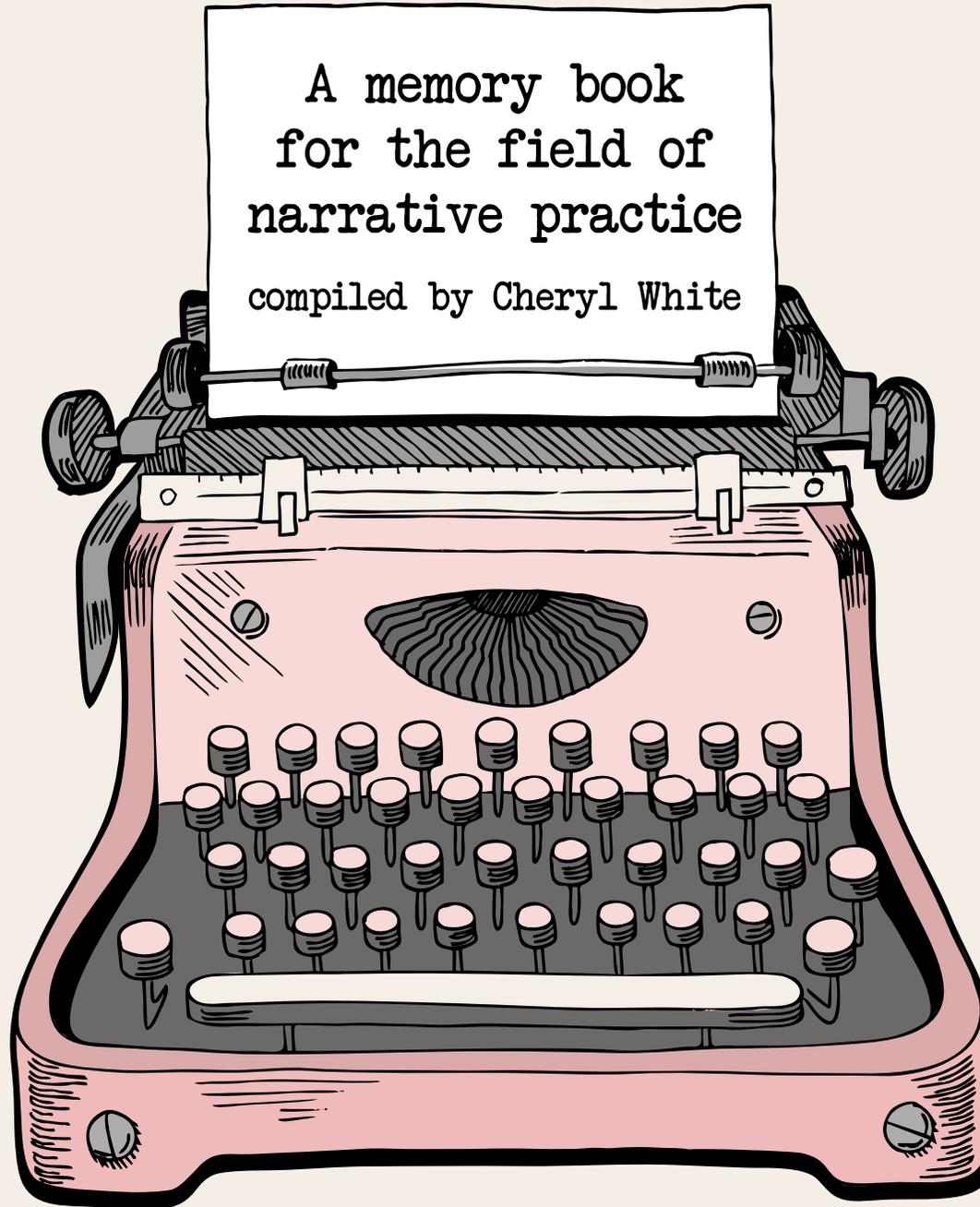
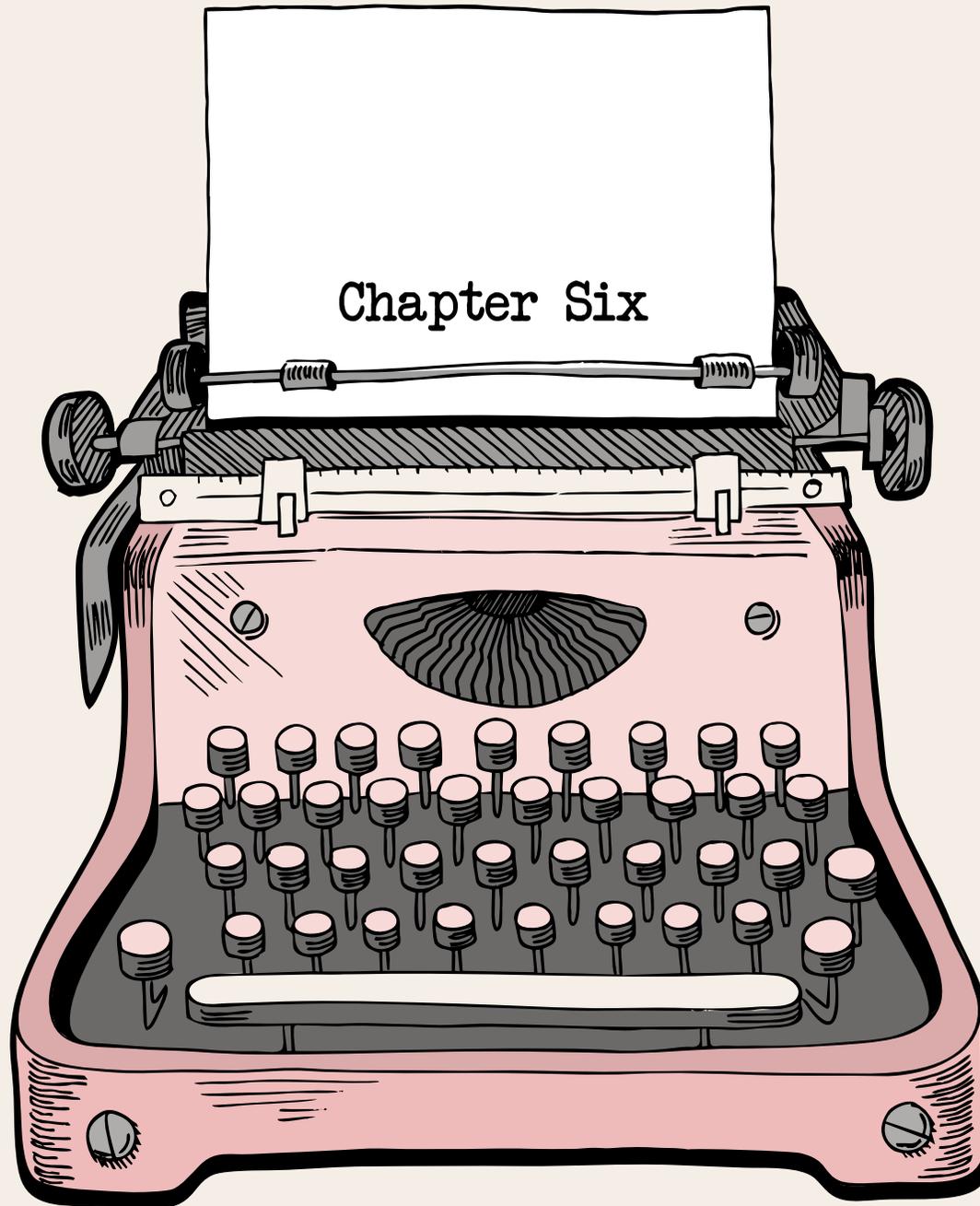


A memory book
for the field of
narrative practice
compiled by Cheryl White





Gender partnerships and men responding to men's violence

Cheryl White

Throughout the 1980s, the feminist movement was also influencing men in our families, friendship networks, and in the broader professional field. Here in Adelaide, Rob Hall, Alan Jenkins, and Michael White, along with a range of other men, were in conversation around these issues and each took up the invitations and challenges from women to develop ways of working with men who have been violent to women (see Hall, 1994; Jenkins, 1990; White, 1992, 2014).

The 1980s were a time when our local community, as women and men, sought to develop new forms of gender partnership. Just as white women, such as me, cannot sustain an acute awareness of white privilege without continuing collaboration and feedback from people of colour and/or Aboriginal colleagues, I really think that men cannot sustain an acute gender awareness without continuing feedback and collaboration with women.

As gender partnerships grew, new forms of practice to respond to the issue of men's violence were generated. Locally, Dallas Colley and Alison Newton's work with women survivors of domestic violence¹, Maxine Joy's² work with survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and Amanda Kamsler's (1990) work with survivors of sexual violence were significant.



By 1990, these efforts culminated in the publishing of a collection of papers in relation to *Ideas for therapy with sexual abuse* (Durrant & White, 1990), and Alan Jenkin's highly influential book *Invitations to responsibility: the therapeutic engagement of men who are violent and abusive* (1990).

The ripples of these feminist histories and gender partnerships continue:

Feminism has been perhaps the most extraordinary social achievement of the last few decades, and I think its influence within family therapy has been enormous. I believe that it has contributed to a sea-change, many of the implications of which are still being worked out ... Feminism has changed, and is continuing to change, so much of what we think and what we do. (White, 2001, p. 133)

Notes

- ¹ This work was later described in Colley, Hall, and Newton (1998).
- ² This work was later described in Joy (1999).

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