Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I am grateful to my relatives in Órgiva and especially la Superprima, for all the leads and contacts that she supplied and a million other forms of inspiration and logistical support that she provided.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to my dear friend Karen Rignall, who served as the intellectual midwife for this book, reading an early draft and suggesting astute, elegant, and creative ways to reshape the project when I wasn’t sure how to make it viable. I thank Beth Bouloukos at Amherst College Press and the anonymous external readers, all of whom provided valuable critiques and suggestions. The organizers and other members of the Fieldwork in the Humanities Interdisciplinary Research Group at the University of Miami Center for the Humanities enriched this project greatly. The readings, speakers, and discussions organized by this group helped me refine my methodology. Of course, all shortcomings are my own responsibility.

At the University of Miami, Nada Naami was an excellent instructor of Moroccan Darija who patiently helped me to connect Darija to standard written Arabic and the other colloquial dialects that I speak. During that course and previously as the teaching assistant in the summer study abroad program that I led in Morocco, she taught me a great deal about Moroccan and North African culture. Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, my chair in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and the College of Arts and Sciences supported some of the in situ research and provided funds for a research assistant. I thank Aya Hamza, Lina Jardines del Cueto, and Zayer Baazaoui.
for help with gathering source materials. I thank my *primo granáinó* Mario for connecting me with Saad Ben Tahayekt Ben Tahaikt, who proved to be an amazing on-the-ground research assistant.

For the use of their maps, to which I added the location of Órgiva, I thank the Wikimedia Commons users Xufanc (Alpujarras-Location1) and NordNordWest (Spain location map).

For salvaging my low-quality photos and making them usable, as well as enhancing the dpi of the maps, I am very grateful to my cousin on the Cuban-Puerto Rican side, Ana Rodríguez-González.

My beloved family has tolerated my travel and long hours at the computer keyboard. But best of all, when they have been able to travel too, they have thoroughly enjoyed the Alpujarra with me! And my father-in-law, through cohabitation, has taught me a great deal about tolerance.

I thank all of my interlocutors in Órgiva for the time and viewpoints that they shared with me. It’s possible that some of them may feel that I misrepresented or inexplicably excluded a statement they made, or have done a disservice to the people and place about which I am writing. Please forgive any errors or inadvertent repercussions and know that, as Karen pointed out, this project has been a labor of love whose only intention is to empathically analyze and thus better understand Órgiva’s confluence of cultures and the much sought after respectful coexistence.