ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Among too many to thank, I must mention William Colburn, my guide and inspiration through all things Detroit; Jimmy Darley, for the bicycle giveaway; Russ Gibb, for his memories of the Grande Ballroom; Phil Herbst, for the *Color of Words: An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Ethnic Bias in the United States*; early readers Stephen Huth and Rita Cashman (so sad that Rita couldn’t be here to see that I followed her advice); William LeFevre, archivist extraordinaire at Wayne State University’s Walter P. Reuther Library; Lilah Lohr, for canine and Doberman insights; the regulars at Molly Malone’s open mic (second Monday of every month), for giving me a place to read my work all these years; Linda and James Moody for the zebra joke; Tim Stefl and the boiler pros at The Wall (heatinghelp.com) for expertise, counsel, and entertainment; walking partners Linda Bauer, for emotional support “through all kinds of weather,” and Etta Worthington, for deciding to create a community of writers and knowing I needed to be part of it before even I knew I was a writer.

Gratitude to Colleen Mohyde, my agent, for embracing this project and finding it a meaningful home; Chris Hebert, my editor, for being so skillful a guide; Carol Sickman-Garner, my copyeditor, for the detail work that makes so much difference; Scott Griffith and Marcia LaBrenz at the Press, for their competence and kindness; Judy Budnitz, Nadine Epstein, the Karma Foundation, and *Moment* magazine for granting first prize to the short story from which this novel grew; the welcoming staff of Ragdale for providing a room of one’s own (with a view); and finally, Jim and Selena, who are at the heart of the heart.