

Writing a New Story...

By Jenny Volpe

My mom always said that I was ready, a colossal force, fearless, determined to take on the world. I was born first, and three months early. My brother came 45 minutes later. He's a dreamer, and a delightful dawdler. We like to say he became a highly sensitive, emotionally connected male because he was sandwiched between two powerful females. My sister came less than two minutes after him. She probably shoved him out, because he never would have left the warmth of the womb otherwise! She's generosity, hyperbole, and abundance itself.

I was born in a space of together. I am a triplet born from an amazing mother - an identical twin herself. Multiples mean souls born and woven together with an indescribable bond. It's living interconnection from the start. All our lives we've been each other's mirrors, compasses, and loving cheerleaders as we learn, grow, and navigate the world. Being a triplet, I learned the power of community. They are why I love being a leader and bringing people together. I love building community that makes us better. Bigger than ourselves. Able to create more good in the world as a force of love together.

During the pandemic, I almost lost a big part of my community. My brother was alone and very sick with covid. I will never forget when he told me he'd been on the bathroom floor and wasn't sure he could keep breathing. In that terror of almost losing him, I confronted head on the total fragility of life.

It was a wake-up call that shifted all my priorities. I started to ask the big questions.

And this meant that I had to let go of my job of 13 years. Amazing work leading a nonprofit creating so much good in the world. Navigating my nonprofit through covid consumed 16 hour days, filled life with too much zoom, sleeplessness, and stress levels beyond what I'd ever endured. Having been that force of inspiration to my staff, always ready, rising to meet every challenge, I was running on empty.

I called my brother and told him, this is it! I am leaving to finally write the big one! To be the writer and poet that I have always been, but never had time to fully honor. Poetry and books may not easily put food on the table, but we cannot survive as humans trying to make sense of our world without them. Now, I am writing the book I've always wanted to write. It's a story about triplets coming of age in the world together. It's a story about courage and how we learn to human well in this wild and beautiful world. It's a story about the power of love. And it's a prayer of gratitude for that kind of community that I've been lucky enough to know since the day I was born.