

PREFACE TO VOLUME 3

This book is meant to share stories that are both moving and diverting with you the reader. It is also meant as a guide and inspiration if you are interested in writing your own memoirs. There are many examples of stand-alone tales and tools — in this case, writing prompts — to get you started. Once in the swing, you can choose to write a whole book of short pieces, enriched by photographs or other visuals, or elect to write a book that flows in an organic story line.

While some of our authors had been writing memoir snippets for years, or had a background writing in other forms, most had questions about how to structure a memoir. Others had never written. If any of these categories describes you, I hope you'll read on for some ideas. You might also want to check *How to Write Your Memoirs...Fun Prompts to Make Writing...and Reading...Your Life Stories a Pleasure!* for more thoughts on structure, and more life story prompts, and *Stories From The Heart, Volume 2* for more examples of memoir styles. (See the last pages of this book for info on where to find the books, or classes.)

In all our books you'll find life stories mixed in with flights of fancy. Why so much fiction for memoir writers? Fiction is fun to write, and fun to read. And having fun opens you up to be more creative, and enhances storytelling abilities. Does this mean that it is OK to put fiction into a memoir? Well, that depends. If you're aiming at an accurate account of your life, no. But if you want to create a fictionalized version, sure!

So, enjoy the read, and on the writing, set up regular times for yourself and just do it! You'll be glad once you begin. If only because the family gets off your back...

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