



## HUNGER<sup>1</sup>

— KELLI RUSSELL AGODON

If we never have enough love, we have more than most. We have lost dogs in our neighborhood and wild coyotes, and sometimes we can't tell them apart. Sometimes we don't want to. Once I brought home a coyote and told my lover we had a new pet. Until it ate our chickens. Until it ate our chickens, our ducks, and our cat. Sometimes we make mistakes and call them coincidences. We hold open the door then wonder how the stranger ended up in our home. There is a woman on our block who thinks she is feeding bunnies, but they are large rats without tails. Remember the farmer's wife? Remember the carving knife? We are all trying to change what we fear into something beautiful. But even rats need to eat.

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Even rats and coyotes and the bones on the trail could be the  
bones  
on our plates. I ordered Cornish hen. I ordered duck. Sometimes  
love hurts. Sometimes the lost dog doesn't want to be found.

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Kelli Russell Agodon's most recent book was a finalist in the  
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