ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many, many people have helped in the writing of this book.

My profound gratitude goes to Rebecca Stanton, a remarkable scholar and intellect who read and re-read every word of the manuscript and offered transformative advice. She has been this book’s perfect critic.

Kate Pickering Antonova, Ilya Vinitsky, and Vadim Shneyder read the entire manuscript and provided invaluable suggestions. Susan Smith-Peter, Cathy Popkin, Bella Grigoryan and Valeria Sobol read chapters (sometimes more than once) with expert eyes. Sarah Krive offered editing help at a crucial moment, as did Liza Ivanova; Anastassia Kostrioukava and Diana Greene provided excellent research assistance. Ornella Discacciati, who shares my improbable interest in all things provincial, introduced me to a lively group of European colleagues as well as to the many pleasures of Italian academia. The editors at Northern Illinois University Press showed me what it’s like to work with a team of truly collegial professionals—thank you, Amy Farranto and Nathan Holmes.

So fortunate have I been in my colleagues and friends at New York University that I fear it’s not possible to thank them adequately. Ilya Kliger, Antonia Lant, Crystal Parikh, and Cristina Vatulescu have provided warm and inspiring models of friendship and intellectual generosity; Jane Burbank and Yanni Kotsonis have patiently answered questions and shared ideas; wonderful students like Mina Magda have helped me hone arguments in seminars and conversation. Finally, and in a category of their own, Eliot Borenstein and Frances Bernstein have offered endless sustenance in all forms—where would I be without you?

I’m grateful to my dear friends from childhood and youth who’ve willingly subjected themselves to a crash course in how academic publishing works. Jeri Thys Berlin, Pamela Cloyd Lighaam, Heidi Skuba Maretz, Jamie Persellin, and Shelley Willig—here it is at last!

Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and New York University’s Remarque Institute allowed me precious time to write, and I am grateful for a subvention from NYU’s Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.

My closest family members, John, Will, and George, have responded to this project with a healthy mix of intellectual curiosity and happy distraction, for which I’m deeply grateful.

Having reached a moment in life when I’m acutely aware of my great good fortune in being born to loving, generous, and curious parents, I dedicate this book to Kenneth and Dorcas Lounsbery. No thanks could be sufficient for all they’ve given me.