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**A WIDOW
FOR
ONE YEAR**

A Novel

John Irving



RANDOM HOUSE
NEW YORK

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For Janet,

a love story

“ . . . as for this little lady,
the best thing I can wish her is
a little misfortune. ”

—WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

Acknowledgments

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An oddity worth mentioning: the chapter called “The Red and Blue Air Mattress” was previously published—in slightly different form, and in German—in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, July 27, 1994, under the title “Die blaurote Luftmatratze.”

— J.I.

I

SUMMER

1958