

# CutBank

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## Harvesting

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## HARVESTING

We begin by loving excessively  
no plan in mind, no elegance.

There are parts we must tear away  
lush and ambiguous

like the piles of abandoned hay  
scattered around the fenceposts.

What is left, works. The rakes  
touch and whirl and we follow

feeling out the steps  
of a stately and beautiful dance.

We are not saddened  
by a cow nudging against the fence,

or a tree straining at the edge  
of pavement. In their naivete

in their impetuosity  
they too ask for definition.

See how the grass grows stronger  
after it is cut, how the heart

rallies under the bone. We celebrate  
and turn together in our usefulness.

Inside the chest is the sound  
of a waltz warming up.

The caterpillar or the seed  
crouched in eagerness

to become something brighter.