Reading Longpre is akin to entering a dream world in which one is called upon to utilize one's investigatory powers, the domain of the poet, while simultaneously remaining still enough to let memory, prayer, lamentation and other forms of excessive language descend in tongues of fire. As if wrestling with angels, How to Keep You Alive joins battle with love, forgiveness, expiation and exorcism in a world where narrative untells itself as it spins a web that entangles and enmeshes everything from birth to grave. Formally, work engages kinetically with the page so as to compel a physically ocular engagement with the text, all the while accompanied by the steady thrumming of meditations on the idea of ruin. If "poetry is the practice of ruin" as Longpre writes, then ruin, noun and verb, has never appeared so imbued with possibility – of both life and death.

- M. NOURBESE PHILIP, Author of Zong!

Like a lucid past life learned of through aura photography, Ella Longpre’s exquisite fragmentation unearths the liminal locations that mediate our psychic being, mapping out a haunted pyramid-like map of what exists between the ephemeral and the timeless, technology and fiber, life and death. How To Keep You Alive indeed recovers a mystic, arcane air we by now need front and center more than ever.

- BLAKE BUTLER, Author of Three Hundred Million