Dedication

Esse quam videri
To my parents Susie and Joseph Giannantonio, who taught me to be, rather than to seem to be.

Cristina M. Giannantonio

Dedicated to my mom Roberta, my son Amory and my fiancé Pete. One was here and taught me how to love before she left. The other two will undoubtedly teach me so much more about love now that they are here.

Amy E. Hurley-Hanson

Thank You

I would like to thank my friends and families for their love and support throughout the writing of this book. To my mother Susie. Thank you for your unconditional love and your unwavering faith that everything would be all right. I suspect you have heard more about Shackleton, Scott, and Amundsen than any mom should have to listen to! To my father, Joseph. I miss you very much. Thank you for finding everything that I wrote far more fascinating than it really was. To my Aunt Rose and my Uncle Frank. Thank you for showing me what family and generosity look like. To Dr Stephen J. Carroll. Thank you for being my mentor and for every piece of academic advice you shared with me. I love you all.

Cristina M. Giannantonio

It is impossible to thank and acknowledge here all those who have contributed to the writing of this book. Nonetheless, I will attempt to do so. I am lucky to have incredible friends and family who have not seen me for months and who have also listened to me go on for hours about how I’m too busy and that I have to work on the book.

To my mother Roberta, who I miss more and more each day. Here’s looking at you kid. Her journey on earth was much too short. I still reach for the telephone to call her daily. She was the wind beneath my wings. She instilled in me the ability to believe in a place called hope. She has always believed in me and encouraged my endeavors.

To Amory who I will always love. Amory is on his own extreme journey. He has allowed me to share parts of this journey with him. He has shown me strength I didn’t know existed when facing adversity. His strength is something I admire more and more every day. His ability to overcome every obstacle he faces is awe inspiring. He has truly shown there is no try, there is only do or do not. I would not change you for the world, but I would change the world for you. You are my hope, you are my chance, you are my child. I love you very much and I promise to do everything to make all your dreams come true. May the force be with you forever.

To Pete who I love with all my heart. ’The moon was made for the sky to hold, and I, for you.’ Pete showed me where the place called hope is. Pete has given up endless nights, weekends and time with me to allow me to write this book. We must remember Love is the best part of any story and our journey is just beginning. Pete, You Make Me Smile.

Amy E. Hurley-Hanson