Catherine Esposito Prescott is the author of the chapbooks *Maria Sings* and *The Living Ruin*. Recent poems have appeared in *Bellevue Literary Review, MiPOesias, Pleiades, Poetry East, Southern Poetry Review,* and *The Orison Anthology*. She is co-founder of the not-for-profit organization SWWIM (Supporting Women Writers in Miami), which curates a reading series and publishes *SWWIM Every Day.*
THE DICTIONARY OF UNKNOWNS

Yet this small pocket is tight, and it’s the same size it’s always been—abacus-exact molecule for molecule—without even an exchange system, a one-in, one-out kind of thing. No, these molecules are for keeps—scrubbed clean or buffed with soot—the same ones inhaled and exhaled by award-winning geniuses and jail-side criminals, parades of saints and sinners, not to mention our quadruped ancestors, and the apes and orangutans, elephants, parrots, flamingos, crocodiles, lizards, snakes, papaya trees, banana plants, passion flowers, grass blades, and every single accounted for living thing known to ever exist, and this doesn’t even begin to admit the dictionary of unknowns—those growing in dense brush on the bottom of an unreachable inch of forest, an unconquerable square of earth, the ones who work for little glory, who exhale hard for all of us.