

Acknowledgments

A special thanks goes out to some good friends of mine who took the time to read this story when it was still in its early stages, and they've been so very kind to read other stories I have written in the past, as well. They offered me constructive criticism, editing advice, and encouragement, and I truly appreciate their support and thoughtfulness. Thank you to: my good friend, Carolyn Pompeo; my Aunt Betty (Sister Elizabeth Toohig); Sister Margaret Bickar; Ken and JoAnne DesLauriers; Joan Gerowitz; Mike and Janet Equi and their oldest daughter, Alexandra; Mrs. Kay Sheehan; "The Girls"—Clare Proctor, Marion Jakusiak, Ellie Hooten, and Jeannie Letizia; and for her valuable critiques, DeeDee Hughes. My apologies to anyone I did not mention here by name, who was also of assistance to me. I am full of gratitude to so many kind people. Thank you one and all.

I always felt that if this story ever got published, it would in part be due to my dear old friend, Mildred Letizia. Millie loved to read, and she enjoyed reading some of my earlier stories. I just know that she would have loved this one in particular, about the selling of Popsicles on Plum Island. It was something that we really did do as kids growing up there. Thanks for smiling down on me from heaven, Millie. . . Give Dad my love, and know that you are both missed.

And many, many heartfelt thanks to my wonderfully patient and articulate publisher, Jeremy Townsend, to my talented illustrator, Susan Spellman, to my thorough copy editor, Melissa Hayes and to my creative designer, Lauren Hawkins. Thank you one and all for not only turning my little story into this beautiful children's book, but for also fulfilling a lifelong dream of mine, which is to see one of my many stories professionally published.