

Photobook Memoirs

Classic

The Contemporary Portrait – A Guide to the Process

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in creating a Classic Photobook Memoir. This guide explains how the process works, from our first conversation and interview through to the photography, design and delivery of your finished books.

The Classic is a contemporary photographic portrait enriched by memories and stories from the past. Through a relaxed interview, documentary-style photography and careful editing, I create a visually led book in which the photographs take centre stage and your words add depth and context.

What's Included

- One 2-hour interview to gather stories and memories
- One 1-hour documentary-style photo shoot in your home environment
- Selection and editing of quotes and anecdotes
- Selection and editing of photos from our photo shoot
- Visual sequencing and book design
- Professional proofreading before printing
- Up to 40 pages (20 double-page spreads)
- Two premium lay-flat hardback books

A Classic Memoir will typically contain around 15-20 photographs, depending on the way the photographs and written material work together. This is a guide rather than a fixed number.

Investment: NZD \$2,400

The Process

Step 1: The Interview (2 hours)

We begin with a relaxed recorded interview in your home. This is a chance to talk about the people, places, experiences and memories that have shaped you. I'll guide the conversation with gentle prompts, but there is no fixed script. The direction is led by what matters to you.

- There's no need to prepare a written life story beforehand.
- The interview is recorded so you can speak freely without worrying about note-taking.
- Quotes and anecdotes are transcribed and edited for the book.

Step 2: Photo Shoot (1 hour)

The photo shoot takes place in your home and everyday surroundings. I work in a natural, documentary style rather than formal or heavily posed portraits.

- There's no need to 'dress up' the house – the aim is warmth and authenticity, not a styled shoot.
- We'll use natural light and the spaces where you feel most comfortable.
- The session is relaxed and unhurried, with room for spontaneous photographs as well as portraits.

Step 3: Editing the Words

After the interview, I transcribe the conversation and select the quotes and anecdotes that best reveal your personality, experiences and memories. These are carefully edited for clarity while keeping your natural voice.

If you have existing written material you'd particularly like me to consider, we can discuss this together. Substantial existing writing that requires extensive editing or restructuring falls outside the usual parameters of the Classic Memoir.

Step 4: Selecting the Photographs

I review and edit the photographs from our session, then send you a selection to review and approve for inclusion in your book.

Step 5: Layout & Design

Your finished book will contain up to 40 pages (20 double-page spreads). The Classic is deliberately image-led, so photographs are given generous space, with selected quotes and anecdotes appearing throughout the book to add another layer to the portrait.

Some spreads may feature a single photograph or photographs alone, while others bring words and images together. This variation gives the book a natural visual rhythm.

Step 6: Review & Refinement

Before the book is printed, I'll send the selected quotes and anecdotes through to you to check for accuracy. This is your opportunity to correct names, dates or details. I handle the photographic sequencing and layout independently, drawing on my experience of what works best on the page.

Step 7: Printing & Delivery

Your finished memoir is professionally printed and bound as a premium lay-flat hardback, allowing photographs and spreads to sit flat and uninterrupted across the page. The Classic includes two copies. Once printed, I bring your finished books to you in person so we can look through them together for the first time.

Additional copies can be ordered at the current printing and binding cost. I'll provide an exact price before ordering.

Project Scope

The Classic Memoir has a deliberately focused scope and a fixed price of \$2,400. If, through our initial conversations, it becomes clear that you'd like to explore your life story or photographic archive in greater depth, the Extended or Heritage Memoir may be a better fit. I'll discuss this with you before we begin.

Getting in Touch

If any questions come up at any point – before we begin, or partway through – please don't hesitate to contact me. This is your story, and I want you to feel comfortable and informed throughout the whole process.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

Best wishes,

Karen

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