

Bibliography for Memoir Writers

Memoir Referenced in Melissa's Class on Memoir Writing

Bechdel, Alison. [*Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*](#)

Castillo, Marcelo Hernandez. [*Children of the Land*](#).

Cook, Langdon. [*Fat of the Land: Tales of a 21st Century Forager*](#)

Goldberg, Natalie. [*Long Quiet Highway: Waking Up in America*](#)

Hart, Melissa. ["Reflections on My Grandmother's Costume Shop while Anxiously Making Masks"](#)

Jacobs, A.J. [*My Year of Living Biblically*](#) (link is to his Ted Talk)

Lamott, Anne. ["A Day at the Beach with My 'Aunties'"](#)

Lang, Maya Shanbhag. [*What We Carry*](#)

Painter, Nell. [*Old in Art School*](#)

Strayed, Cheryl. [*Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*](#)

Witty, Michael. [*The Cooking Gene: A Journey through African-American Culinary History in the Old South*](#)

Bibliography (cont.)

On the craft of memoir writing, in particular. . .

Brooks, Regina. *You Should Really Write a Book: How to Write, Sell & Market Your Memoir.*

Goldberg, Natalie. *Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir*

Gutkind, Lee. *Keep it Real: Everything You Need to Know about Writing and Researching Creative Nonfiction.*

Silverman, Sue William. *Fearless Confessions: A Writer's Guide to Memoir*

On the craft of writing, in general . . .

Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within.*

King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of Craft.*

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life.*

Larsen, Michael. *How to Write a Book Proposal.*

McNally, John. *The Creative Writer's Survival Guide.*

Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors, and Literary Agents

www.agentquery.com

A Questionnaire for Memoir Writers

After you've finished a rough draft, ask yourself . . .

- What is my truth? What are my emotions about this truth?
- What does the narrator learn from this experience?
- By the end of this memoir, what will the reader understand?
- Where am I telling instead of showing, and how can I revise for more vivid imagery?
- What's surprising about this memoir, and what can be more surprising?
- Where can I use further sensory images?
- What patterns get repeated throughout this memoir?
- What is my setting—location, time, emotion?
- What's at stake for my narrator and other characters?
- Does tension exist between the younger me with limited perspective and the older and wiser me in reflection?

Consider coming up with your own list of questions, as well, based on your particular challenges as a memoir writer:

1.

2.

3.

A Very Partial List of Magazines that Publish Short Memoir

- *Salon.com*
- *Narratively*
- *The Sun Magazine*
- *Real Simple*
- *Hemispheres*
- *World Hum*
- *The Bark*
- *Woman's Day*
- *Refinery29*
- *Horizon Air Magazine*
- *O, the Oprah Magazine*
- *Catapult*
- *Teaching Tolerance*
- *Field & Stream*
- *The Bustle*
- *Literary Mama*
- *The New York Times "Modern Love"*
- *Your university's alumni magazine*
- *Narratively*
- *AARP's "The Girlfriend"*
- *The Establishment*
- *The Writer*
- *Writer's Digest*
- *The Chicago Tribune*
- *Medium*
- *Lilith*
- **Creative Nonfiction*
- **The Rumpus*
- **Reads and Eats*
- **Esquire*
- **The Advocate*
- **The Washington Post*
- **Animal Wellness*
- **Family Circle*
- **Dame*
- **Christina Science Monitor*
- **Motherwell*
- **Orion*
- **Tin House*
- **Brevity*
- **Zyzzyyva*
- **Afar*
- **Colorlines*
- **Ravishly*
- **Blackbird Journal*
- **The Normal School*
- **Tahoma Review*
- **Hippocampus*
- **The Los Angeles Times*
- **River Teeth*
- **Huffington Post Personal*
- **Vox's "First Person"*

