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The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel

THE
WARSAW
ANAGRAMS

A NOVEL

Richard Zimler

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For all the members The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel of the Zimler, Gutkind, Kalish and Rosencrantz families – my many granduncles, aunts and cousins – who perished in the ghettos and camps of Poland. And for Helena Zymler, who survived.

I am greatly indebted to Andreas Campomar and Cynthia Cannell for their unwavering support. I also want to thank The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel Nicole Witt, Anna Jarota and The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel Gloria Gutierrez for helping my books find homes in many different countries.

I am particularly grateful to Alexandre Quintanilha, Erika The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel Abrams and Isabel Silva for reading the manuscript of this novel and giving me their invaluable comments. Many thanks, as well, to Thane L. Weiss and Shlomo Greschem.

A number of excellent books about the Jewish ghettos of Poland helped me in my research. Prominent among them are *The Diary of Mary Berg* and Emmanuel Ringelblum's *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto*.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Erik Cohen's original text for *The Warsaw Anagrams* was written in Yiddish, though he occasionally made use of Polish, German and English words. We have maintained a few foreign terms and expressions in this edition, where we believe that they help evoke the flavour of the original or clarify meaning. A glossary is included at the end of the book.

Cohen's manuscript of *The Warsaw Anagrams* was discovered in 2008, under the floorboards of a small apartment in the Muranów district of Warsaw that had belonged to a survivor of the Jewish ghetto named Heniek Corben. According to neighbours, he had passed away in 1963 and left no The Warsaw Anagrams: A Novel descendants.

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