

## **Thursday, or Maybe Friday**

Chuck Augello

Start running. Mom and Dad won't care. Forget the cops and Vice-Principal Lundy, forget the volunteers combing the meadow with long sticks, flashlights searching the riverbed for a bloody sneaker hidden in the weeds, torn fabric and hair strands clinging to a willow bush, glorious DNA confirming it was you. Keep running. Become a ghost bequeathing mystery and regret. The only ones who matters will know the reason why. Keep running. Disappear. Return in twenty years, beautiful, savage, and smart. Exchange glances, eyes connecting dots until, finally, recognition. Stop running. When their bones crumble, write your name in the dust.

Chuck Augello is the author of the novel *The Revolving Heart*, a Best Books of 2020 selection by Kirkus Reviews, and the story collection, *The Inexplicable Grey Space We Call Love*. His work has appeared in *One Story*, *Literary Hub*, *The Coachella Review*, *Smokelong Quarterly*, and other fine journals. He is a contributing editor for *Cease, Cows*, and publishes *The Daily Vonnegut*, a website exploring the life and art of Kurt Vonnegut. A new novel, *A Better Heart*, will be published in November 2021.