

six miles southeast of rupaul's mansion (extracted from Morgan Thomas's "Surrogate")

By [ERICA RIVERA](#) | 30 JUL 2024



Image courtesy of [Tanya Impeartrice](#)

frac

frac

frac Roo frac

a well can be fracked three times
before everybody's poisoned

Mother
i'd rather you did something else

center
the
kid
from florida
injected with hormones
during the crucial, early months
paying her way through grad

school

boys these days don't know anything
but fracking

frack in the roads
frack all day
frack through the night
frack in my front yard

pimp

profiteer

prey on dreams of
a nose piercing
a dress with sequins
more money than dad makes

what did she promise you?

She

built that home
not with her own hands but with her own money

you can't believe a woman like that

She
promised me happiness
laughing at the absurdity of it

it's her body she loves
skin clear and smooth
tongue dry and swollen
teeth a wall of smoke

the arrogance that can lead a woman to
everything

She
killed because she wanted

for money
fifty grand
that kind of money

on the news
rising infertility rates
girls too young to be boys
kids who drank down lead
methane in the shale
in the river

murder was not
the plan

She

was good at it

talented
drowning herself in
community

stupid

naïve

Liar

guilty

wither your athletes
dissolve your girls

forget the toxic flesh

She
will be gentle with herself

it's a good year to be a surrogate

Erica "ERN" Rivera (she/they) is a performance writer, editor, and collage artist. She is the author of *The Ecology of Art, Strike!* (tRaum Books, 2025), her forthcoming debut collection of essays. For fun, she likes to watch TV and pretend all the characters are trans.