

E. J. EVANS

The Runaway Child

He was not brave. He could only run away in his mind.
Long ago looking out from his smallness
toward the farthest hills
he was seeking for a way out
that for him would be a way into his life.
Since then the passage of time has been
a long struggle to cross an expanse in himself,
yet it's still as if he has barely left home.
He is so quiet and small I often forget he is still part of me.
I sense his presence most when I first wake,
a plain man in an old house,
and look through his child-eyes
at the dawn light filling the windows,
the light that speaks to us always of distance,
and it's so quiet I imagine I hear him
whispering from within,
just let me go a little bit farther.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

E. J. Evans is the author of *First Snow Coming* (Kattywompus Press 2015) and *Conversations with the Horizon* (Box Turtle Press 2019). His work has appeared in *Mudfish*, *miller's pond*, *Main Street Rag*, *The Woven Tale Press*, *The Hamilton Stone Review*, and elsewhere. He is a member of the board of directors of the Syracuse Downtown Writers Center and serves on the planning committee for Cazenovia Counterpoint, an annual literature and music festival. He lives in Cazenovia, New York, and can be found online at ejevans.wordpress.com.

