

Acknowledgements

As will be seen in this book, Christmas is not just a day; it is a frame of mind. Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) expresses this sentiment in the now-classic American Christmas film *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947). These words echo throughout the following pages as a reminder that at Christmas, we are our best selves, we project a vision of the people we wish we always were with the hope that, as Scrooge reminds us in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, we might carry Christmas with us in our hearts all the year. I have been fortunate enough to have found a collection of loving individuals, my very own Bob Cratchits, who carry the Christmas spirit in them, extending goodwill, generosity, and random acts of kindness just to make others' lives a little bit brighter, lighter, and lovelier.

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