

# What If Your Body Is Trying to Finish Something?

A grounded map for  
completion, shame  
physiology, and  
attachment repair.

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**VOSESOMATIC**

## Inside:

The key somatic sequences I teach and use with clients, plus short practices you can do in under 2 minutes.

## A note from me

If you are new to somatic work, I want to offer a simple reframe. Your body is not behind. Your body is often mid-process. A lot of what we call anxiety, shutdown, reactivity, and stuckness is the nervous system holding an unfinished sequence.

### **A clean promise:**

This ebook is a doorway, not the whole house. You will get enough clarity to feel movement. Mastery takes structure, repetition, and support.

If anything in this brings up overwhelm, slow down. Look around your room. Feel your feet. Take a break. Safety and pacing matter more than progress.



## Why this matters

Most people are not resisting healing. Their body is protecting them from speed.

When a system has lived through overwhelm, it learns to brace, avoid, collapse, or overthink. Not because you are broken. Because something intelligent in you decided it was too much.

Somatic sequencing respects that intelligence. Instead of asking your nervous system to calm down on command, we listen for what it is trying to complete.

### **A nervous system truth:**

Relief is often not something you force. It is something that arrives when the correct step is finally allowed to happen.



# The core framework

## What a somatic sequence is

A sequence is an innate order your body tends to move through when it resolves stress. It can be physical, emotional, or relational. When the correct step is skipped, the system often stays unfinished.

## Two distinctions that change everything

- 1) Tools vs sequences A tool can change your state for a moment. A sequence tends to change your trajectory. If tools do not stick, it is often because your system is trying to complete something first.
- 2) Expression vs completion Not every expression is completion. Completion has a feeling of done. A settling. A return.

### Counterintuitive insight:

If you have to force it, it usually is not regulation. The nervous system does not respond to commands. It responds to signals.

## Sequence 1: Completion of self-protective responses

### Fight and flight completion

In stress and trauma physiology, the body mobilizes energy to protect itself. If that energy does not get to complete, it can stay loaded in the system.

- Chronic tension or bracing
- Irritability or sudden anger
- Hypervigilance
- Persistent pain patterns
- A sense of being on standby

**Metaphor** Think of it like a sneeze that never gets to finish. The body keeps preparing, but the release never lands.

The goal is not to reenact trauma. The goal is to allow a small, contained completion. Often the body already knows the shape of the response. We stop interrupting it.



## Sequence 2: The birth sequence

There are early motor patterns that can remain unfinished. This is not mystical. It is motor learning and physiology.

### A simple three-part map

- Kick (initiation)
- Compression and crawling (pressure, then forward movement)
- Nursing (nourishment and settling)

When an early sequence is incomplete, the system can carry a subtle sense of unfinished reaching. Sometimes it looks like effort without reward, urgency mixed with stuckness, or difficulty receiving nourishment in a broad sense.

**Metaphor** It is like trying to read a book with the first chapter missing. You can still read, but something never quite lands.

The goal is not to reenact trauma. The goal is to allow a small, contained completion. Often the body already knows the shape of the response. We stop interrupting it.

## **Sequence 3: Collapse to rebound (shame physiology)**

Shame is a whole-body experience. A common pattern is shoulders rolling inward and the pelvis tucking. This can also be overwhelm. Either way, it is a collapse pattern. Collapse is often the body trying to find safety by becoming smaller, quieter, and less exposed. It is not simply failure.

### **Two ways to work with collapse to rebound**

**Option A:** Titrated oscillation Roll in a little, then come out. Roll in a little more, then come out. You are teaching your system: I can go in, and I can come back out.

**Option B:** Follow collapse to safety, then kindle rebound Let the body fold inward. Track for safety signals. When the impulse to rise appears, follow it slowly. If the rebound is faint, look for any small impulse that wants to come up.

#### **Aha distinction**

If you can find even 1 percent of protective goodness in the collapse, the system stops fighting it. That is not bypass. It is physiology.

## **Sequence 4: Shutdown to loneliness to reach (attachment repair)**

A lot of shutdown is not personality. It is protection from the pain of reaching and not being met. When a shutdown system begins to reach, treat it as important. It is often a deeper layer of life coming back online.

### **Two ways the reach shows up**

- The obvious reach: a small movement outward, sometimes first in the hands.
- The emotional reach: a quiet internal want for closeness and contact.

A gentle doorway: if you go to the safe cave, let it be safe. Then track what else is true. Does it ever get lonely in here? Loneliness can be the signal that connection is wanted. From that loneliness, the reach is born.



## Sequence 5: Orientation (defensive and exploratory)

We have an innate reflex to orient. Two flavors show up often.

- **Defensive orienting:** muscle tone and scanning for threat.
- **Exploratory orienting:** curiosity, scanning for what is here now, safety through present reality.

Many systems get over-focused internally. Thought loops. Meaning loops. Exploratory orienting restores balance: what is happening outside my head right now?

### Small but powerful

This is not positive thinking. It is nervous system updating: I am here now.



## **Micro-practices (under 2 minutes)**

These are meant to be gentle and capacity-oriented. If you feel pressured or flooded, make it smaller.

### **Micro-practice 1: The 60-second Sequence Check**

- Look around the room slowly. Name 3 shapes.
- Notice your shoulders. Let them move 2 percent toward comfort.
- Notice any impulse in your hands, feet, jaw, or breath.
- Do not interpret. Just notice.

Ask: What is my body trying to finish, even slightly?

### **Micro-practice 2: Organic breath reset (90 seconds)**

- Exhale until you truly feel empty.
- Pause. Wait for the body's natural impulse to inhale.
- Let the inhale come on its own. Follow it all the way through.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

If you feel dizzy or overwhelmed, stop. Orient to the room. Feel your feet.

## **Micro-practice 3: Titrated collapse to rebound (90 seconds)**

- Roll your shoulders in slightly.
- Notice: what does this protect me from?
- Come out slowly.
- Repeat once more, only 10 percent deeper.
- Finish by orienting: slowly look left, then right.

## **Micro-practice 4: The reach (60 to 120 seconds)**

### **Option A (solo)**

- Reach one hand forward and slightly upward.
- Pause. Feel what it brings up.
- Let the reach be small and honest.

### **Option B (with a safe person)**

- Let your reach be small and honest.
- Say one sentence: Can you meet me right here?
- Track what happens in your chest, belly, throat, and eyes.



## Integration Questions

- What do I call a problem that might be an unfinished sequence?
- Where do I override myself with tools, instead of listening for order?
- What happens when I let collapse be protective for 5 seconds?
- If my reach is present, what does it want to reach toward?
- When I orient slowly, what changes in my breath and eyes?



## Common mistakes (what backfires)



- Trying to complete sequences fast. Speed often triggers protection.
- Forcing breath or posture. If it is forced, it can become repression.
- Doing attachment work without a container. Reach and rebound expose vulnerability.
- Over-focusing on meaning. Sometimes the body just wants to finish a movement.
- Skipping orienting. Orienting is how the system updates: I am here now.

# If you want the full system

This ebook is the doorway, not the whole house.

If you want deeper progression, the next layers often include:

- building regulation and capacity in a structured way
- completion work with more nuance
- attachment repair over time
- developmental repatterning
- parts and protector dynamics
- practice sequences you repeat until they are embodied

## Option 1

### Explore Trauma Alchemy

A structured system for capacity, completion, and repair over time.

## Option 2

### Take the nervous system quiz

Clarity and self-recognition fast, plus guidance on what helps and what backfires.

## Option 3

### Join the next training

Live practice, feedback, and a container for learning how this work shows up in real moments.

## **Closing**

Your body is intelligent. A lot of your stuckness is not a flaw. It is a process waiting for the right order.

Go slowly. Stay honest. Follow what is real.

When in doubt, orient to the room, feel your feet, and remember: your nervous system responds to signals, not commands.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel Vose, MA, SEP, is a somatic educator and trauma specialist who has spent years immersed in somatic psychology, attachment work, and nervous system physiology. His work grows out of his own lived experience of anxiety, pain, and relational struggle, and his path of healing through the body. Daniel has worked with thousands of people around the world, helping them



understand how their systems are organized and how to begin relating to themselves with more clarity, safety, and respect. His teaching brings together developmental understanding, somatic depth, and a grounded spiritual perspective on what it means to live in a human nervous system.