

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.

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