

TELL ME YOUR STORY

For a moment, no answers.
No attempts at repair, no promises of healing.
You are a writer. I am a writer.
Let us celebrate the complexity of our experiences.
The liberating and awesome fullness of our stories.
The chapters that are beautiful,
and the ones that are less.

Let us be broad and candid and unafraid.
Without obligation.
Without threat of judgment.
Let us say it out loud:
where we have come from, where we are,
where we want to go.

By listening to each other's stories,
we nurture a spirit of awareness,
and respect,
and connection...

Caught in the glimmer and shadows of a life not our own,
we discover something familiar as much as something different.
Because to be human is to love,
and to hurt,
and to hope,
and no matter the unique details of our stories,
this is the narrative arc for us all.
The inescapable place where our lives interlace.

So let us be still for just a moment.
With no pre-set expectations or agendas,
let us embrace the radiant power of storytelling--
the vitality of our various histories and perspectives

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When we speak, we share.
When we listen, we learn.
Among us there are shining stories of joy and pain,
progress and loss, hope and despair—
and each one has something meaningful to reveal.

If we tell our stories honestly,
and listen openly to the stories of others,
we not only expand the context of who we are as a community
but we also cultivate new reservoirs of thoughtfulness and trust.

Find your voice. Tell me your story. Listen to mine.

