

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For years, I told everyone who knew I was writing a book that my entire acknowledgments section would be cribbed from Biggie: “This book is dedicated to all the teachers who told me I’d never amount to nothing . . .” And while there is no small part of me that is still tempted to leave it there, to stunt on every institution and person who has ever stood in my way, by framing my work or Biggie’s like this, we reinforce the pernicious idea that amounting to something can be measured by the metrics that I inherently reject.

I don’t know if I’ve amounted to anything or not, but I know that the love and labor of a worldwide community of people has made this book possible.

But those who know already know, and listing them here is superfluous. Community is not built through an economy of gratitude.

And so I won’t name individuals here, because there are other, better ways of telling you how essential you are, how critical we are.

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