

## lies i tell

### Maria Matsakis

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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.