

# Acknowledgments

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When does a book start to take shape? I am trying to find the point of origin, but I could go back as far as when I was six years old and stole that book from school (please, nobody translate this sentence for my parents!). There are obviously many small moments that make us go in one direction or another, but, in this case, and for the sake of keeping the reader on task, I should start with the ones that really matter, the ones that are inextricably bound up in the pages that you are holding right now.

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### **A Note on Translations**

Unless otherwise indicated, all bracketed translations are mine.