

Acknowledgements

Some years ago, we started talking about the ideas that animate this book, and by mid-2019 they began to coalesce. We met weekly, or pretty close to that, at the Lido Bar or Portuguese Club, in Vancouver or Richmond: drinking, reading, writing and catching up without any timeline to stick to.

The following spring arrived and disheveled all our thinking. Our first chapter, “Staying Inside,” was written pre-pandemic when we were blissfully ignorant of the absurd new set of meanings it would take on. We avoided writing about the virus, side-eying it from a safe distance, but it kept intruding, sneaking past our defenses, infiltrating our conversations.

As we wrote, we were also talking with anyone who had time for us as we tried to sort out our ideas. We were extremely fortunate that three people whose work we particularly admire: Jean-Luc Nancy, Leela Gandhi, and Leanne Betosamosake Simpson agreed to be interviewed – the book would have been very different without them.

One of the core questions we grappled with as we tried to pull our argument together was: How come so many people who write about friendship and community are such assholes? We got that question asked of us often.

This book is for all our friends and foes – but mostly our foes.

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