

KNOW IT ALL

FINDING THE IMPOSSIBLE COUNTRY

A MEMOIR BY JAMES H. MARSH

Founding Editor in Chief of The Canadian Encyclopedia



In *Know It All: Finding the Impossible Country* James Marsh tells of his evolution from a troubled childhood to a long career in Canadian publishing that culminated in the creation of The Canadian Encyclopedia — what one reviewer called “the intellectual equivalent of the building of the CPR.” Through friendships, curiosity, the insights of a charismatic psychiatrist, his passion for books, and the intimate encounters with the authors he met, he championed a diverse and inclusive view of Canada, which was used to draw the great minds of an impossible nation together in a common national enterprise. While exploring how memory works and how we learn to think of ourselves, *Know It All* offers insights into the intricacies of Canadian identity, the profession of book editors, and is the most comprehensive first-hand story about the creation of The Canadian Encyclopedia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

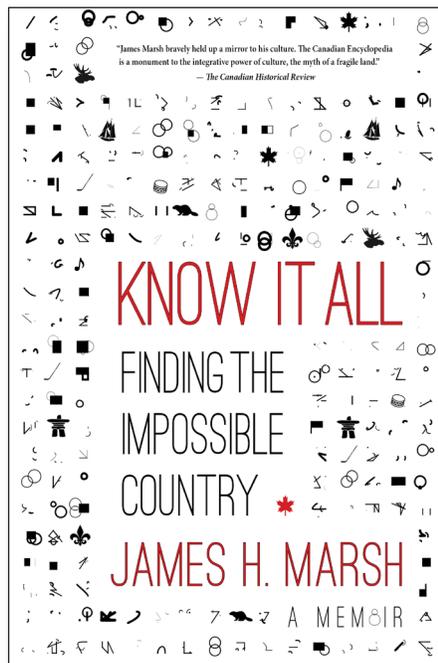


James H. Marsh grew up in the rough Toronto neighbourhood of the Junction, surviving a difficult childhood. He began his career in publishing at a summer job with Holt, Rinehart and Winston learning the business from copy editing to typesetting and printing. At HRW, he was the editor of a centennial history of

Canada called *Canada: Unity and Diversity*, later becoming the editor of the Carleton Library Series. His love of the book business led him into a prized job at The Canadian Encyclopedia, where he was editor in chief.



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