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### Poetry by Kelli Russell Agodon



### Slang for Long-Term Relationship

Because we were watching another sitcom  
I said, *mossy mossy*, which is slang for *what the fox*,  
*life is boring*. This is when you said,  
*I'll hold your petticoat*, slang for *I'm here for you, babe*.

If we could, we'd predict the world would end  
with a confetti bomb and someone parking  
their car in the accessible space  
without a visible sign. It's all sparkle and annoyance.

## Slang for Long-Term Relationship

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It's too much white space and not enough  
hot sauce on the popcorn. After a long weekend  
you say, *Your tongue is cramping my snow globe*,  
slang for *maybe we're spending too much time together*.

Some days I toss my life ring to a seal  
because I like to watch a mammal  
who can balance things on its nose. You say,  
*What does a poet need to be rescued from?* I'm not sure,

but sometimes I use stanzas to keep me afloat  
for a day or a daybreak, a year or a yearbook.  
Later when we get in a fight over Jeff Bezos'  
tax return, the percentage of coffee stain

on the counter, not our tax bracket, not the breakfast  
blend we bought on sale, I ask what you could live  
without—a marsh or a marshmallow  
or me? Life is boring, and then we diet.

*Your hollyhocks are wilted and on fire* is slang for  
*How often do you rebel against all you love?*

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### Art Information

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Kelli Russell Agodon's newest book is *Dialogues With Rising Tides* (Copper Canyon

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Press, 2021). She co-founded Two Sylvias Press and works as an editor and book cover designer. Her other books include *Letters From the Emily Dickinson Room*, *Hourglass Museum*, and *The Daily Poet: Day-by-Day Prompts for Your Writing Practice* (with Martha Silano). She lives in Washington state on traditional lands of the Chimacum, Coast Salish, S'Klallam, and Suquamish people. She teaches at Pacific Lutheran University's low-residency MFA program, the Rainier Writing Workshop. Kelli is part of a project called Writing the Land, between local land trusts and artists.

For more information, visit [Kelli Russell Agodon's website](#) [5] and the [Two Sylvias' Press website](#) [6].

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