

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 a very long time 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 this same place.
 But it isn't my fault.
It takes me 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...
 But 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.