AUTHOR’S NOTE

When I set out to write this book, I envisioned a project that embraced the best of academic research, journalistic reportage and personal memoir. While the practices and standards of the first two areas are relatively straightforward, my experience with the third area—the memoir—has been a bit more complicated. My approach has been especially charged with an impulse toward truth-telling, a desire to relay the facts to the best of my ability; but a few issues have continued to needle me. First, some instances of dialogue in the book, though based on interviews and memory, are recreations stemming from actual circumstances and events. Second, a few names have been changed, either to protect identities or because they were blurred by the onslaught of time. And finally, although I am mindful of the sanctity of quotation marks among journalists and scholars alike, I have, in an effort to provide a uniform, accessible reading experience, taken the liberty of using quotation marks in those instances of recreated dialogue or conversation. After all, according to William Zinsser in his classic *On Writing Well*, “To write good memoir you must become the editor of your own life, imposing on an untidy sprawl of half-remembered events a narrative shape and an organizing idea.” I hope the efforts I have made to make sense of my life do not distract from the journey on which I invite you to accompany me.
Coloured people have been a twilight people for too long, and too long others have said what we are supposed to be, where we come from and where we should be politically. Nobody asks us where we want to be.

PETER MARAIS
*Cape Town legislator*

We all live here now
in the twilight
where shadows and light bob and weave
twist and try to break each other’s necks.

MONGANE WALLY SEROTE
*South African poet*