



## Embodied Healing: Survivor and Facilitator Voices from the Practice of Trauma-Sensitive Yoga

**Jenn Turner, Editor**

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Chiropractors and massage therapists stay in demand because they know how stress is held in the backs, necks, and shoulders of their patients. Fortunately, with some manipulation, those aches and knots can usually be relieved. But chronic stress is a different beast, and is now known to compromise immune systems and increase the likelihood of more serious illnesses like cancer and heart disease. Obviously, what happens in the mind definitely doesn't stay in the mind. And then there's the trauma of sexual violence, warfare, forced migration, and severe domestic abuse—different beasts altogether.

In *Embodied Healing*, Jenn Turner showcases the extraordinary success being found by therapists using body-based treatments to help trauma patients heal. Through twelve essays on Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TCTSY) written by a diverse group of trauma survivors, yoga instructors, and therapists, the book offers concrete evidence that trauma exists in both the mind and the body, but that effective treatment may best be approached through the body.

Recovering from severe childhood abuse, Nicole Brown Faulknor writes of how she lost the ability to live externally because she internalized the tormented parts of herself. Using TCTSY, "I have quietly begun to learn to move through the traumatized parts of myself ... first by learning that I had a body and this body had feelings, and that I could feel my body as well as claim my body. My body belonged to me."

Using yoga and the power of movement as a much-needed counterpoint to talk-therapy in the treatment of trauma, TCTSY is beautifully captured in this engaging project.

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2020)

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