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Alex Volkov was born on 22 May, 1978 in Kiev, Soviet Union (present-day Ukraine). He received his secondary education in numerous schools, eventually graduating from Ukrainian Gymnasium, Kiev and joining National Taras Shevchenko University of Kiev in 1995. There he earned BSc (1998) and MSc (2000) degrees in Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry and produced a graduation thesis *Copper complexes with polydentate aliphatic amines immobilized on silica surface* under the supervision of Prof. Dr. V. N. Zaitsev.

Alex continued his education at Leiden University, the Netherlands, during which period he discovered a fascinating world of biochemistry and became particularly interested in protein chemistry and biomolecular NMR. In 2001 he received the MSc degree at Leiden University and produced a thesis *Investigation of the cytochrome c : cytochrome c peroxidase complex by site-directed spin-labelling* under the supervision of Dr. J. A. R. Worrall and Dr. M. Ubbink.

From 2001 till 2006 Alex pursued his PhD studies in MetProt group of Prof. Dr. G. W. Canters under the supervision of Dr. M. Ubbink (Leiden University) and performed research, the results of which are presented in this book. Currently, he has a short-term post-doctoral position with Dr. M. Ubbink (Leiden University).

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