

Dedication and Acknowledgements

Dedication: Throughout my life one person has always been there during those difficult and trying times. I would like to dedicate this thesis and everything I do to my mother Susan Green Hébert. In addition to her I have always been surrounded with strong supportive women. I would not be who I am today without the love and support of my grandmother Helen Purcell Green. Although our time together was brief, her contributions to my life will be felt forever.

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