

To whom it may concern-

I am contacting you today because I need your help.

I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, and I am currently in the process of publishing my memoir, Torn Pages. Having worked as an advocate and activist in the community, I know all too well the statistics, that approximately 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18. Torn Pages is the delayed disclosure of my own abuse as a child, presented as a collection of seven years worth of mixed media artwork, poetry, journal entries, and narrated storytelling.

Why do I need your help?

I need your help in supporting me tell my own story.

I am currently in the process of getting my memoir published through a crowdfunding publishing company called Inkshares. Similar to Kickstarter, Inkshares is a fundraising platform that offers the opportunity to partner with authors who want to publish their books . The process requires authors sign a contract to do the work to promote their book and readership, encourage community members to purchase pre-sale copies of the manuscripts, and as a result of all of that work, Inkshares will then work collaboratively to publish the book. Inkshares has a strict policy of requiring a minimum of 250 books that need to get purchased as a pre-sale order prior to them taking on the commitment of publishing a written work. I have set the goal to reach that minimum by December. Here is the link to the book to read more: <https://www.inkshares.com/books/torn-pages>

Why support Torn Pages?

This has gone way beyond me just telling my story. This has gone way beyond me getting food on the table with a royalty check. This is about those girls and those boys... the ones who have come before me , the ones that are standing side by side with me, and the ones that will come after me. It has been an indescribably strenuous journey reclaiming my own voice. Torn Pages is written for those in mind that are in that very struggle.

Is my voice necessary for others to hear? I truly believe so. Not for my own personal gain, but because of what hearing other people's stories of being able to triumph over darkness in their lives did for me. It gave me access to hope. It made breathing easy possible. It disarmed my own silence and moved me to speak. The ones who helped me access the broken pieces and put them to page are warriors like Maya Angelou, Marilyn VanDerbur, Lisa Nichols, Tyler Perry, Tori Amos....

How can you help?

I have come up with a unique marketing concept to present to specific community organizations and programs. It is the concept of a travelling community project called Journey to the Wounded Voice. The concept consists of collaborating with community partners in specific locations to host an awareness event throughout March, April, and May with sexual violence, child abuse, and mental health awareness in mind. My marketing strategy is to pre-select organizations and programs within specific cities that are supporters of advocacy in one or all of those areas.

I am coming to you today to ask you if you would consider taking Journey to the Wounded Voice as a possible opportunity to engage your community in bringing awareness to any and all of those advocacy focuses.

What would this entail?

- A dedicated commitment to pre-order a minimum of 10 copies of the manuscript to have available at the event, where I will provide some of my own poetry, artwork, and can act as a keynote speaker to share about my story as a survivor.
- A collaboration between myself and the selected organization to coordinate and plan an event that encourages their local community members, who are artists, poets, musicians, dancers, to come together as a showcase of talent highlighting the importance of advocating for all of these community issues.
- The organization sponsoring the event, for the most part, is only responsible for communicating to the community the date and time of the event, with pre-designed marketing materials created by me.

What would I provide to your organization in exchange for your purchase?

With a background consisting of working in the social services field for over ten years, I have a specialized skill set grounded in creating programs and community events dedicated to service learning, violence awareness, and prevention.

I would work, on a volunteer basis, to help plan and coordinate the event details by providing items like sample letters of request to solicit in-kind donations, marketing materials to help promote the event specific to your community, sample planning checklists and timelines to help stay focused and in alignment with budget limitations.

By pulling from some of the materials that I have previously developed in similar community events, I can provide the dedicated energy and tools to help provide as much support on my end to help co-create this event with you.

Typically, at special events where organizations invite keynotes to present, there is the component of paying a keynote an honorarium for their time and travel. If your organization has it within the budget to consider that as well, I am always open to support in that form. The reality is, though, that many organizations function under very strict funding guidelines, and allow for less flexibility in spending grant dollars for that type of thing. If that is a very real limit that your organization or program faces, I ask to consider, in lieu of an honorarium, to support my time and travel with a pre-purchase order only.

That minimum commitment from your organization secures a couple of things:

- Torn Pages will be able to make it to publication successfully, and make it to the hands of those that need a voice of hope.
- A crucial barrier will be removed for those that may want the book, but may not have the funds to purchase a copy themselves.
- My time will be spent whole-heartedly focused on reaching your community with my story as a survivor, and not spending any time or energy offering a sales pitch to the attendees.
- Your community will bring together dedicated talent to create an opportunity for the expressive arts to emerge in a collective advocacy voice.

So my question to you is this...Would you be willing to place a pre-sale book order for the 1 in 6...the 1 in 4?

If that is not within your scope or budget, would you be willing to recommend it to your contacts?

I had to sit with whether or not I felt comfortable asking any of this of you. You don't know me. You have no personal investment in what happens to this memoir or me. But you are invested in the people that you work with in your community.

1 in 6 and 1 in 4 means that there are so many.

Many that don't feel safe to disclose. Many that feel utterly alone.

"Once I knew only darkness and stillness... my life was without past or future... but a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness, and my heart leaped to the rapture of living. " -Helen Keller

With a single commitment... you help break the silence, and you help create a ripple of change.

Would you help me make this message of hope for others possible?

Please consider my request sincerely. I can't do this alone, and neither can the 1 in 6, nor the 1 in 4.

Thank you in advance for your attentive grace that you offer the world.

- Angie Rooker