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lies i tell

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lies i tell

Maria Matsakis

Maria Matsakis is a first-year graduate student in the English Department at the University of North Dakota.

i choke on smoke for breakfast
and try to remember the last time my mouth did not taste like blood.

crouched down in the trenches, hugging the corpses,
i have no idea whether i am being dirtied by the mud or cleansed by my tears.

i've learned to say each goodbye like it's the last
because in this place, it might be.

i line up my shot before pulling the trigger,
but pray the bullet doesn't make it to its destination.