

A person is lying on their back on a blue surface, possibly a table or a mat. A camera is held over their face, and the camera's screen shows a close-up of the person's face. The person's eyes are closed. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

there's a desert  
or a mountaintop  
or a pile of salt on a dining room table, a girls slim fingers sidling  
around it  
a mermaid, an eye, a spelt out fuc- before mother swipes  
through  
and now the salt pours inside her belly  
fills her up as she grows  
sucks the wet from her insides  
so when she breathes the leaves crackle and fall  
and people cough  
and lakes dry up  
and she keeps breathing  
and filling the salt with all the  
stuff  
from the outside  
so her belly is an ocean and her tongue is a salt flat  
and it hurts  
to have her stomach so dry it burns  
and her throat so itchy it's cracked  
she hasn't spoken in years  
can't  
speak without seizing up  
drink  
breathe  
and so she coughs  
and vomits and retches  
and the salt comes up  
brings with it silt and dead leaves and years old driftwood  
preserved apples  
glass rims filled with bitter cheap  
stuff  
and her chest is raw and throbbing pink  
throat clawed up  
maybe this hurts as much as the dry did  
all the wet blood and sweat  
but she's done it now  
and she breathes out her insides  
throws them on the walls around her  
and into the people she sees  
so she's everywhere  
and the salt is gone  
and she can speak again.

**And when your mouth has filled with salt so your articulators can not longer work:**

**Air ah air er (there's a desert)**  
Oar ah ow ai o  
Oar a h eye oh ah oh a eye ee oo ay er  
Ah er ee ee er eye ee ah ow ee  
**ah er ay, ah eye, ah eh ow ah**  
**ee or ah er eye oo**  
**ah ow er oh oar ee eye er air ee**  
**ee er ah ah ee ow**  
ah er air oh er ee eye  
**Oh air ee ee er ee ah oo ah oar**  
**ah ee oo oah**  
ah ay eye ah  
ah ee ee ee ee  
ah ee ee er oh ee ah er ah  
oh ee ow eye  
oh er air ee ee ah oh air ah er ah er ee ah oh ah  
**ah ee er**  
oo ah er oah ah ow eye ee er  
ah er oh oh ee ee ee ah air  
**ee ah oh air ee ear**  
**ahhh**  
eee ei ow ee ee ah  
ei  
**eee**  
ah ow ee oar  
**ah oh ee ah air air**  
**ah er oh ah ah**  
**ee ee ee ee ah air eee ah ear oh ei oo**  
**ee er ah**  
**ah ee ei ee ei ee**  
**ah**  
ah er air ee oar ah oo ee ei  
**oh oar ah**  
**ay ee ee er ah ar ah ah ee eye ee**  
oar ah air ah ay air  
**ah ee ah ee ow**  
ah eee eee ow er ee eye  
**ow air oh e oar ah ow er**  
**ah ee oo ah ee oo ee ee**  
**oh eee air air**  
**ah er ow ee oh**

**and she can speak again.**