



BORN

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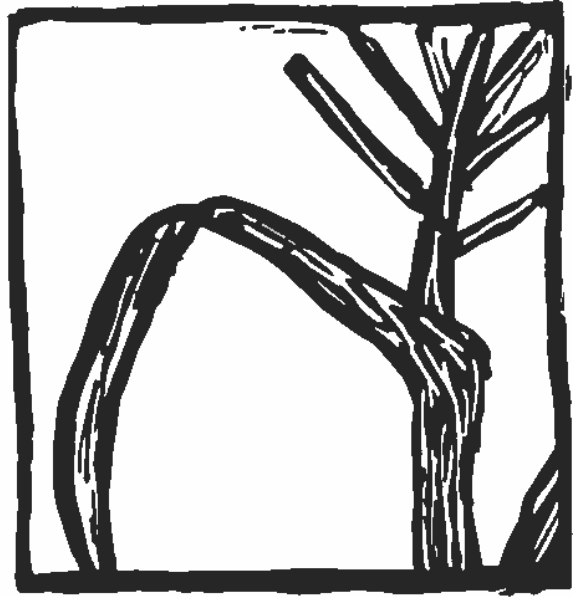
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HAIL

Mother & father have ten children before saying a word. When Jon is born, mother sets him in a dresser drawer to sleep. Then a storm comes & sprays the farm with hail. Mother goes out to the field to find father. She makes a pretend string of pearls with the cold balls. They laugh, & when the hail gets bigger & falls harder, they laugh more & more. Father holds two pieces up like eyes. The breaking barn laughs. The cold cows laugh. The house in the distance opens its new, toothless mouth.

SKIN

Alone in the barn for one week, father sheds his skin whole. He props it up in a chair & gives it a notepad with mother's name written on every page. He smooths out its cheeks & opens its hands. Then he slips out the door & walks into the field. When he is far enough away, he waves: Happy Valentine's Day.