

Acknowledgments

This is my first book, so it should come as no surprise that many people have guided and supported me on this journey. I have learned an incredible amount during this process, and I appreciate every person who has positively impacted me along the way. I owe a giant debt of gratitude to Jolene Zigarovich, who has mentored me from the moment I arrived at the University of Northern Iowa, answering all my questions, pushing me to achieve, celebrating every accomplishment, and inspiring me with her passion for research. Jolene and Elizabeth Zwanziger threw me the loveliest book shower to celebrate my contract, and I will always cherish their friendship.

Many people offered feedback at various stages of the book-writing process, giving generously of their time and knowledge when they were under no obligation to do so. Akiko Tsuchiya, Fran Fernández de Alba, and Carmen Granda provided indispensable feedback during the early stages of the publishing process, and their encouraging words gave me the confidence to continue moving ahead.

I have been supported in various ways by my institution, the University of Northern Iowa, during the process of writing and publishing this book. Thank you to the graduate college for awarding me a Professional Development Assignment in the spring of 2021 that allowed me the time to write. Dean Fritch, your enthusiastic support of this book came at exactly the right time, for which I will forever be thankful. I appreciate my home department of Languages & Literatures for their help in funding the book. I also received financial assistance from UNI's Women's and Gender Studies program, made possible by director Danielle McGeough. The University of Northern Iowa has top-notch library staff, who have assisted me in countless ways, from contactless book delivery during COVID to answering all my questions to finding resources for me (a special thanks to Amandajean Nolte). While I'm talking about

UNI, I wish to recognize my fantastic students, who supported me and celebrated each step of the process with me. I am moved and humbled to work with students who are genuinely invested in my research and who care about me as a person.

I wish to acknowledge my Spanish colleagues in the Department of Languages & Literatures – Jenny Cooley, Elise DuBord, Juan Carlos Castillo, Gabi Olivares, and Elena Dobrila – with whom I feel a true sense of community and companionship. Several of them read chapters in progress, and I appreciate their valuable feedback, as well as Zak Montgomery and Ana Kogl for their insights on the book. Ana, thank you for allowing me to monopolize large chunks of our Friday afternoons at The Ragged Edge (thanks, Ragged Edge) with conversations about the book. I value your friendship immensely.

Thank you to everyone at the University of Toronto Press for making this incredible experience possible. Mark Thompson, thank you for seeing the potential in this book. It has been an absolute delight to work with you. Bob Davidson, thank you for your enthusiastic support of my work and for making me feel so welcome in this community of scholars. I am grateful beyond words for the time and attention that my two reviewers dedicated to the manuscript. This book would not be what it is without their insightful and gentle guidance.

I am honoured to know author Lluís Maria Todó, who has always been receptive to discussing his brilliant works of literature with me. I am thrilled that Ricardo Cavolo has allowed me to reproduce some of his illustrations from *¿Por qué me comprasteis un walkie talkie si era hijo único?* in this book. Many thanks to Nuria Godón and Michael Horswell for their permission to include part of my chapter “La paternidad periférica y su relación con la crisis de la masculinidad en *Todo lo que tú quieras* de Achero Mañas,” which appeared in their 2016 co-edited anthology *Sexualidades periféricas: Consolidaciones literarias y filmicas en la España de siglo XIX y fin de milenio* in [chapter 3](#) of this book. An earlier iteration of [chapter 2](#) appeared in *Letras Femininas* in 2016 as an article titled “Angels or Monsters? Motherhood in the Dystopian World of Paloma Díaz-Mas’s ‘La niña sin alas.’”

My friends in the Joyous Writing group have been instrumental in answering my questions during the writing and publishing process. Thank you to Hilal Ergül, Sal Attardo, and Elisa Gironzetti. You all inspire me to keep writing.

I’m so glad that graduate school allowed me to meet Chris Carter, Allysha Martin, and Gabby Vidal-Torreira. You have stood by me throughout the numerous ups and downs of academic and personal life. I treasure our various academic collaborations, as well as your friendship.

I became interested in the idea of non-normative Spanish families while writing my dissertation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, directed by Iker González-Allende. My thanks to him and to my committee members Harriet Turner, Óscar Pereira-Zazo, the late Chantal Kalisa, Margaret Jacobs, and Basuli Deb.

I am fortunate to have a great number of patient friends who have listened to me talk about my book, probably long after they were interested in the topic. Maria Leicy, thank you for thirty-four years of friendship and unwavering belief in me. Melissa Dobosh and Heather Gallivan, I am eternally grateful that I met you during new faculty orientation. Along with that of Sarah Diesburg, your friendship is priceless to me. To my *chicas alicantinas*, I value your friendship and constant encouragement: Maria Smith, Chelsea Rohrer-Dann, Tamara Rhodes, and Hamida Saleh. Thank you, Raquel Medina, for being my friend and mentor, and for always being willing to grab a coffee with me whenever I'm in Barcelona. Kyle Winckler, Joel Robinson, and Jacy Pillitteri, thank you for the many ways in which you have supported me over the years.

Thank you to the grandmas in my life: Grandma Marj for helping to foster my love of books and reading, Grandma Lana for never giving up hope that my book would be published, and Grandma Donna for her love and support.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, Debra and Roger Hoffart, and my husband, Josh Gregory. My parents have always made me feel like I can accomplish anything, and they raised me in a loving family. Josh, I am incredibly happy that we have chosen each other as family, and I could not have asked for a more encouraging partner. Thank you for always reassuring me when I start to doubt myself. This book is dedicated to Josh and to my parents.

This page intentionally left blank