

# To the Desert

By Benjamin Alire Sáenz

I came to you one rainless August night.  
You taught me how to live without the rain.  
You are thirst and thirst is all I know.  
You are sand, wind, sun, and burning sky,  
The hottest blue. You blow a breeze and brand  
Your breath into my mouth. You reach—then *bend*  
*Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.*  
You wrap your name tight around my ribs  
And keep me warm. I was born for you.  
Above, below, by you, by you surrounded.  
I wake to you at dawn. Never break your  
Knot. Reach, rise, blow, *Sálvame, mi dios,*  
*Trágame, mi tierra. Salva, traga, Break me,*  
I am bread. I will be the water for your thirst.

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Source: *Dark and Perfect* (1995)