

# The Escape Artist

## Decision Tree Matrix

Every choice you make in *The Escape Artist* decides who you become. There are **30 endings** across **42 decision inflection points**, and only **4 of them are complete life cycles**. The rest end earlier, some triumphantly, some quietly, some with a knife.

Print this page. Mark the endings you have found. Look for the path you have not yet taken.

### The Greatest Escape — 4 endings

*The four complete life cycles. Lester becomes a living legend. The author has marked these on the page itself.*

Found?	Page	How it ends
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 183	Mom is well taken care of; she keeps your story alive all her days
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 186	An extraordinary life that began the day you heard the news
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 187	Greatest Escape Artist of All Time. Becky and Mom provided for
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 189	Your name across two campus buildings. Annual Christmas tributes

### The Quiet Escape — 15 endings

*Lester comes home. The life is small but workable. Not the dream, not a disaster. The cost of the life you are leaving behind quietly catches up with you.*

Found?	Page	How it ends
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 29	You bring your escape talents only to your hometown
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 34	Becky moves away. You start a landscaping business and help Mom out of debt
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 35	Librarian's son. Best P.E. teacher the middle school has ever known
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 61	Mid-level manager at the Delaware Community Bank
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 65	You swear off that kind of life, whatever it costs
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 69	Second-hand costume shop. "It's all good"
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 89	The Rotary's annual children's play, year in and year out
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 98	You are released. Niles becomes a Columbia professor; you stay home
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 107	Adjunct professor and a costume shop. Your boys are above average
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 115	Becky asks you not to reach out again
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 118	You pine for Becky. You never leave home
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 119	You've escaped a lonely and dangerous life. But what was there to leave?
<input type="checkbox"/>	p. 131	You become a footnote in the history of the All-Time Great

Found?	Page	How it ends
■	p. 147	An investigative journalist. Polarizing. People love you or hate you
■	p. 179	Time to get back home. Enough of this nomadic life

## The Tragic Ending — 9 endings

*Some path leads to a knife, a bullet, a crash, or the end of consciousness. These are the endings the author warned you about.*

Found?	Page	How it ends
■	p. 109	Released. You follow the light to the end of the tunnel
■	p. 116	The poor volunteer shoots you on target. The gong rings
■	p. 117	Oudini is dead. No more magic acts come to your town
■	p. 126	Vanstressa: "Because there can only be one greatest." You disappear
■	p. 129	Plane crash in Ashtabula. Oudini's body is never found
■	p. 133	Plane crash into the bank building on 7th and McDonahue
■	p. 153	Jersey: "Escape this." The train whistle whines
■	p. 162	Heinrich's knife splits your solar plexus
■	p. 175	The heater fails. The Ohio River. The tangle of rope and balloon

## The Disgraced Ending — 6 endings

*Lester gets caught, banned, exposed, or jailed. The act ends. The town remembers him as a cautionary tale.*

Found?	Page	How it ends
■	p. 37	You become the moral lesson in sermons about the spiritual sin of pride
■	p. 58	You slug Gene. Banned from the library forever. Done with the act
■	p. 75	Page E22 of the paper: ESCAPE STUNT FOILED! LESTER HONEYCUTT EXPOSED
■	p. 120	Arrested for performing without a license on a Sunday
■	p. 130	You live with the dubious honor of having saved the charlatan's life
■	p. 167	Twelve years federal prison. You escape but remain a fugitive forever