

## Wild Love

Mate caught in a trap, she looks  
for ways to release him, fetches

small game for his sustenance,  
soaks in river water to bring him drink

in her fur. She curls around him  
at night, licks his wound, soothes

his coat & his heart—they sing together  
in darkness. She stays, she stays

till death shows him mercy, or he  
gnaws the caught leg free.

*(BECOMING: What Makes A Woman, Jill Johnson, editor, 2011, University of Nebraska)*