

Aisle Six

Chuck Augello

The first cries came from Frozen Foods.

Parker, the sole overnight worker, grabbed his phone, thinking 9-1-1, yet heroism was enticing, even at nine bucks an hour. Armed with a mop, he crept toward Aisle Six until more cries bel-
lowed from inside the Deli Counter, Frozen Foods shrieking in harmony.

Later, Parker would claim he'd fainted rather than report what he'd seen: every piece of meat in the store howling in unison before breaking free, shredding Styrofoam and cellophane and marching toward the door, the broccoli stalks cheering them on, frozen chickens shaking off ice, flank steaks, wings, and legs gathering in circles, dancing, eager for reunion.

Chuck Augello is the author of the novel *The Revolving Heart*, a Best Books of 2020 selection by Kirkus Reviews, and the story collection, *The Inexplicable Grey Space We Call Love*.

His work has appeared in *One Story*, *Literary Hub*, *The Coachella Review*, *Smokelong Quarterly*, and other fine journals. He is a contributing editor for *Cease, Cows*, and publishes *The Daily Vonnegut*, a website exploring the life and art of Kurt Vonnegut. A new novel, *A Better Heart*, will be published in November 2021.