Acknowledgments

his project genuinely would not have been possible without the help, support, and trust of many people who have contributed to bringing this book together. I am in awe of the continued bravery and resilience of many people whom I interviewed in Colombia, and those who supported me along the way—enthusiastically wanting both this project and me to succeed in presenting this account. Although I have chosen to keep the names of interviewees confidential, I first want to thank those who told their stories, provided me with time and resources, allowed me to interrogate them and ask personal questions about their experiences, and who met me with unconditional openness and warmth. I truly thank you for your contributions, which have profoundly shaped this book.

I want to recognize the invaluable expertise and support of Daniel Ucrós, who has mentored me throughout this project. Without your support over the years, Daniel, this book would honestly never have happened in the first place. I can't thank you enough for all that you did for me, both in Colombia and Australia, including opening multiple doors of opportunity and sending me on the right path. I genuinely thank you for your constant guidance and friendship.

In beautiful Colombia, there are multiple people to whom I am especially grateful and who have continued to provide me with feedback over the

years. To "Ana"—thank you for your trust, your wholeheartedness, and for the adventures. You opened doors for me and wanted to see me succeed, and I sincerely appreciate the faith that you put in me. I promise to bring more appropriate shoes next time, like you advised! To Tanja, thank you for everything, for being a sounding board for my thoughts and ideas, and for your feedback. To Carlos V., your encyclopedic knowledge, experience, and ideas shaped this book profoundly, and I am in awe of the nuance you provide and for your ongoing commitment to peace. To Gonzalo Sanchéz Gómez, I am indebted to the amount of help and guidance that you gave me, and for your research, which inspired my own.

I would also like to thank my wonderful Colombian friends—Daniela Duarte, Claudia Rojas, and Juliana Ibañez—for not only your unconditional friendship, but also your translation skills and for helping to make this book possible. Juan Carlos, I can't sufficiently express my gratitude—not only your professionalism, but for keeping me safe. I'm conscious I led us into some . . . adventures—and I want to thank you for not giving up on me. And, especially for not abandoning me in Tolima!

I would like to thank Pete Lentini, Ben MacQueen, and Steve Zech for their valuable input and encouragement throughout this project. I would like to also thank James Paterson for his invaluable research assistance and attention to detail. To Helen Berents—I am so grateful for our friendship. And thank you so much for telling me about all the mistakes you made, so I didn't make the same ones! You constantly look out for me, and I appreciate this immensely. A further sincere thank-you to Caroline Doyle, Jacqui True, Marie Segrave, Kate Lee Koo, Christina Schmid, Andrew Zammit, and Katrina Zorzi, especially for your feedback, support, and commitment to seeing this book come to light.

To Bruce Hoffman—you have done so much for me and for my career, I am very indebted to you and want to express my sincerest, deepest gratitude for your ongoing mentorship and friendship. Thank you so much for the opportunities that you have given me. To my wonderful "research community" friends—Ayse Lokmanoglu, Yannick Veilleux-Lepage, Amar Amarasingam, Aaron Zelin, Chelsea Daymon, and Craig Whiteside: thank you for your daily humor and support. I am so grateful for our group and to be able to bounce around both ideas and issues. I would also like to thank Caelyn Cobb and Emily Elizabeth Simon for guiding me through the publication

process, Ryan Perks for his meticulous copyediting, and Marisa Lastres for their support.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my family and friends for their ongoing support for me and my research, including Michelle, Beth, Alan, Lisa, Sara, and Isabella. Thank you, Ben, for being an incredible partner and championing me on a daily basis. I express my eternal gratitude to Ken and Marie Morgan for their love and encouragement, and to Chloe, Louis, Barney, Pearl, and Lulo for their unconditional affection and companionship.