

we 
 have
everything
we 
need
 to
start 
again

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koleka putuma



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*For you, I hope what you are looking for
has already found you.*



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Prologue

You are the light at the end of the tunnel.



Part 1

We are learning new names.

(Don't) Mind the Language

TikTok,
the advanced Google,

tallies the minutes we spend minding
each other's business

Thesauruses
captured in captions

communicate what and
how it is read

Captcha tells
us apart from our computers

There is no limit to the number of characters
that share our story

Screenshot
has made free speech costly

Cultures want to cancel
what they have cultivated

We have created currencies
that cannot be converted to life (or living)

In our world

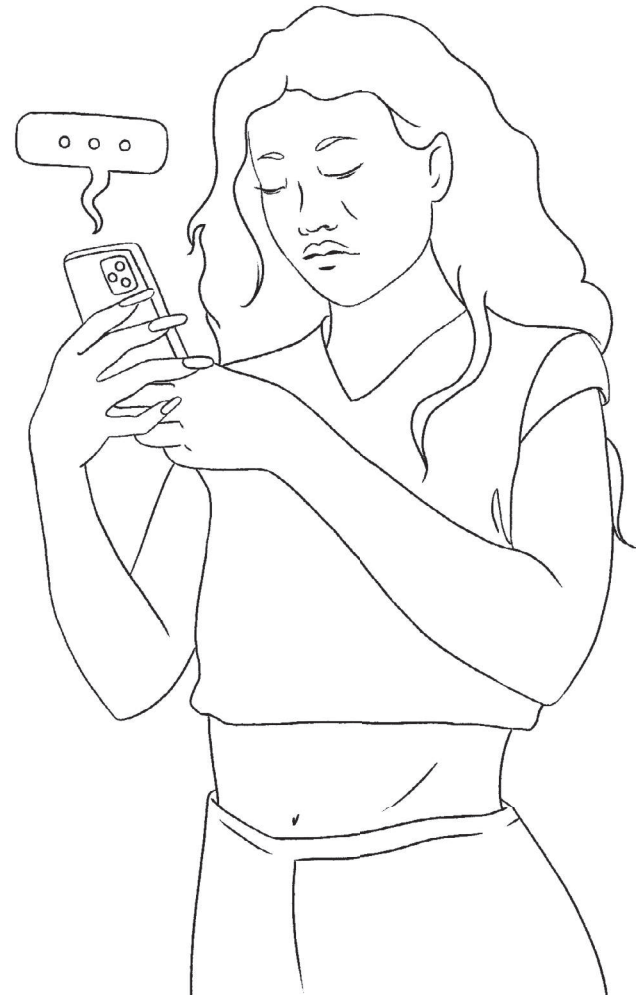
Voice notes are how we read each other
and tone is more than a colour

Not all meaning can be found in what is said
What is said sometimes means the opposite of what is sent

The internet does not forget
Signals are not lost in translation

Ellipses have us on the edge of our fingertips

always waiting for *typing . . .*
to become something.



Direct Message

single
unpunctuated
phrases
are how we keep it
caszh



as in
you don't want to come across as too eager

as in
i'm as chilled as a sentence without punctuation

as in
full sentences are recipes for anxiety



as in
don't leave too many silences between texting

as in
don't message too often or too long or never at all

as in
overthinking will always live rent-free



as in
fr.

as in
for real

as in
the lies we tell ourselves
are as tricky as the truths we do not face



as in
your *Ls* do not determine your *Ws*

as in
PERIODTTTTTTT



as in
!

as in
end of discussion

as in
my mother uses my full name when she is angry

as in
iykyk

as in
you do not want this smoke



as in
fire shows us where it's lit

as in
LIT



as in
iconic

as in
major

as in
slay

as in
Ants carrying a leaf, representing a thought or emotion.

as in
giving me life

as in
i'm living

as in
i'm here for it

as in
spill the tea

as in
pull out the receipts

as in
facts



as in
BIG FACTS
no printer

as in
we are digital and alive

as in
online

as in
IRL

as in
algospeak is the language of our algorithms

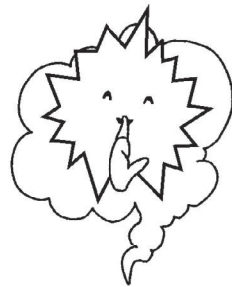
as in
we spell phonetically to avoid censorship

as in
we cannot be silenced

as in
we take up space

as in
being EXTRA!

as in
TYPING IN ALL CAPS is how we show enthusiasm



as in
highkey we are passionate about being passionate

as in
lowkey we are always in our feelings

as in

as in
we keep in touch to stay in touch

as in
HMU

as in
language doesn't mind how it slides,
it just loves to dance.

