



Run Away to the Yard

POETRY BY

Lisa C. Krueger

Like a photograph seared in the mind, *Run Away to the Yard* has lasting power, offering its readers the chance to alter assumed perceptions of culture—and of self.

Run Away to the Yard is a unique collection of poems that addresses personal identity within the contemporary culture. In parable-like vignettes and metaphor-dense portraits, Krueger's poems challenge old notions of self, asking readers to reconsider what brings meaning to daily life. Through the lens of close observation—much like a photographer—Krueger examines the complexity of our responses to a convoluted world. Poems ask us to consider who we are when our lives become stripped of the ordinary and expected, whether that be material commodities, health, daily routines, relationships, even memory. Where, then, do we find meaning and purpose? These poems aim toward greater compassion—for other people and ultimately for ourselves.

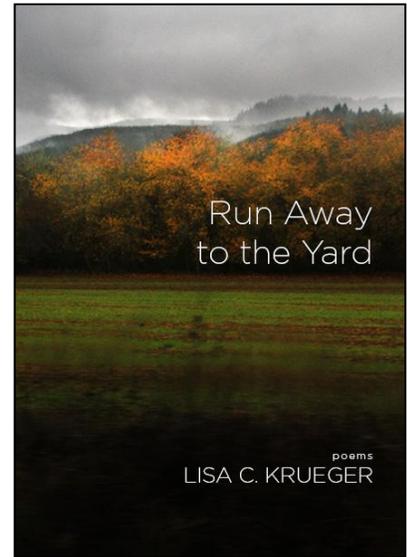
ADVANCE PRAISE

“This collection is a powerful and vivid indictment of the spiritual and emotional bankruptcy that our culture of acquisition and consumption has led to. Quietly, and with a cool objective eye, Krueger reveals to us how even the great mystery of death and the wilderness of desire become safe and sterile ceremonies after we've domesticated the inner world of the imagination and turned the outer world into a shopper's paradise. Let those who have ears hear her. This book will make you want to change your life.”

—Li-Young Lee, author of *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance*,
winner of the American Book Award

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa C. Krueger is a clinical psychologist and the author of the previous poetry collections *Rebloom* (2005), *animals the size of dreams* (2009), and *Talisman* (2014). Her poems have appeared in various journals, including *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Nimrod*, and *Barrow Street*. She has also published articles and written a series of interactive journals related to psychology and creativity. She maintains a psychotherapy practice in Pasadena focused on women's issues, health psychology, writing therapy, and the role of creativity and wellness.



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FROM RUN AWAY TO THE YARD

When She Can't Breathe

Monarchs and hollow
Boned treeswifts

fly crooked
in the drought,

their fine gristle
of color razors

her eyes. *Pain is not
an epiphany, ok?*

she says aloud,
studying the thought

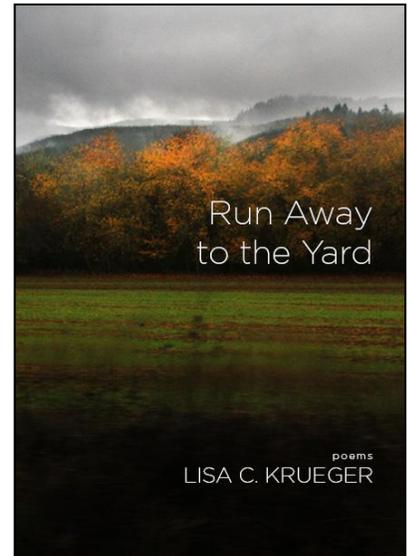
that she did this
to herself.

From her bed
she imagines flying,

imagines forgiveness
as ruptured sky.

Echo at the Festival of Light

He had not expected so many women, some dressed in those knit suits his wife used to wear, some in jeans so tight he wonders how they walk. Milling around glass cases lit like a stage, klieg lights too bright. *Jewelry Sale*, says the sign, what a day to choose. *Mix and Match*, something about a collection of charms. He doesn't understand. Everywhere women's voices—*This is so cute!* Everywhere women buying bits of gold. He stands by the diamond case, feels translucent. A clerk with large hair comes at him, looks angry when he says he has a repair. *What what*, she says. He shows her the ring. *Resizing*, she says. *Put it on*. The ring's insignia burns against his papery hand. *This is so big it's impossible*, she says, studying him as though he stole it. *It was my son's*, he whispers, hearing the words reverberate. *Well, sorry*. *Let me see*, she says, walking away with the ring.



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