1. Describe yourself in the third person-your physical appearance and personality-as though you were a character in a book.
2. What could have happened in high school that would have altered the course of your life?
3. Write a recipe for disaster.
4. A man jumps from the fortieth story of a building. As he’s passing the twenty-eighth floor, he hears the phone ring and regrets that he jumped. Why?
5. Tell the true story of a dramatic moment in your life, but weave in one secret and one lie.
6. If each decade of your life were represented as a pop song, what would they be?
7. Write a scene that begins: “Joe was the last person on Earth I expected to do that.”
8. The difference between the first death you remember and the most recent one.
9. Write a short story in which you are the villain.
10. The moment you knew you were no longer a child.
11. List five cultural events that impacted you greatly. Then write about one of them without mentioning yourself.
12. Write about a difficult conversation you’ve had recently. Then rewrite the conversation, saying what you couldn’t say at the time.
13. Write a scene that begins: “It was the first time I killed a man.”
14. Write from the perspective of a historical figure like Franklin Roosevelt, Marilyn Monroe, or Jack the Ripper.