ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It may seem strange to thank your parents first and foremost in a cocktail book, but I have to thank mine—Billy and Estelle Parker. Because I was an only child, I always got to tag along with my dad and mom on business trips around the country. These often occurred in swanky restaurants in the heyday of disco—the 1970s. While the food was delicious, the business conversations were dull for a kid. The flashing lights and glittery bottles of the adjoining bars, on the other hand, fascinated me, and I fell in love with bars and mixing at an early age. Later in life, when I realized I needed a trade to fall back on in case journalism failed, my dad sent me to bartending school. So thanks, Mom and Dad.

I’d also like to thank the numerous friends and colleagues who sent me ideas for drinks for this collection. In no particular order: Lucy Tallon, cocktail goddess extraordinaire of London and Africa; Stephanie Owen, vintage cocktail archivist; Stephanie Caruthers, creator of the most unique cocktail thus far in the twenty-first century; Alex Heard, long-time editor who knows a good Southern cocktail; and Wanda Stone and Kathy Williams, keepers of the cookbooks.

A special thanks to the person who keeps me on track for all projects, my agent, Erin Reel—Los Angelees superbabe and visionary who listens carefully and makes wise decisions about the future and direction of my work.

Most of all to Wonder twin Glen Hooks who went beyond the call of duty to help with this book. As always, he offered unwavering support, silly laughter (especially when I was drowning in thousands of cocktail recipes at an ungodly hour of the night), keen insight, sage advice, and the desperately needed push (with plenty of Starbucks coffee) to make sure this book was born.