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Keep

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I used to think that only
some people saw magic
woven into the sky
like observing animals in the clouds
or how they believe in elves
in Iceland

But now I know that there
is a kind of magic
in words
like the secret singing I can hear
underneath the silences we share
when you think I am not paying
attention

So I want to tell you now:
it is important that you keep
scribbling your charms
and passwords, the codes
that tie you to each other
to the world beyond
what lies directly in front of you
keep pretending that there is a language
that you will understand if you write it
enough times, and when
you take a breath, know
that I will be there, listening
for you



Ariel S. Maloney teaches literature and writing to high school students in Cambridge, MA. She has published multiple op-eds about educational policy issues online, and her poetry and nonfiction have appeared in publications such as *The Ekphrastic Review*, *The Inman Review*, and *Around the World: An Anthology of Travel Writing Collected by Harvard Book Store*. She can be found on Twitter @MizMaloney and via email at ariel.maloney@gmail.com