

Digital Memoir Platform — Concept, Vision, and Scope

This document defines the complete conceptual foundation for a self-serve digital storytelling platform designed to produce high-quality, print-ready hardcover books. It is intended to be used as authoritative source material for downstream scope generation, technical planning, and agent-driven file creation.

1. Product Vision

The platform exists to transform fragmented personal memories into cohesive, readable narratives that feel intentionally authored rather than transcribed. The end product is a professionally structured book, not a journal export or a collection of dictated responses. Narrative quality, emotional coherence, and print readiness are treated as first-class requirements.

The hardcover book is the primary artifact. The digital experience exists solely to enable the creation of that artifact. Any feature or workflow that does not contribute directly to narrative quality or print outcome is considered out of scope.

2. Supported Book Types

The platform supports two distinct book products that share infrastructure but differ in narrative rules and collaboration models.

Individual Memoir ("My Story") is authored in a single first-person voice. One narrator owns the narrative. Family members may contribute feedback, factual corrections, and optional letters, but they do not directly alter core prose unless explicitly approved.

Family Memoir ("Our Story") is a multi-narrator book with a shared timeline. Voices are never merged. Each contributor maintains an independent perspective that is clearly labeled in the final manuscript. Conflicting memories are preserved as perspective differences rather than resolved automatically.

3. Narrative Construction Model

The system does not generate books directly from prompts. Instead, it assembles chapters from validated narrative components. Each chapter follows a consistent structure: scene-setting, specific narrative moments, reflection from hindsight, and optional lessons or values.

Chapter generation is blocked if insufficient material exists. This ensures that every chapter meets a minimum narrative depth and avoids thin or repetitive output.

4. Input Philosophy

Inputs are captured as short, specific memory fragments rather than long essays. The system favors micro-narratives anchored in sensory detail, emotion, and context. Supported inputs include short text, voice dictation, photos with contextual prompts, and approximate dates or life stages.

Each input is internally tagged by life stage, theme, emotional tone, key people, and timeline confidence. These tags drive narrative assembly and are not exposed directly to the user.

5. Voice and Style Preservation

Each narrator completes a voice calibration phase consisting of a short unprompted writing sample and a free-form voice recording. These samples are used to constrain sentence length, formality, emotional expression, and humor throughout the manuscript.

The system adapts prose to the narrator's voice. The narrator is never expected to adapt to the system. Consistency of voice across chapters is enforced automatically.

6. Family Collaboration Model

Family collaboration rules differ by book type. In individual memoirs, collaboration is contextual and advisory. In family memoirs, each contributor has independent prompts, voice calibration, and approval rights over their sections.

Narrative conflicts are flagged but not automatically resolved. Perspective differences are treated as valuable narrative elements rather than errors.

7. Automated Quality Gates

Before a manuscript can be approved for print, it must pass automated quality checks including repetition detection, timeline coherence, chapter length validation, emotional balance analysis, and filler language removal.

If quality checks fail, the system requests additional input rather than generating low-quality prose. The platform never knowingly produces a weak book.

8. Print-First Constraints

All manuscripts are designed explicitly for physical print. Constraints include target page counts, chapter limits, photo placement rules, trim size awareness, and compatibility with professional print workflows. A manuscript that cannot be printed cleanly is considered incomplete.