

Brian Rihlmann

Possible Escapes

I remember visiting Nan
in Florida
the year after my
step-grandfather passed
how I spent the week
fixing things around the house
trimming hedges
pruning trees
and cleaning all the leaves
and rotten oranges
out of her gutters
and appearing suspiciously
like my old man
20 years earlier
doing the very same
at his mother's place
down in Homestead
he'd just go and go
the whole week
we were on vacation
and when he sat down
for even a moment
his eyes would dart about
as though looking
for something else to do—
a possible escape
from whatever was happening
behind them

Brian Rihlmann lives in Reno, Nevada. His work has appeared in many magazines, including *Chiron Review*, *The Main Street Rag*, *The American Journal Of Poetry* and *New York Quarterly*. He has authored three collections of poetry, most recently *A Screaming Place* (2021) by Cajun Mutt Press.