

Writing Out Loud:
*What a Blind Teacher Learned from Leading
a Memoir Class for Seniors*

Beth Finke

Book description (58 words)

In 2004, blind writer Beth Finke reluctantly agrees to teach a memoir-writing class to older adults in downtown Chicago. Over the next decade, she comes to love her students and the community that forms around her courses. Filled with humor, poignancy, and stories in the students' own voices, this book will move and inspire readers of any age.

Book description – back cover (145 words)

You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll write.

She's never taught a class in her life. But when the City of Chicago calls on blind writer Beth Finke to teach a memoir-writing class for older adults, she reluctantly agrees. What she learns about her students, their stories, and herself will move and inspire you.

Written the way Beth hears life, you will come to know and love Minerva, Wanda, Hannelore, and the whole colorful cast of characters who build a community around Beth's classes.

Generously sprinkled with excerpts in her students' own voices, Beth's book will convince you to get your own stories down on paper while there's still time.

"Honest, lyrical, and funny ... a beautifully-felt and deeply moving tribute to the ways sharing life stories can connect us with others, and sometimes, with ourselves."

— Miriam E. Nelson, Ph.D., bestselling author of *Strong Women Stay Young*

Book description – long (229 words)

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Writing Out Loud includes senior writers' first-person accounts of a railroad trip to Mississippi in the "Jim Crow" car, a mother-in-law hiding from the Nazis in a Viennese wood, gang mischief in 1940s Chicago, along with Beth's own adventures getting around the city with her Seeing Eye dog.

If you've ever felt frightened by what life asks of you, if you've ever had to find your way in the dark, if you are over the age of 60 or love someone who is, this book is for you.

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