Power of Personal Stories



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https://www.852press.com.au/power-of-personal-stories

Power of Personal Stories

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03 Navigating Memory Gaps

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05 Your Memoir Story Arc

06 Cast of Characters

07 Ethical Reflections

08 Journalling

09 Developing Your Project



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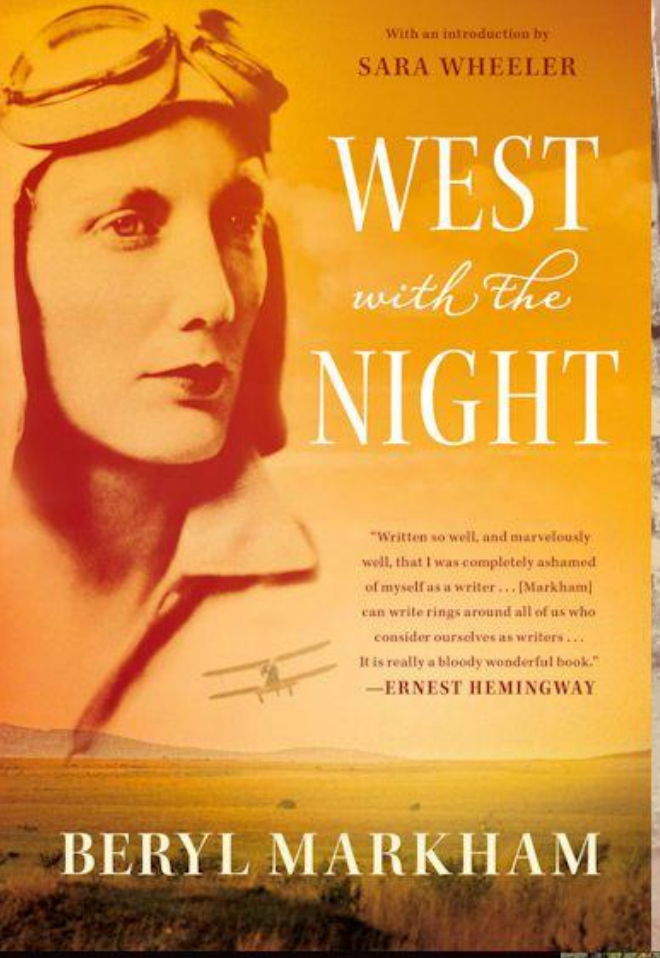
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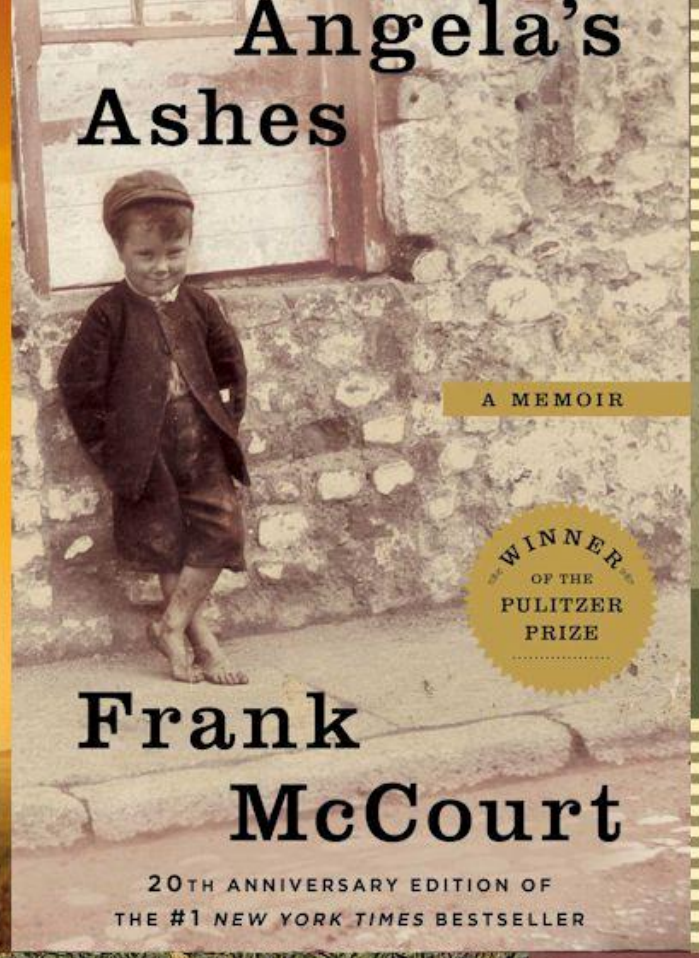
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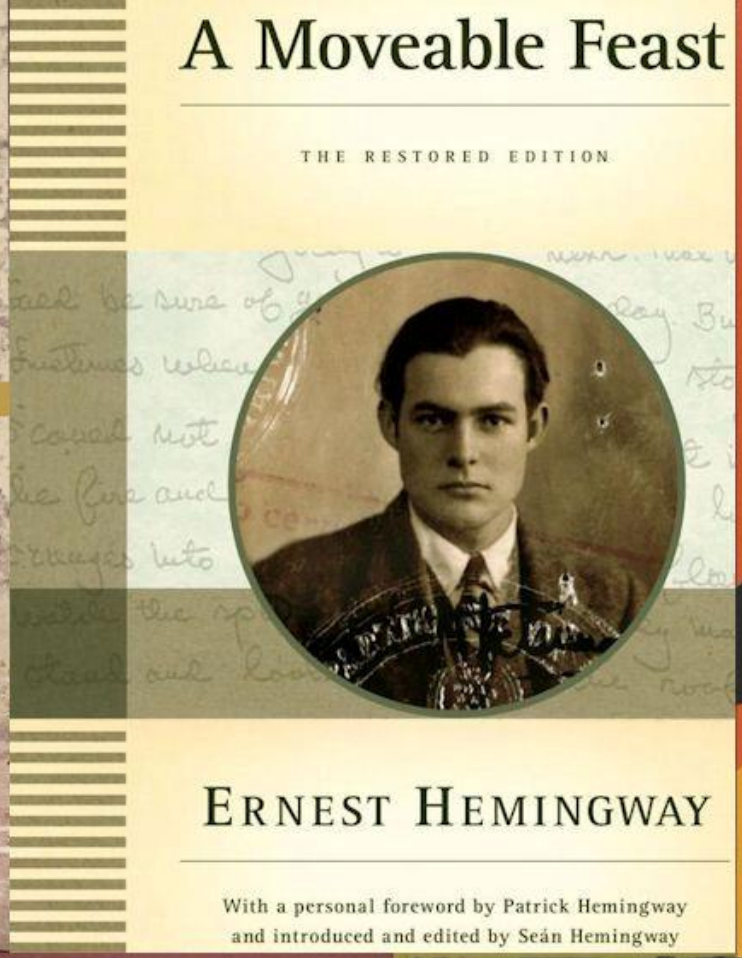
POWER OF PERSONAL STORIES

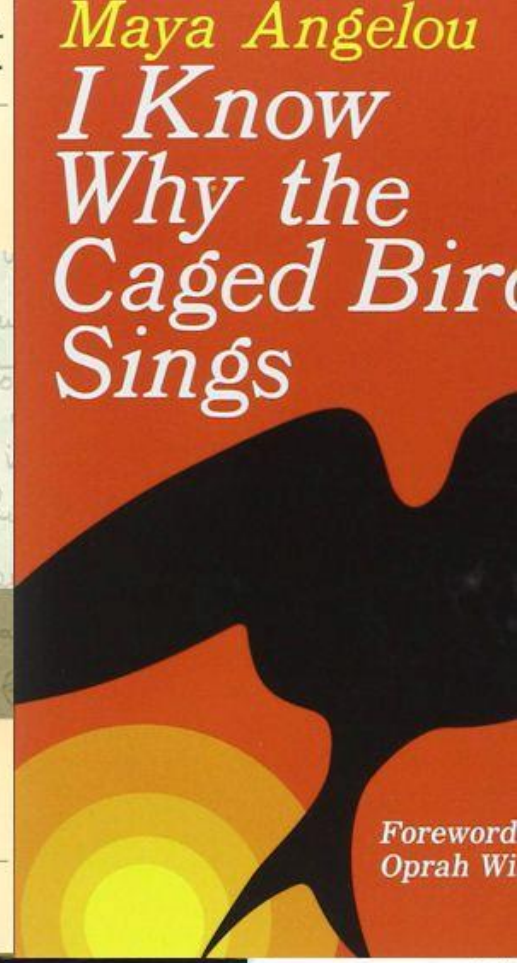
Mapping your memoir project and navigating challenges.

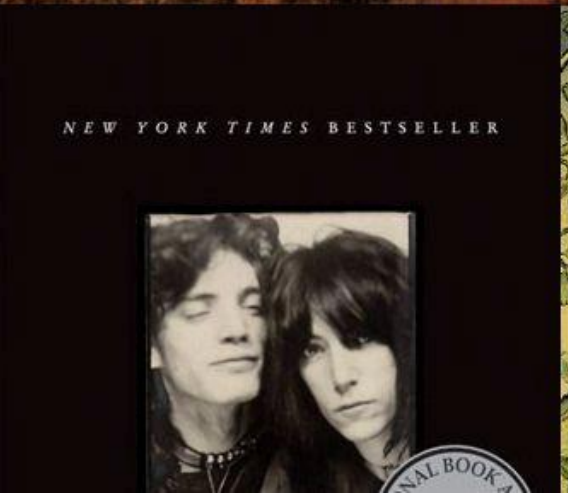
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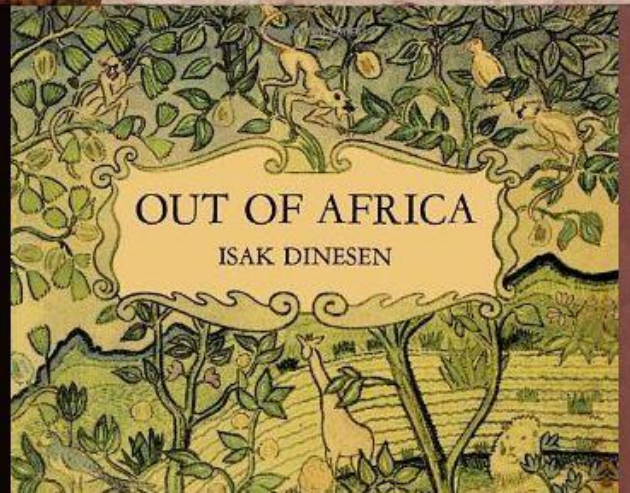

With an introduction by
SARA WHEELER
WEST with the NIGHT
"Written so well, and marvelously well, that I was completely ashamed of myself as a writer . . . [Markham] can write rings around all of us who consider ourselves as writers . . . It is really a bloody wonderful book."
—ERNEST HEMINGWAY
BERYL MARKHAM

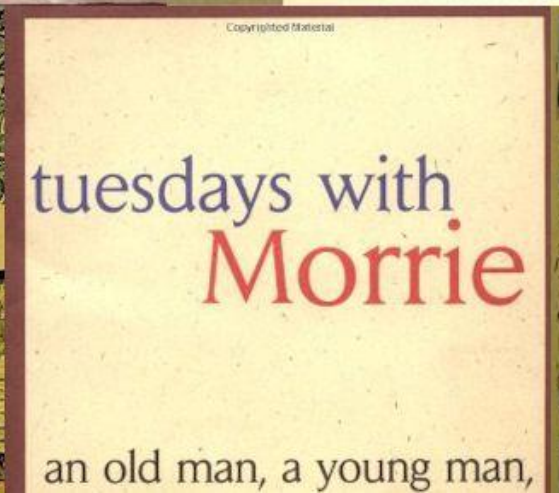

Angela's Ashes
A MEMOIR
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE
Frank McCourt
20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

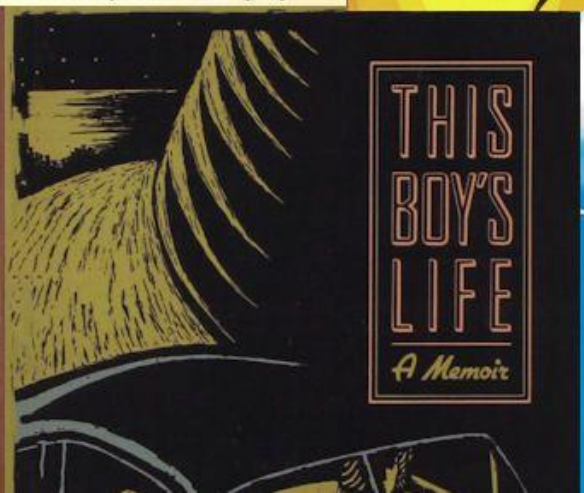

A Moveable Feast
THE RESTORED EDITION
ERNEST HEMINGWAY
With a personal foreword by Patrick Hemingway and introduced and edited by Seán Hemingway


Maya Angelou
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER


OUT OF AFRICA
ISAK DINESEN


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tuesdays with Morrie
an old man, a young man,


THIS BOY'S LIFE
A Memoir


THUNDE

Where to Start?
Mapping your Memoir Project

Why do you want to write the story?
Who is it for?

Where does your story start?

Where and when did it happen?

Why do you want to start here?

Reflect on the significance of this starting point. What makes it compelling? Why is it the most fitting place to start?

What is known about the story?
What is unknown or forgotten?




#1
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#8
#12
EXHIBIT #6
#3
#10
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Alan Millen disappears
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EXHIBIT 2
#7
EXHIBIT 13

Mind The Gap

In your memoir project, what is known?

What evidence and facts do you have available to you?

What is unknown?

Do the gaps need to be filled? Are they critical to the story?

How can I fill the gaps, so the story remains authentic?



Research Techniques

Collect Evidence

- *Primary sources* created at the time (newspapers, official documents)
- *Secondary sources* being those created after that time (websites, books).

Assess & Use It

- *Reliability:* Is the information from credible sources?
- *Validity:* Is it accurate evidence?



Research Techniques

Citing & Permissions

Cite or reference sources to acknowledge where your information comes from. Include a reference list.

Seek permission from interviewees to acknowledge their contributions.

Research Tools

- Museums, libraries & online archives
- Historical societies
- Public records or Freedom of Information
- Genealogy websites ($$)
- Perplexity AI





Effective Storytelling

- Show, Don’t Tell
- Use Dialogue
- Build Tension
- Emotion and Vulnerability
- Use Imagery
- Symbolism




BREAK
TIME !!

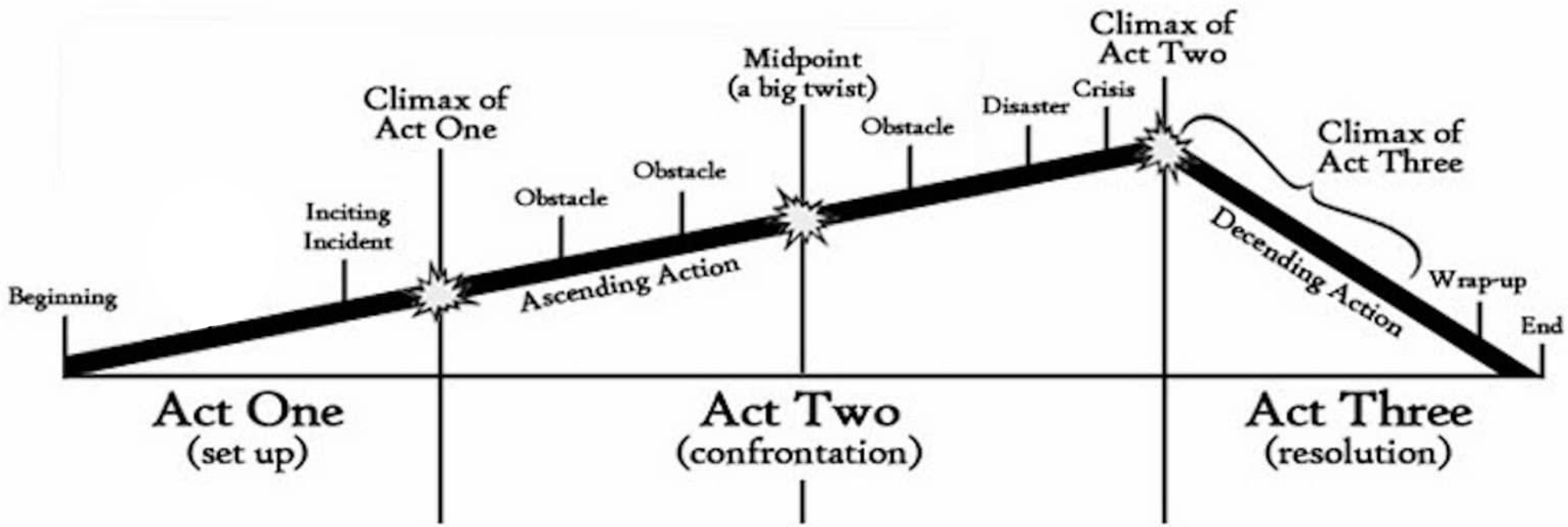
Three Act Structure

A great story has a:

1. **Beginning** (*the setup and inciting incident*)
2. **Middle** (*rising action, midpoint, and escalation of conflict*)
3. **End** (*climax, falling action and closure*)



Three-Act Structure



Characters

Hero (*Protagonist*): Who drives your story?

Nemesis or influence character (*Antagonist*): What opposes them?

Supporting Roles: Sidekicks, mentors, or love interests?

Non-human characters: Like an illness, a hometown, or a pivotal goal?




PRINCE HARRY
SPARE


SPARE
US
A HARRODY

Writing About People

Is it true?

Will it harm?

Is it fair? Does it reveal past injustices or create potential future problems?

Perceived as a betrayal?

Break any laws or rules?

Are you prepared to accept the consequences?



Writing About People

- Understand and address with other people's apprehension.
- Seek permission to share other people's stories.
- Change names and places.
- Use nicknames or titles (for example, *The Doctor*)
- Combine people into one character.



Overcoming Blocks



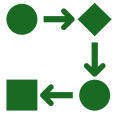
Fear of the Future

Worry of not getting it ‘right’ or what others might think. Write for yourself first, focusing on the therapeutic and fulfilling aspects of writing.



No Plan Paralysis

Overcome feelings of overwhelm, mess, and uncertainty by creating a plan for your story and establish small routines.



Routine

Find that ‘writer’s time’ of day. Set a routine and start with small goals and change your environment for inspiration.



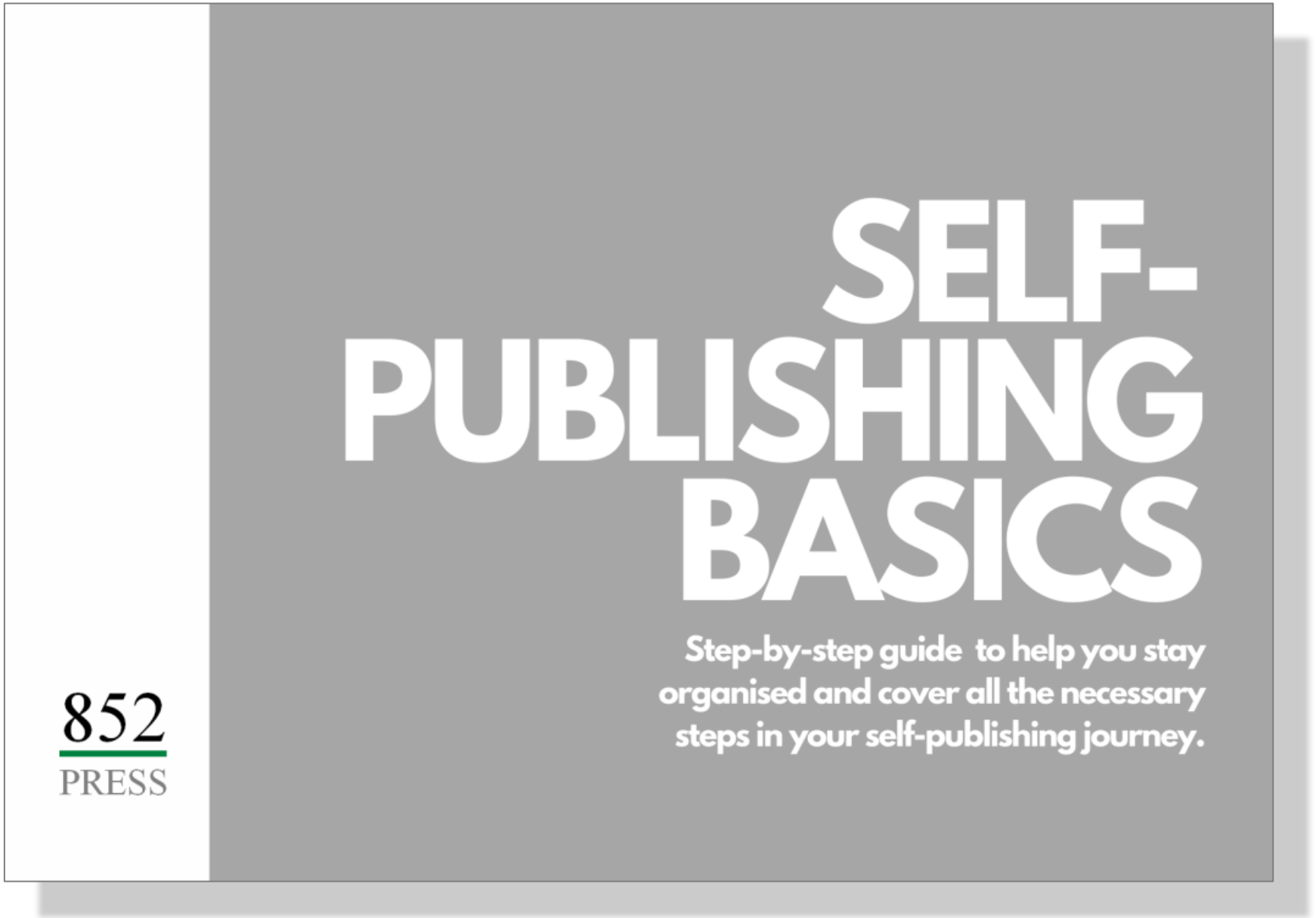
Self-Care

Writing can drain or even trigger. Set boundaries on how long you'll write each session and engage in other activities to refresh and recharge.



It’s just feedback

Sharing drafts with trusted friends or writing groups can provide support and encouragement, but it is also feedback that you don’t have to accept.



www.852press.com.au/creative-memoir-programme
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Pathways

- **Traditional Publishing:** Publisher handles production, distribution, and promotion. Authors receive royalties (and possibly an advance).
- **Hybrid Publishing:** Authors share costs and responsibilities with a publisher.
- **Self-Publishing:** Authors have complete control over production, distribution, and profit.

  IngramSpark (www.ingramspark.com)

  Amazon (https://kdp.amazon.com)



Formats

- **On-Demand printing** hardcover and paperbacks
  - Amazon for public sales
  - IngramSpark for private printing, public sales & global distribution
- **eBooks** (digital copies)
- **Audiobooks** (Google Play Books for auto-narrated audiobooks)



Preparing Your Manuscript

8	Expect to complete **eight drafts**. This is the fine-tuning process making your manuscript the best it can be. Includes writing, editing, developing title and logline, cover and internals.
5	Gather and reflect on at least five different **Beta Readers** (trusted friends and family) or a **formal assessment** (from a writing association or professionals).
2	Involve at least **two experts**, with one being an **editor** and the other a **subject matter expert** to ensure your story is accurate or plausible.

If not now, when?



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