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For all trees.
And in memory of Gracie King, lover of giraffes.

—M. G.

For Nina and Niccolò,
may your roots go deep and your branches reach high.

With love,

—F. S.

Be a tree!

Stand tall.

Stretch your branches to the sun.

Let your roots curl,
coil in the soil to ground you.

Your spine is a trunk,
giving you shape,
holding your crown,
channeling your food.

Your skin is bark:
dead on the outside,
protecting what's within.

Beneath your bark
are layers,
such as sapwood,
carrying nutrients
to help you grow bigger
and taller;

and heartwood,
strong as bone,
to support you.