

★★★ PREFACE ★★★

The article is wrinkled and aging. The photograph of U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins in an Ottawa Senators jersey smudged and faded. I cut out the story in December 2005 when I was home in Winnipeg for the Christmas holidays. I had moved to Los Angeles a few months earlier so the picture of Wilkins in the *Winnipeg Free Press* with the headline “We’re slow and ‘stalking’ America, says TV pundit” caught my attention. MSNBC’s Tucker Carlson had just made his infamous “Canada is your retarded cousin” comment and the Canadian press was indignant at this latest verbal slight as well as some other equally provocative Canada-bashing remarks. As a journalist and now an incognito Canadian, I was intrigued. Why were American commentators taking aim at Canada? And how did this compare to what has been said by the American media in the past? So began the process of sifting through thousands of newspaper and magazine articles, trolling the Internet for anti-Canadian blog postings and keeping track of television comments. In essence, it is a project with no finite end.

I want to thank all those who contributed in even the smallest way to this book. To my family and friends who offered encouragement and passed along tidbits they heard or read in the news; to those who always picked up the phone when I called and helped me navigate writer’s block; to my husband Ryan who rallied behind me, providing steadfast support and suffering through more than his fair share of burned leftovers.

None of this would have been possible if not for Bryce Nelson. Thank you, Bryce for giving me freedom to write that first piece and urging me on by saying I could do better. My deepest regards and thanks as well to Patrick James who unknowingly picked up where Bryce left off. Your advice, enthusiasm, and confidence in this body of work have been truly appreciated.

Without the opportunities you gave me, the book would never have been written.

I'm also grateful to Janice Dickin for her early support of this project as well as Walter Hildebrandt, Erna Dominey, Brenda Hennig, Carol Woo, and Ruth Bradley-St-Cyr for their guidance and insights. To the anonymous assessors, I'm grateful for your frank criticisms and suggestions.

This book is a compilation of original news reports, and as such, some facts may be regarded as inaccurate in hindsight. Finally, while reading these pages may you, the reader, gain greater appreciation and understanding of the complexities that define the relationship between Canada and the United States.

Chantal Nikkel Allan

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