Epigraph

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The emotions were not at issue here—each had its essence, but feeling was something else again: a process plainly metaphysical, with its own grammar. What grammar was this? All the more urgent, then, was it for me to know, in this age of sexual warfare, my heart, make it my meditation, and be forever creating some meaning for what it meant to be male, though with what real satisfaction, and with how much resemblance to the promise of my gender, I did not know.

—CHARLES JOHNSON, *Oxherding Tale*