

# Autobiography in Five Short Chapters

by Portia Nelson

## Chapter I

I walk down the street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I fall in.  
I am lost ... I am helpless.  
It isn't my fault.  
It takes me forever to find a way out.

## Chapter II

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I pretend I don't see it.  
I fall in again.  
I can't believe I am in the same place.  
But it isn't my fault.  
It still takes a long time to get out.

## Chapter III

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I see it is there.  
I still fall in ... it's a habit.  
My eyes are open.  
I know where I am.  
It is *my* fault.  
I get out immediately.

## Chapter IV

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I walk around it.

## Chapter V

I walk down another street.