## **Thank You**

If you find yourself half naked and barefoot in the frosty grass, hearing, again, the earth's great sonorous moan that says you are the air of the now and gone, that says all you love will turn to dust, and will meet you there, do not raise your fist. Do not raise your small voice against it. And do not take cover. Instead, curl your toes into the grass, watch the cloud ascending from your lips. Walk through the garden's dormant splendor. Say only, thank you.

Ross Gay

Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry Edited by Camille T. Dungy, University of Georgia Press © 2009