



A LETTER FROM *our editor*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Summer Issue of Text Power Telling Magazine. Our community of supporters has swelled since the publication of our inaugural issue. We appreciate hearing from so many of you. Your feedback tells us that this small, sanctified space on the internet eases some of your suffering.

In this issue you will have the opportunity to watch an award-winning short film, listen to a poet's piece in her own words, read a chapter from a recently published graphic novel, take in incredibly moving art, and read an extraordinary breadth of writing. Pain, sorrow, injustice, confusion, and rage permeate these pieces. And grief – deep, deep grief.

I think about death when I think about sexual assault and abuse. It can feel like your soul has left your body, and you are left hollow in the immediate aftermath of an assault, even for years thereafter. Nothing looks or feels the same. You wonder if you are with the dead or the living. Though you feel like you have died, you must struggle to figure out how to really live, not just survive. That struggle sits within so many of these magazine's pieces. One must die first before they can be reborn. On the other side of despair, there is rebirth and hope. The art in Text Power Telling Magazine are the blooms born out of that horrific mud.

Love,
Anita Lakshman
Editor-in-Chief