



## No Escape

*Michelle Gagnon*

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**No Escape** Michelle Gagnon

**Gritty and heart-stopping, this short story from break-out author Michelle Gagnon also features a teaser to her thrilling debut young-adult novel, *Don't Turn Around*.**

Seventeen-year-old Alex might be living day-to-day on whatever he can steal, but he still prefers being on the run to getting caught and thrown back in juvie. Plus, he has Jenny to think of. She comes with her own world of problems, but for once Alex feels like somebody actually needs him. So when a shady organization gives Alex the chance to participate in a medical study, all he hears is easy money — and a lot of it! He'll soon find out there's more involved.

**Set directly before *Don't Turn Around*, Michelle Gagnon's *No Escape* lays the groundwork for a world in which every move you make is being watched, and no one can be trusted.**

## No Escape Details

Date : Published July 31st 2012 by HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN :

Author : Michelle Gagnon

Format : Kindle Edition 50 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Novella

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## From Reader Review No Escape for online ebook

### Rebecca A. Rogers says

Okay, this was amazing. Non-stop action from start to finish. I was holding my breath!

Alex is a homeless kid on the streets. After pick-pocketing a stranger, he's chased and hit by a car, resulting in a nasty bruise on his leg. Upon visiting a free clinic, he's told by a doctor about a company who pays people so they can perform medical tests. Sound too good to be true? That's because it is. When Alex finally visits the medical company and agrees to the testing so he can feed his girlfriend and himself, he's stabbed with a needle and wakes up days later in an unfamiliar warehouse. But Alex quickly learns he can't escape these people.

Overall, if you love mysteries/thrillers, then I'd highly recommend you read this. Personally, I can't wait to read the rest of this series.

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### Bekka says

Hm. This one was short and sweet, and like most novellas, was quite fast paced. I'm not sure about it's usefulness, but at least it was free.

No Escape does one thing quite well: it shows that Ms Gagnon is a skilled writer. Right away we are plunged into the action with the main character, Alex, having just stolen a woman's purse and is now running away from his pursuer. Though we can tell immediately that Alex is a criminal, Gagnon was able to paint him in a very sympathetic light in just a few pages, all while keeping us hooked into the story. I think these things show the potential of the author's writing – the ability to create anti-heroes who are sympathetic, if a little unorthodox, and the ability to write a good action sequence without getting lost.

However, the story to me felt a little... useless. There wasn't a true ending, really, and there are no answers to be found anywhere within the short 50 pages. I suspect that's because Alex (or at least Alex's plight) play into a bigger part of Don't Turn Around's story line. But because No Escape is marked as a prequel, it left me a little underwhelmed. Perhaps if this had been marketed as a supplemental read partway through the series, the problems and mysteries that Alex face would have better context.

Anyway, I know now that I can't wait to get to Don't Turn Around. I can tell already that Michelle Gagnon's writing is going to be witty, and engaging. She mastered Alex's voice so well – casual and informal from his years living on the streets, without having rage-inducing eye-dialect that would drive me mad. Also, I'm DYING to know what the hell is going on with these crazy doctors!

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### Jennika says

["doctors" very conveniently put scalpels in the rooms with these kids who are known for stealing and hacking. They just thought that everything would be oka

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### **Sam says**

Honestly, I thought this short story was a bit of a pointless read. It's a prequel to Don't Turn Around and I would have liked something at least somewhat meaningful to be in it. For example, a back story on Zeke (a character from Don't Turn Around). But, this story was merely about a random kid who is experimented on by the corporation. I mean, it was intense and written well and everything, but just pointless. Developing a character that probably dies and for sure never appears in the novel. But, this story is offered free on Kobo (probably other places as well, I would assume) and it includes the first 3 chapters of Don't Turn Around. So, I suppose if you are unsure if you want to read Don't Turn Around, then you can pick up this freebie and see if you're into it.

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### **Charlene says**

I picked this up as a free download for Kindle. I had stumbled upon it while browsing ebooks available from my local library. When I discovered it was a short story I considered passing on it but decided I had nothing to lose so I downloaded it.

The writing is good and the character is well developed. I was disappointed however in that I do not feel that the short story is adequately constructed. A short story plot needs four plot elements. These elements include the information needed to understand the story, a complication a climax and a resolution. In my opinion this story does well with the first three plot elements but falls short on the fourth.

After reading a few other reviews I realize that the published work is not simply a short story but a prequel or marketing material for a novel, Don't Turn Around. The novel is the first book in a trilogy. When viewed as a marketing piece for a book the story is effective as it generated enough interest for me to look into reading the book. As a short story though I think it falls short.

I hope the novel doesn't disappoint me. I have read other first books in trilogies and been disappointed in the plot resolution. As I have said in other reviews, I believe that each book in a trilogy should have a conflict resolution. One review of this book draws comparisons to The Girl With The Dragon Tatoo trilogy. I hope this trilogy has the essential plot elements in each book and does not become another serial where the three books are essentially one novel published in three parts rather than a trilogy.

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### **Tiffany Holme says**

So I was very excited to see this prequel was being offered up free! I had won an ARC of Don't Turn Around and was super interested from the description but didn't really know what I was in for. Prequels are a great way to see if you are going to be into the story, the writing style and normally gives you a peek into the characters you are going to be spending time with. This was a perfect way to get me amped up for getting the ARC in the mail.

Told from Alex's point of view this was a quick yet intriguing read. Alex lives on the streets doing what he can to just survive. Right away you get the impression that Alex is a fighter and even though he does some

things that just aren't right he is only doing what he feels he needs to, to get by from day to day. Although it involves some not so legal things at times he is just trying to live and keep Jenny happy. Even if she thinks her addiction is more important than him, at least he has her.

A purse jacking gone bad and the need for medical treatment leads Alex into a shady situation. When offered more money than he could dream of he finds himself willing to do anything to get it. Upon arrival he starts to think that it isn't all he thought it would be and maybe not even worth it but that choice is long gone and he is in for something he would have never have expected/wanted. This is where the chills start and you can tell. I can divulge too much because I want you enjoy it without me spoiling it!

Well written and addictive this little prequel did its job and has me wanting to know exactly what is going on and why. From looking around this appears to be Michelle Gagnon's first YA novel and let me tell you I am excited. With a prequel like this I can only imagine how much I am going to enjoy Don't Turn Around!

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### **JudgyK says**

I know this is going to surprise the hell out of you, but No Escape is a Don't Turn Around story. I KNOW. You never could have guessed. It's another cheapy eBook that isn't essential to getting the concept of Don't Turn Around but still gives a bit of information that is useful to people like me who always want to know MORE. Hey, JKR, when are you publishing Hogwarts: A History? I will read the crap out of it.

Alex is a 16-year-old homeless boy. He is taking care of a girl named Jenny, and has to find money / food / other things for her, which leads him to accept the offer to get a large bit of cash by participating in some sort of medical study. As if that'll actually work.

Before long, Alex is in the same situation as Noa in the beginning of Don't Turn Around. He wakes up alone, in a warehouse, noticing that shit has been done to him that is not cool. He, like Noa, is a scrappy street kid and tries to get out of there. He is less successful. (What? Is that a spoiler? It's not like the book is called Escape.)

I wouldn't bother paying for this, but it was free and I liked it so why not?

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### **AH says**

Prequel to Don't Turn Around. Kindle free download 8/1/12. May be available in other formats. Download it here.

Not necessary to read this short story as a prequel to Don't Turn Around but it gives the background how street kids were recruited for the medical experiments. This short story includes the first 3 chapters of Don't Turn Around.

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### **Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says**

This is a really short (shorter than the 50 pages they give you) prequel to Don't Turn Around. It's not necessary to read this before you read the book but it does give you a bit more clarity on how the teenagers were being abducted. It focuses on Alex, a hot head who is focused on survival, and how he gets unwittingly sucked into something far more sinister.

I do like that Gagnon gave him some depth as well as history even though it really isn't necessary for the story, it makes it more enjoyable.

A good little prequel even if it wasn't a necessary read.

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### **Jennifer says**

[ Alex's attempted escape becomes Noa's escape (hide spoiler)]

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### **Ingo says**

Rather short addition (was free for me, I do not think it is worth anything to pay for it, so be aware).

OK introduction, but no hacking, and I did not really get into it, not having read anything else yet.

Bought the first novel today, to read it. It may be a mistake to read this first, or add no value.

Hopefully the novel is better, else I see a DNF coming...

Will add to this review whether it may be necessary to read this after finishing the novel.

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### **Sarah Hannah says**

I'm starting to like this trend of Kindle prequels to trilogies. But trilogies still make me mad--just so we're clear.

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### **Jacoline Maes says**

Niet echt een toevoeging.

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### **Hud-c says**

3 stars

**WARNING: Review has spoilers popping somewhere between lines and among sentences. I can't help it I can't stop myself from releasing bits and pieces of the first book - Don't Turn Around. YOU'VE BEEN WARNED.**

Okay No Escape is a prelude of the first book of the PERSEFONE series written by Michelle Gagnon. In here, we're introduced to Alex. A sixteen year old boy living out of stealing and always on the run. But his tired of it and wanted to badly escape that desolate world of hunger and fear. So after being approached by a doctor, Alex was informed of a medical experiment that would be needing "paid volunteers"; lured by the money, Alex immediately sought it out. Unfortunately, it doesn't turn out the way he thinks it will be.

I really thought I will read about Noa in this novella but rather Gagnon presented a different character - Alex. I was actually looking forward to learning what happened to her - the abduction and experimentation. How they came up with the success in their experiment. I WANT DETAILS. And I want to know about PEMA - how does that disease evolve. Sadly that was not the case. Although this has been ultimately different from what I expected, I found the scenes and way the story constructed - fast-paced and thrilling. I like it. This is short spanning only a few pages but I felt the anxiety I'd experience reading Don't Turn Around. Its creepy what these people do and how they conspired with each other to take on youths in the streets for their experiments. There were no detailed description of what they do. I'm talking about the bad men in here and referring to their medical studies. Yet my mind is forming these numerous mental images especially when the scalpel was brought up! THANKS MICHELLE FOR SETTING THAT PICTURE IN MY BRAIN. I might not sleep soundly for several days. YIKES!!

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### **Becky Seabaugh says**

Brief and exciting, this book could be read either before or after Don't Turn Around. I'm kind of hoping Eric turns out to be Zeke...? Maybe, but probably not.

I believe I was introduced to this author/series on Twitter. A recommendation from one of the authors I follow, if I'm remembering correctly (Tahereh Mafi, maybe?). If you're looking for good book suggestions, Twitter is a great place to find them. Just follow authors whose work you love.

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