Autobiography in Five Short Chapters

By Portia Nelson

Act I

I walk down the street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I fall in, I am helpless. It isn’t my fault.

It takes forever to find a way out.

Act II

I walk down the street.

There is deep hole in the sidewalk.

I pretend that 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.

Act III

I walk down the street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I see it is there. I still fall. It’s a habit.

My eyes are open. I know where I am.

It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Act IV

I walk down the street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I walk around it.

Act V

I walk down another street.