I believe it was E. L. Doctorow who, responding to an interviewer’s ques-
tion on the logistics of writing something as long and intricate as a novel,
used the analogy of driving through dark country at night: your headlights
won’t let you see very far, but they will get you all the way there. Hav-
ing arrived at the end of a book, I like this analogy more and more. But
headlights by themselves are not enough; and I would not have made it
without the many navigators who rode with me, and watched my transit
from above.

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my sister-in-law Rachael, my sister Margaret, and my brother-in-law Dan
Engler go unsaid most of the time; but I hope they know how much they
have enriched my life, and how dear they are to me. Ben Seiler, my favorite
eight-year-old nephew, thinks he can take me to school on the basketball
court, but I assure the reader I have at least another year of supremacy.

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I ask all of my family and friends what Walt Whitman asked his ever-expanding crew of companions in Song of the Open Road: “will you come travel with me? Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?”

| acknowledgments |   x |