

# "I Could Tell You Stories": Writing the Memoir

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Dates: Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> & Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> (Showers Building, Room 245)

## Recommended Reading List

- \* Judith Barrington, *Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art*
- \* Louise DeSalvo, *Writing as a Way of Healing*
- \* Patricia Hampl, *I Could Tell You Stories: Sojourns in the Land of Memory*

## Childhood & Coming of Age

- \* James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
- \* Jo Ann Beard, *The Boys of My Youth*
- \* Jerome Charyn, *The Dark Lady of Belorusse*
- \* Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood*
- \* Frank Conroy, *Stop-Time*
- \* Faith Edise, Nina Sichel, Eds. *Unrooted Childhoods: Memoirs of Growing Up Global*
- \* James Ellroy, *My Dark Places*
- \* Patricia Hampl, *A Romantic Education*
- \* Tony Hendra, *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Life*
- \* June Jordan, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*
- \* Lisa Knopp, *Flight Dreams: A Life in the Midwestern Landscape*
- \* Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*
- \* Mary McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*
- \* Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*
- \* Paul Monette, *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*
- \* Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak Memory*
- \* Alberto Rios, *Capirotadas: A Nogales Memoir*
- \* Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*
- \* Lynne Sharon Schwartz, *Ruined by Reading: A Life in Books*
- \* Kate Simon, *Bronx Primitive*
- \* Ilan Stevens, *On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language*
- \* Tobias Wolff, *This Boy's Life*
- \* Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

## Family & Relationships

- \* Max Apple, *Roommates: My Grandfather's Story; I Love Gootie: My Grandmother's Story*
- \* Peter Balakian, *Black Dog of Fate*
- \* Jane Bernstein, *Loving Rachel*
- \* Mary Clearman Blew, *All But the Waltz: Five Generations in the Life of a Montana Family*
- \* Francine Cournos, *City of One*
- \* John Daniel, *Looking After: A Son's Memoir*
- \* Patty Dann, *The Baby Boat: A Memoir of Adoption*
- \* Nora Eisenberg, *The War at Home*
- \* Kathleen Finneran, *The Tender Land*
- \* Patricia Foster, *All the Lost Girls: Confessions of a Southern Daughter*
- \* Dorothy Gallagher, *How I Came into My Inheritance*
- \* Gail Hosking Gilberg, *Snake's Daughter: The Roads in and Out of War*
- \* Vivian Gornick, *Fierce Attachments*
- \* Adam Hochschild, *Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son*
- \* Susan Jacoby, *Half-Jew*
- \* Bret Lott, *Fathers, Sons, Brothers*
- \* Rebecca McClanahan, *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings*
- \* Valerie Miner, *The Low Road: A Scottish Family Memoir*
- \* Ann Patchett, *Truth and Beauty*
- \* Molly Peacock, *Paradise, Piece by Piece*
- \* Sue William Silverman, *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*
- \* Abigail Thomas, *Safekeeping: Some True Stories from a Life*
- \* Jim Toner, *Serendib*
- \* Bruce Weigl, *The Circle of Hanh*
- \* John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers*

## Illness, Accident, Grief

- \* A. Manette Ansay, *Limbo: A Memoir*
- \* Harold Brodkey, *This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death*
- \* Anatole Broyard, *Intoxicated by My Illness*
- \* Andre Dubus, *Broken Vessels, Meditations from a Moving Chair*
- \* Hope Edelman, *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*
- \* Kenny Fries, *Body, Remember*
- \* Temple Grandin, *Thinking in Pictures*
- \* Lucy Grealy, *Autobiography of a Face*
- \* Evan Handler, *My Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors*
- \* Ann Hood, *Do Not Go Gentle: The Search for Miracles in a Cynical Time*
- \* Roger Kamenetz, *Terre Infirma*
- \* Jamaica Kincaid, *My Brother*

- \* Kay Jamison, *An Unquiet Mind*
- \* Natalie Kusz, *Road Song*
- \* Mindy Lewis, *Life Inside*
- \* Audre Lorde, *The Cancer Journals*
- \* Nancy Mairs, *Carnal Acts; Waist-High in the World: A Life Among the Nondisabled*
- \* Christopher Noel, *In the Unlikely Event of a Water Landing: A Geography of Grief*
- \* Reynolds Price, *A Whole New Life*
- \* William Styron, *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness*

## Personal Essay

- \* Jill Bialofsky and Helen Schulman (eds.), *Wanting a Child*
- \* Janet Burroway, *Embalming Mom: Essays in Life*
- \* Toi Dericotte, *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*
- \* *The Eloquent Essay: An Anthology of Classic & Creative Nonfiction*
- \* M.F.K. Fisher, *Among Friends*
- \* Ian Frazier, *On the Rez*
- \* Kenny Fries (ed.), *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out*
- \* Vivian Gornick, *Approaching Eye Level*
- \* Steve Harvey, *Bound for Shady Grove*
- \* Phillip Lopate, *Against Joie de Vivre; Portrait of My Body*
- \* Molly Peacock (ed.), *The Private I* (on privacy)
- \* Scott Russel Sanders, *Secrets of the Universe and Staying Put*
- \* Mimi Schwartz, *Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed*
- \* David Shields, *Remove: Reflections on Life in the Shadow of Celebrity*
- \* Gerald Stern, *What I Can't Bear Losing*
- \* E. B. White, *One Man's Meat*
- \* Virginia Woolf, *Moments of Being; The Death of the Moth and Other Essays*

## Occupational Memoirs

- \* Sylvia Ashton-Warner, *Teacher*
- \* Ted Conover, *Newjack: Guarding Sing-Sing*
- \* Gail Griffin, *Calling: Essays on Teaching in the Mother Tongue*
- \* Ben Hamper, *Rivethead*
- \* Thomas Lynch, *The Undertaking*
- \* Louise Rafkin, *Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Curious Adventures*
- \* Oliver Sacks, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*
- \* Richard Seltzer, *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery; Confessions of a Knife*
- \* Frank Vertosick, *Why We Hurt; The Natural History of Pain*

## More Books on Writing

- \* Robert Atwan, ed., *The Best American Essays* (published annually)
- \* Carol Bly, *Beyond the Writers' Workshop: New Ways to Explore Creative Nonfiction*
- \* Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Woman in Front of the Sun: On Becoming a Writer*
- \* Scott Edelstein, *The Indispensable Writer's Guide*
- \* Bonnie Friedman, *Writing Past Dark*
- \* Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*
- \* Vivian Gornick, *The Situation and the Story*
- \* Robin Hemley, *Turning Life into Fiction*
- \* Ralph Keyes, *The Courage to Write*
- \* Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*
- \* Betsy Lerner, *The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*
- \* Phillip Lopate, ed., *The Art of the Personal Essay*
- \* Rebecca McClanahan, *Write Your Heart Out*
- \* Bill Roorbach, *Writing Life Stories: How to Make Memories into Memoirs*
- \* William Zinsser, ed., *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*

## Literary Journals for Nonfiction

- \* *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction*  
(msupress.msu.edu/FourthGenre)
- \* *Creative Nonfiction* (www.creativenonfiction.org)
- \* *Tiny Lights: A Journal of Personal Essay* (www.tiny-lights.com)

## Web Sites for Writers

- \* *Poets & Writers* (www.pw.org)
- \* The Associated Writing Programs (www.awpwriter.org)

## Getting Published

- \* *Writers Market* (www.writersmarket.com)
- \* *Literary Market Place* (www.literarymarketplace.com)
- \* *Literary Agents: A Writer's Introduction*, John F. Baker
- \* Dustbooks (P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95967), publishes *The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses*