AFFILIATE-EXCLUSIVE BONUS #10

7 Common Mistakes to Avoid

When Writing a Memoir

A few small habits derail more memoirs than any lack of talent or material. Here's what to watch for.

1. **Waiting for the "right time" to start**
   There isn't one. The right time is whenever you actually begin -- waiting only risks losing detail to memory.

2. **Trying to write it in perfect order**
   You don't have to start at the beginning. Write whichever moment feels most alive to you right now.

3. **Over-editing before you've finished a first pass**
   Get the whole story down before worrying about polish. A messy complete draft beats a polished unfinished one.

4. **Writing for an imagined critic instead of your family**
   The people who matter most already love you. Write for them, not for an imagined harsh reader.

5. **Leaving out the hard parts entirely**
   You don't have to go into detail, but skipping the hard chapters completely often leaves the story feeling incomplete.

6. **Trying to sound like "a writer"**
   Formal, stiff language usually reads worse than your own natural voice. Write the way you actually talk.

7. **Doing it entirely alone when you don't have to**
   Whether it's a family member interviewing you or an AI co-author asking the questions, you don't have to face a blank page by yourself.