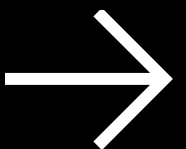


/SS/BOUND

by megan young



CONTENTS

01 /proxemics

02 /tactical

03 /target practice

04 /distancing

1 /

Ok, so we make space socially.
We manage distance as a way of regulating.
It's a sliding scale.
How much stimulation are we ready to receive?
How much of ourselves are we willing to share?

Space is protection.
And we're walking bio-transmitters:
visual cues, subtle moves, sounds, smells,
tension, body heat—
all tingling the spidey senses,
constantly testing, sorting, and reorganizing.

Everyone has their own versions, there's:
I have reason to fear you distance.
It's removed, conveys power, feels secure.
I want to see you distance.
We're near, but out of reach, protected.
I want to hear you distance.
We're close enough, communal.
Come know me distance.
That's entangled, commingled, and shared.
Maybe it's warm, sweaty, or sweet.

Anyway, with you there and me here,
We're good.
It's an agreement:
Shared distance, shared boundaries, shared risk.

Shared distance. Shared boundaries. Shared risk.

So what's it say about you when you're watching me
from there?

Ya, you think you're being tricky,
But you're giving it all away.
It says a lot, about
what you expect,
your discomfort,
the risks you're willing to take,
what you've decided you deserve,
and, mostly, what you fear.

Right now, you're treading water somewhere in a:
Not sure you're worth my time distance.
Or a, mildly amusing antics distance.
Categorize and file for later distance.
Fallacy of the detached observer distance.

But mostly, you linger in a
Not getting my hands dirty distance.

How you operate—
How you navigate the space between us,
Is much more an indictment of your behavior,
Than of mine.

2 /

It's tactical.

Our perception of safety
is wrapped in our ability
to see or move.

That's why you look around
when you're walking to
your car at night.
You want to see potential threats
and avoid them.

It's why you sit against the wall
in a restaurant
and why playground benches
are placed where you can see
the whole park.

Our perceptions depend on how far
and how easily
we can see or move
beyond our location.

Elements that ease our seeing
or moving through a place
increase our sense of safety.

A clear field of view. A quick exit. And no looking back.

3 /

Target Practice.

Practice__Tracking
Tracking__System
System__Control
Control__Group
Group__Dynamic
Dynamic__Opposition
Opposition__Party
Party__People
People__Power
Power__Source
Source__Code
Code__Breaking
Breaking__Up
Uprising
Rising__Star
Starlight
Light__Leak
Leak__Proof
Proof__Positive
Positive__Feedback

Feedback Loop.

There's a trick somewhere between distance and distancing.
When we look from so far away, it's hard to relate.

Have you ever looked up the satellite view of your house
on google maps or whatever?

I can hardly tell it's my neighborhood at first.

The houses look like they're part of a toy model.

I have to work to remind myself that people live there.

Tell myself,

There's kids in that house.

Someone's probably doing dishes over there.

I bet they're out taking the dog for a walk.

They might be starting dinner soon.

These are not monopoly houses.

It still feels made up.

The house right next to mine—

Someone broke into the neighbor's house a few years back.

There were reports of other attempts that night,
along one of the side streets.

As I heard the addresses, I pictured myself walking past them.

There's Butch, the scruffy dog that always comes out to say hi,

The house with the scalloped siding like mermaid scales,

A school pickup/drop-off zone,

With cars backed up into the street,

Some parks, keep going and you get to the doughnut place.

Police reports logged the addresses into a database

And now they're dots on a grid.

Food for a computer program.

SIGN STEALING

||||| fuzzy boundaries ||||| 2022 |||||

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