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[My old running route, through Tantolunden park, past its flower allotments and along Årsta Bay in Söder, Stockholm.]

## Young guy running

I thunder down five flights, slam to the street, then bang the stopwatch, hit the lights and mark time... Green! I fly past roses, grass and trees, veer sharp left twice and spurting leave the park for lakeside willows, rocks and boats. I weave between the walkers, rail-bridge arching high above my run, and then begin to pound path, lungs and legs, and hardly see the sky.

Then Skanstull\'s soaring bridge, the lawn-wrapped pool at Eriksdal, the laid-up yachts, the sound of heavy traffic, heaving lungs. I haul myself around, head back, half-numbed intone On Ilkley Moor, Tim\'s Wake, a beating toll of breath that gets me hot, red, buggered, home.

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