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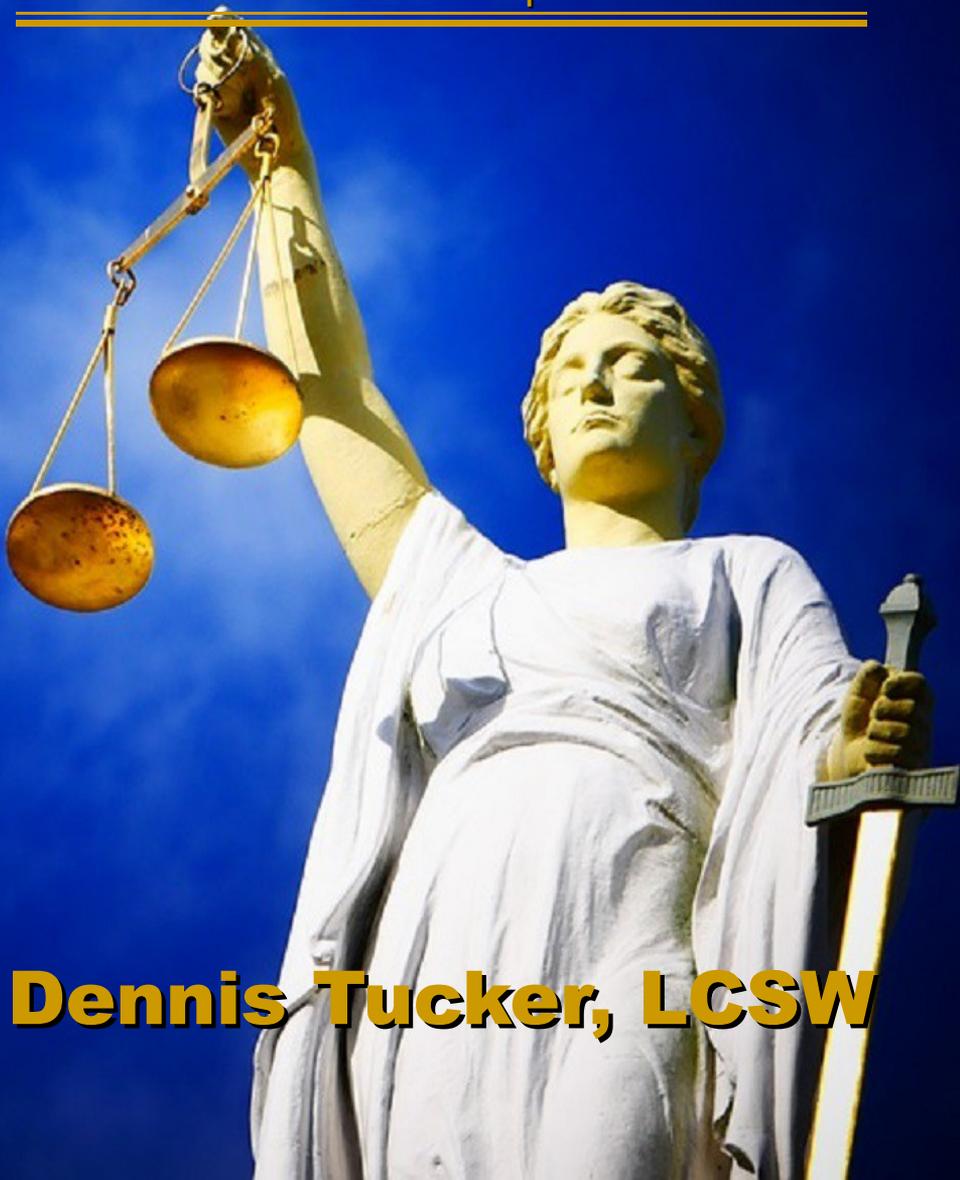
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# Yours, Mine, and Our Rights:

Boundaries that Preserve  
Relationships

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**Dennis Tucker, LCSW**

# **MINE, YOURS, AND OUR RIGHTS:**

**BOUNDARIES THAT PRESERVE  
RELATIONSHIPS**

*By  
Dennis Tucker, LCSW*

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## INTRODUCTION

I have heard it said that the flapping of a butterfly's wings in one part of the world can create a hurricane in another. Such an idea is a beautiful thought to contemplate! It suggests that seemingly small and simple matters can bring about immensely incredible results. In our world of numbers, wealth, and nearly uncontested worship of size, we habitually take such notions of the simplicity and toss them out the window. Unless we can see things loudly, we don't pay them heed. And, even when we do pay them heed, unless the thing we are seeing loudly grabs us by the lapels and throws us roughly against the wall, we don't take them seriously. That's okay! I understand this truth about you, me, and the world. I also know the world eventually does grab us by the lapels and slams us against the wall. Then, out of sheer discomfort, pain, and desire for relief, we begin to listen to the soft subtle things. That is what this book is about! I am going to show you how the flapping of a butterfly's wings can cause a hurricane of change; however, to do so, I will have to use metaphor and allegory.

In truth, this is a book about overcoming relationship struggles through a clarification of boundaries. This can be particularly hard to do if we can't see those boundaries with our natural eyes. These veiled divisions between people are not larger than life or loud, so they almost always go unnoticed. As a result, we may strive to address problematic exchanges with loved ones in routes that don't work, exhaust us, and even continue to damage the partnership. The purpose of this book is to bring to light the reality of these simple unseen partitions. I do this because honoring and observing the often unregarded fences between us greatly clarifies troubles of our companionships which, in turn, allows us to fix the actual problem without useless destructive drama. The lines of which I write are not imaginary. Just because something isn't seen doesn't make it 'imaginary' or unreal. That would be like saying gravity or magnetism is unreal, but we know better. In the same way, we know that the unseen borders of which I will be speaking are real. We see their effects when honored and their devastation when ignored.

In this book, I will show you how one woman's unheard and unmet needs created problems in her relationship. Furthermore, such problems didn't occur in her life for the first time. They will have been

present from the very beginning of the illustrative partnership. Following the 'flutter of such small wings' I will then take you back further into her life, to a point where the troubled woman had interactions with her mother. Such interactions started taking place more than twenty years ago, and have spilled over into all areas of the daughter's life.

Yet, the implications of what I am talking about aren't just connected to this woman's life only. They are connected to yours, mine, and to society's existence at large. In fact, there is a global battle currently ensuing which involves the implications of what I will be talking about. I really won't address those ramifications here in great detail, but I will touch upon them in passing. They are just as much there as what the Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu referred to as 'seeing the universe in a single grain of sand'. Even though I approach relationship borders through reflection upon one single relationship, we are about to discuss matters with perhaps universal implications. Certainly, the message overflows from these pages to your own life, and that's good enough. Unwittingly, however, as you apply the coming information you really have no idea what effect it will have on the world around you. Thus, you may be the small butterfly whose flapped wings cause a windstorm of change elsewhere. Who knows? Are you ready for such a trek? I think you are!

In the first chapter, I will address the universal implications of the of not honoring the existence of invisible boundaries; boundaries which place unseen perimeters between people and establish what I call "Yours, Mine, and Our Rights". Such lines, seemingly imaginary only, exist and are quite real whether we accept them or not. These veiled lines are not loud and commanding of themselves, but if they are ignored and neglected they will destroy the world as we know it. By 'we' I mean all those who enjoy the freedoms of an enlightened world. Are you curious about what I am describing? Then, let's waste no more time and begin our simple yet epic journey together as we explore why relationship wars happen.