

# Autobiography in Five Short Chapters

by Portia Nelson

## 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 forever to find a way out.

## 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.

## 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.

## IV

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

## V

I walk down another street.