America Beyond Black and White

Ronald Fernandez

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America Beyond Black and White

How Immigrants and Fusions Are Helping Us Overcome the Racial Divide

Ronald Fernandez

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To JACOB MORTON FERNANDEZ

A fantastic fusion of Colombian, French, Irish, Japanese, & Spanish heritages
I owe a great debt to Luis Nieves Falcon (in Puerto Rico) and Rex Nettleford (in Jamaica). Like two brothers, they introduced me to their Caribbean worlds, and, in the process, they changed my life. With love, thank you.

Research for this book included visits to the Kennedy, Johnson, and Reagan Presidential Libraries. The libraries are true arsenals of democracy, staffed by archivists who always do everything they can to get scholars all available documents.

Rather than risk missing someone, I would like to say thanks to all the people who helped at the Intercollegiate Conference on Mixed Race Students, at the seventy-fifth anniversary meeting of the Japanese American Citizenship League, at the Unity Conference of Journalists in Washington, D.C., and at the Borderlands Conference in Laredo; to everyone who helped arrange the visit to the Arab American community in Detroit; to our dancer hosts in Jamaica; to the Hartford-based West Indian Foundation; to our many guides in Puerto Rico and Vieques; to our hosts in Mexico, San Diego, and Los Angeles; and to all the folks in Cuba, who, through four trips, extended a warm welcome and a wonderful introduction to Cuba’s spectacular culture.

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The book is dedicated to our grandson, Jacob Morton Fernandez.
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