

Autobiography in 5 short chapters

by Portia Nelson; from "There's a Hole in my Sidewalk," 1977



chapter 1

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 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 am in the same place.

But, it isn't my fault.

It still takes a long time to get out.

chapter 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 . . . but,
my eyes are open.

I know where I am.

It is *my* fault.

I get out immediately.

chapter 4

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I walk around it.

chapter 5

I walk down another street.