



A LETTER FROM *our editor*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the tenth issue of *Text Power Telling Magazine*. Reaching double digits feels like a true milestone for this little publication—a labor of love determined to exist in a world that too often tries to silence us and our stories.

This magazine was created to hold space for voices so often pushed to the margins—people brave enough to transform trauma into expression. As I often say, *Text Power Telling* is more than a magazine; it's a community: a place of shared resilience and a place to use art to tell the truth. In these pages, we hold one another up. Sometimes it can feel like the only place in the world where we can be held, safely.

I invite you to explore this issue, filled with courageous work like Sarah Martin's poem "Zora's Warning." Its epigraph—drawn from Nanny, a character in Zora Neale Hurston's 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*—likenes a woman to a mule. It is a powerful image of the Black woman burdened by both sexism and racism. Martin's poem evokes generations of women robbed of humanity, exploited, and discarded:

*tonight, as you undress me,
my hips hang with the weight
of memories, of mammies
drained of sweet red milk.*

We've paired the piece with a recording of Zora Neale Hurston's "Mule on the Mount," an old work song once sung by laborers to synchronize their efforts and pass the time. This idea of synchronicity—voices working in unison—reminds me of the work of survivors whose stories coexist and intermingle in our magazine.

Also featured in this issue is the short film *Finding Strength to Heal*, produced by Dr. Laura Sinko of Temple University. Through the interwoven stories of four survivors, the film offers a glimpse of the diversity of trauma experiences and the collective power of resilience—each story its own pillar, yet each holding the others up.

Dr. Sinko—a practicing sexual-assault nurse examiner—researches healing after gender-based violence. Her work explores how social, cultural, and structural forces shape recovery across a lifetime. It speaks beautifully to what our writers and artists reveal through their work time and again: art is a tool for both personal recovery and social change. I am profoundly grateful for Dr. Sinko's vision and for all the creators and survivors whose voices rise together in this issue.

Thank you for being part of this community—for listening, for holding space for survivors, and for helping us reach ten issues strong.

With Love,
Anita