ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is hard to separate the 5th Edition from the 4th Edition when it comes to acknowledgments. The 4th Edition kept the bones of earlier editions but otherwise was a complete rewrite (twice!). Despite being 20 years old, C# 9 and 10 have changed the language in meaningful, exciting, and fundamental ways. Indeed, most random code you find on the Internet now looks like "old" C# code. These recent changes are somehow both tiny and game-changing. I don't have a great way to measure, but I've often guessed that the 5th Edition is 98% the same as the 4th Edition. I might have even called this edition 4.1 if that were that a thing books did. Yet that last 2%, primarily reflecting C# 10 changes and the fast-evolving language, was enough to feel a new edition was not only helpful but necessary.

I want to thank the hundreds of people who joined Early Access for 4th and 5th Editions and the readers who have joined the book's Discord server. The discussions I have had with you have changed this book for the better in a thousand different ways. With so many involved, I cannot thank everyone by name, though you all deserve it for your efforts. Having said that, UD Simon deserves special mention for providing me with a tsunami of suggestions and error reports week after week, rivaling the combined total of all other Early Access readers. The book is immeasurably better because of your collective efforts.

I also need to thank my family. My parents' confidence and encouragement to do my best have caused me to do things I could never have done without them.

Most of all, I want to thank my beautiful wife, who was there to lift my spirits when the weight of writing a book was unbearable, who read through my book and gave honest, thoughtful, and creative feedback and guidance. She has been patient with me as I've done five editions of this book over the years. Without her, this book would still be a random scattering of files buried in some obscure folder on my computer, collecting green silicon-based mold.

I owe all of you my sincerest gratitude.

-RB Whitaker