Where the Mermaids Live

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Deep, deep, past the dark green branches
and leaves on the far end of the lake—
down to the secret homes of silver fish
and their endless conspiracies

Deep under the jeweled, pearly waves
under the restless unseen silky wind
down into the currents sinister and flowing
like a candle that will never burn out

Deeper than time and memory and the minds
of elves, further than the roots
of waxy wild water-lilies, beyond the gleaming
rainbow-catching shells of clams

This is where the dwelling of the 77 magic
creatures, eyes dark pools of forever tears;
this is the hide-out, black and red,
of the dancing, fluid mermaids and their friends