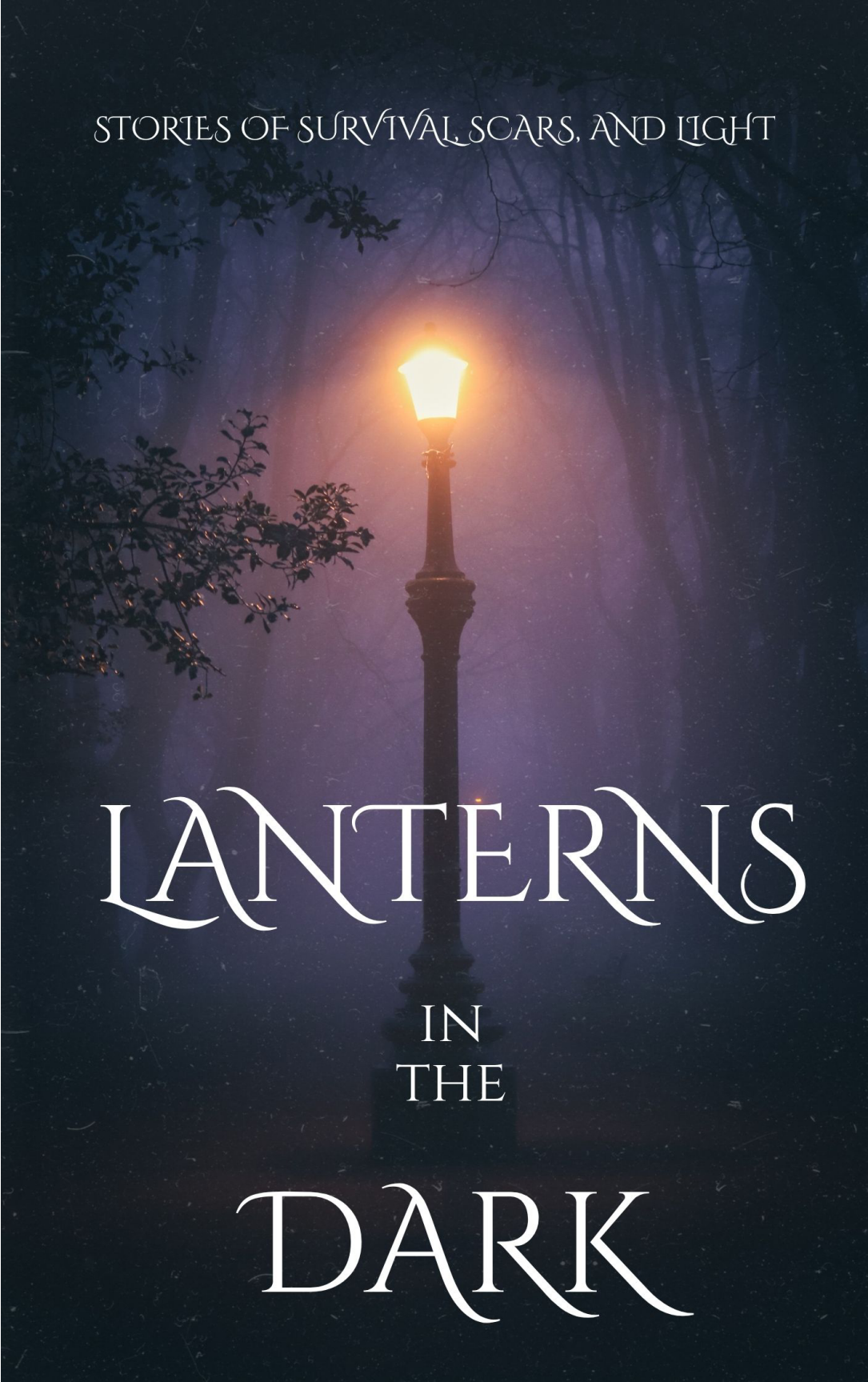


A glowing street lamp stands in the center of a dark, misty forest. The lamp is illuminated, casting a warm, yellow light that contrasts with the deep blue and black tones of the surrounding woods. The trees are tall and thin, their branches reaching up into the mist. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and somber.

STORIES OF SURVIVAL, SCARS, AND LIGHT

LANTERNS

IN
THE

DARK

Why We Write Our Wounds

Why do we feast on other people's trauma—raw, trembling, bloody on the page? Because when we taste their sorrow, we taste our own. Their wounds mirror ours, and for a fleeting moment, we no longer feel so unbearably alone.

This new collaborative book will be a collection of essays from writers who are ready to share a specific trauma they've lived through and reflect on how speaking it aloud has reshaped them, not as stories of rescue, but as stories of witness.

Together, these essays will become a lantern-lit archive of survival, reminding us that while no one can carry another through the fire, we *can* light the way with our scars.

Why This Project Matters

Too often, I see brilliant writers who don't get the visibility they deserve—or one article goes viral, only to be followed by silence.

When I started my Substack, I let go of metrics. I wrote 2–3 times a week because the practice mattered. Sometimes I reached thousands, sometimes just a few—and both were okay.

What I built wasn't about numbers. It was about connection. A **community of readers and writers who show up with authenticity**.

That's the spirit of these collaboration books: creating a **real, tangible community** of writers who support each other—no algorithms required.

Why Join This Book Project?

This will be my **15th collaboration book**, and like the others, it will be:

- Professionally published (editing, design, ISBN, distribution)
- Widely available in bookstores + online retailers
- Rooted in collaboration and connection

Many returning authors have already published multiple times with me. Together we've built a supportive, growing network that lasts far beyond the page.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a fee?

Professional publishing costs **\$5K–\$15K**. By pooling together a small fee from each author, we cover editing, design, ISBNs, and marketing.

What do I get?

- Published as a **professional author**
- Experience the **full publishing process**
- Access to a **writer community**
- Option to **buy books at wholesale (~\$8)** and resell

Do I earn royalties?

No, tracking across many authors isn't feasible. But you *can* make your investment back—and more—by reselling copies.

Why participate?

- Builds **credibility** with agents & publishers
- Strengthens your **platform**
- Offers a **low-risk way to learn publishing**
- Creates **community + support**

I hope you'll join us.

This is more than a book—it's a community, a chance to witness and be witnessed, and a way to turn your scars into lanterns for others.

Contact Betsy Chasse at betsychasse.net to learn more.