

## Autobiography in Five Short Chapters

by Portia Nelson

1.

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

2.

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'm in the same place.  
But it isn't my fault.  
It still takes a long time to get out.

3.

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.

4.

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

5.

I walk down another street.