Art, whatever form it takes—a painting, a story, a poem, a musical composition, a dance—is always a product of the total being who creates it. It incorporates all of that artist’s inner experiences as well as his multiple environments, including all the people who have been on the landscape of his life: his family and his world. All the good and nurturing things are there and all the negative and challenging experiences as well. They enter the prism of his life force and emerge alchemized in his unique vision. Each expands and humbles at the same time.

I want to say an awesome “thank you” to the thousands of individuals I have known and whom I treasure. My father’s creative spirit and my mother’s challenges are surely part of this work. My own family, without exception, has been accepting of my dedication and pursuit of each new idea. My art has been the major force that fueled the academic work. My husband, Gideon, and my two children, Brandon and Staton, all authors in their own right, were empathetic, knowing the delicate balance necessary to continue the long and circuitous route, which at times defied the beaten path, on which I found myself.

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