

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This book owes much to six scientists in different disciplines who helped me immeasurably by critically reviewing the manuscript at different stages of its production: Mark Giampapa, Joe Giacalone, Jack Gosling, Janet Kozyra, Terry Onsager and Chris St. Cyr, although any errors which remain in the final printed version are solely mine.

I am as much indebted to those in the Heliophysics Division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration who envisioned a need for a popularlevel description of the entire interconnected and ever-changing Sun-Earth System, and granted me the opportunity to write one: Dick Fisher and Lika Guhathakurta. I am obliged as well to Steele Hill for help in identifying images; and especially to Jennifer Rumburg, who worked closely with me on the initial conceptual identity of the book, its content, and with artistry and creativity, on all aspects of layout and production.

I am also grateful to the National Solar Observatory in Tucson and particularly to Priscilla Piano of the NSO administrative staff.

Most of all I thank my wife and my best friend, Barbara, for invaluable advice and counsel, daily encouragement and support, and patience without end.