our founders: "All too often, the literary world takes itself too seriously...Thin Air hopes to change that."

Poetry, Short Stories, etc.

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