

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD, AND IN SOME WAYS, the same can be said about writing a book, and I owe a debt of gratitude to the many people who helped make this one possible.

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I was initially introduced to family therapy by Professor Max Siporin when I was a Master of Social Work student at the State University of New York at Albany. I distinctly recall being inspired by a videotape he presented in class showing Virginia Satir's sensitive work, which, as a student, I suspected was magic. (Now, as a seasoned clinician, I am certain of it.) My formal family therapist training really began at Project Strive, Inc., a home-based foster care prevention program where David Bosworth, the executive director, had the wisdom to hire Anne Itzkowitz from the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center to train us in structural family therapy. From that point on, I was fortunate to have received training and inspiration, either through formal programs, workshops, or consultations, from Salvador Minuchin, Carl Whitaker, Michael Kerr, Monica McGoldrick, Insoo Kim Berg, Steve DeShazer, and Maurizio Andolfi. I am grateful to have known and learned from these gifted individuals, and each has left an imprint on my thinking and my clinical work.

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My mother and father taught me many valuable things. One is to always aim high. From an early age they taught me the sweet pleasure of achieving

lofty goals. They also demonstrated the importance of staying connected to loved ones, no matter what. If anyone is wondering, my parents had a very difficult time when they learned in 1979 that I was gay, and it took them several years to adjust. But we never let go of each other, and, eventually, like the parents in this study, they came around. When you have a family such as mine, whose members are passionate people with strong opinions, bruising arguments are inevitable. However, I always know that, no matter what happens, we will still love one another, and, in each other, we can always find a home to return to.

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COMING OUT, COMING HOME

