

# New Poetry from Alison Hicks: “I Took A Walk With A Friend” and “Untitled”



AWAY INTO SEA / *image by Amalie Flynn*

## ***I TOOK A WALK WITH A FRIEND***

Instead of starting a poem

*I told her about my son's first semester*  
As long as he's home & happy & in one piece, she told me

*Worry squeaked out my sneakers onto wet pavement*  
The rest dissolved with the pitcher of margaritas

*Though it was wet & rainy*  
I did not get a headache

*Married for thirty-four years*  
We selected the movie about divorce

*By the time we finally got to watch it*  
He fell asleep

*The book was about a friendship that started in*  
*graduate school*

I skipped ahead to the parts where she snorted OxyContin

*Didn't want to think about graduate school*  
But stayed up reading the juicy parts anyway

*Personally, I blame the recliner*

## **UNTITLED**

The sea is a room without walls. It spills, falling over land.  
Land shears away into sea,  
rooms echo with spills and falling walls. Walls are powerless  
in the war of land and  
water, swells uproot trees, sweep cars, shopping carts,  
diamond necklaces out to sea,  
rooms of plastic ingots drifting down. The sea has room,  
gathering spoils from falling lands.

(UNTITLED is included in Hicks' new book *Knowing Is A Branching Trail*, winner of the 2021 Birdy Prize and forthcoming in mid-September from Meadowlark Books.)