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Foreword	In the spring of 1999 I was working at my old job at the Centre de physique optique et horlogerie in Paris. I had just returned from a conference in Japan where I presented a paper on the unexpected properties of nanodiamonds. I was interested in photoluminescence and thermal spectroscopies, as I had been trying to realize the mirrors I had designed me about two years earlier. I attended a meeting at the University of Tokyo – who used a thermal detector based on the absorption of molecules by a laser beam focused even down to a single molecule. I was very impressed by the potential of detecting single molecules with a thermal detector. A few weeks later, I attended a meeting in Kyoto where I presented my work on nanodiamonds to a young colleague from Nagoya University – who used a thermal detector based on the absorption of molecules by a laser beam focused even down to a single molecule. I was very impressed by the potential of detecting single molecules with a thermal detector.	ix
Preface	Claude Boccara from E. S. P. C. I. (École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris) in Paris. I had been interested in photoluminescence and thermal spectroscopies, as I had been trying to realize the mirrors I had designed me about two years earlier. I attended a meeting at the University of Tokyo – who used a thermal detector based on the absorption of molecules by a laser beam focused even down to a single molecule. I was very impressed by the potential of detecting single molecules with a thermal detector.	xiii
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