**Stuff you have to know**

in this book

I will use the word him instead of him/her

and the word he instead of he/she

this is not sexism

him/her rarely sounds good from a poetic point of view

and I being a male

have a right to use a male form when the gender is ambiguous

I would fully expect

that a female writer would use the feminine in this case

in this book

I will speak in many different voices

there will be major changes of tone from page to page

this is deliberate

as Picasso said

“Down with style”

actually I’m not positive he said that but it sounds cool

I assure you that all of these are my own voices

but that I am perfectly normal in other ways

in this book

I will include some notes on various poems

many poets would disagree with this

the notes will be found at the end of the book

in many cases, the notes will be about the poems

in many cases, they will be silly

I do this because I like notes

when I was a kid, records still came with liner notes

I loved them

that’s all there is to it

in this book

you will leave traces of your DNA

later I will be able to prove that you read it