

# A LETTER FROM *our editor*



Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the inaugural issue of Text Power Telling Magazine, a digital creative arts magazine devoted to sexual trauma survivors and those who support them.

Shortly after I came on board as Editor-in-Chief of this magazine, I came across this photo on the side of a coffee shop in Austin. I was struck by it. The black letters on a large nondescript wall. The letters running beyond the frame of a boarded-up window; not staying contained in the box. Moving beyond it, claiming space. The words are a powerful declaration of what happened, and how things are now. Perhaps the words are a mantra that sits in the artist's heart. I couldn't help but go as close as I could to the wall. I touched the bricks, and my eyes traced the letters wondering about how this survivor's powerful act is itself part of the process of becoming, "ok." I deeply feel it to be an act of loving kindness to all of us who walk by it. Aren't we all trying to figure out how to be ok? A yearning, searching, breaking-apart-putting-oneself-back-together process. A process of learning how to be okay in this world that continually throws profoundly difficult, unjust things our way. The act of putting oneself back together can happen in the most unlikely of places, even on a blank white wall in the middle of the city. I had a conversation with that unnamed artist/survivor that day. I told her/him/them, I am so thankful you are ok. Thank you for your words. I didn't know it, but I needed to hear that you are ok. Because now, I felt a much needed hope in my steps. We are silent comrades marching alongside each other.

Text Power Telling Magazine was built out of this hunger to make sense of trauma. Artists bravely pull out the guts of trauma, wrestle with them through their art, and move toward a path of healing. Their work is extraordinarily sacred to us, and we feel honored to include them in our first issue. Text Power Telling Magazine welcomes a new community of creatives.

Thank you for being here.

Love,  
Anita Lakshman  
Editor-in-Chief

