

Writing | Symposium 2022

### How did you get here?

By Francesca Noelette

How did you get here?

Where?

You know, tell me the plan to get to where you are.  
What do I have to do?

I shake with stifled with laughter.  
There was no plan.  
There is no plan, just a vague idea and a dream.  
I can tell you my story.  
I can edit your essays.  
I can give you interview tips,  
But I can't tell you a plan.

Fine.  
What about your path? What should I do?  
How did you get here?

I suppose it looks like a straight, perfectly planned path.  
It's winding and bending  
with highs and lows  
with joy and adventure  
with mountains to climb  
with rivers of tears  
certainly not a perfect story wrapped in a bow.

Ugh, but you're living the dream.  
I want to be just like you, so  
How did you get here?

Don't be just like me.  
Be just like you.  
Focus on what you care about.  
Chase what matters to you.  
I promise that will get you much closer to "here."  
That journey will be yours, not a mimicry of mine.  
Then one day you'll be the one they ask  
How did you get here?