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Review of Fly Already

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Recommended Citation

In the title story of this collection, a man on the ledge of a four-story building is mistaken by a little boy for a super-hero poised to take flight; and so he is, but only as far as the street. In "One Gram Short," the narrator seeks to score enough marijuana to impress a waitress he likes; his source is a lawyer who, in exchange for the dope, wants the narrator to create a "scene" in court in support of the lawyer's case, assuming this will shake up the judge. In "The Next-to-Last Time I Was Shot Out of a Cannon," it takes the hapless narrator being propelled through the air to have the experience of someone smiling at him. All the stories are like this—quirky, funny, touching, immensely readable, pure pleasure. This collection by Israeli author Etgar Keret (<u>The Girl on the Fridge</u>, <u>The Bus Driver Who Wanted to be God and Other Stories</u>), written originally in Hebrew, loses nothing in translation—the wit and humanity of each piece survive intact. Most of the stories are very short, but tightly-scripted and satisfyingly complete for all their brevity.

VERDICT: Ideal reading for short bursts of time or short attention spans.