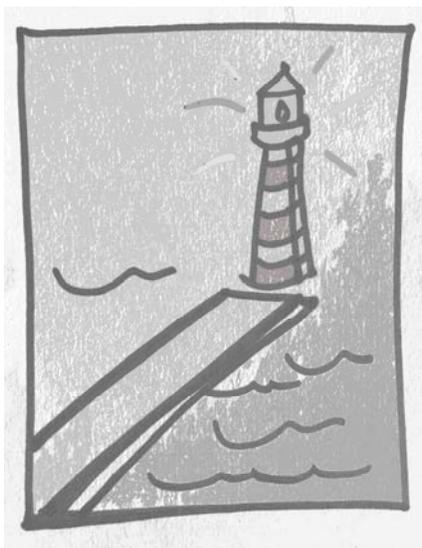


STEP EIGHT



WHO ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR?

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WHO ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR?

In an infinite World of Possibilities there are no limited possibilities. Every reality, story, or potential is laid out. It all just is. Every decision we make creates more events, which creates more decisions to make. But there are no wrong decisions. Every moment, every event, and every story can be a life lesson if we allow it to be.

When we are in the flow of potentials we understand that our lives are just there to be experienced. The expectations we put upon ourselves and that others put upon us are just stories we make up to explain this world. When we are in a World of Possibility we don't worry about the decisions we make. There is always something else to learn, something else to experience. It all just is a great big world for us to experience and discover.

Living in Possibility means not fretting about the decisions we didn't make and not blaming ourselves for the ones we did. It's sitting with the choices we made and accepting them. If we don't like the results, we then make different choices.

Once a choice is made, then you must, as they say, "Live with it." There are consequences. You have chosen this path, this attitude, this momentum. Your reality today is the result of choices you made yesterday.

People stuck in the past possibilities believe that's it. You have made your bed, now lie in it. They believe each choice has a set of rules and that once you have made those choices you are bond by those rules. This they would call being responsible. We call it being miserably Stuck in a Tiny Town story. Getting unstuck is as easy as changing your story!

For once you come to even an inkling of the amount of potential choices and realities that are open to you, you are then aware that every choice is just one in a series of choices. You are aware that every day brings opportunity to make new choices. There is no end! You become responsible by understanding you have choices. You can choose! You can choose to appreciate your life. You can enjoy your life and the choices you already made! With choice comes the joy of personal possibilities. That is personal responsibility.

But, once you understand the possibilities for yourself, you then begin to see the possibilities for other people. You then can see all of the choices and decisions they have

made and how if they had only chosen differently how different their world could be. You can see their potentials too! At this stage you can get caught up in attempting to share all the new possibilities for others' lives with them and then expecting those people to see and share your vision for their lives.

THE CARETAKING STAGE

Many have been raised to believe that taking care of other people is our main responsibility. We must care for others, teach them, and lead them. We are told this is our job in the world. We are here to save the world! We are here to bring peace to the world. The world needs to be saved and we are the ones to do it. It starts with us, right?

Most of us are given positive feedback when we care for others. Society needs caretakers and we are it! We are praised, honored, even paid to care for others. It can become our identity, our mission, and our reason for being. We can feel we are the reason the other people can survive. We can feel that the other person or people we care for cannot live without us caretaking for them. We can begin to believe we are the only ones who can do this incredible task! We can start making all the decisions for this other person. This feels good to be needed, to know better, and to know more than someone else. It can become a part of who we are and our own survival story in this world. It can overtake us. If we are not needed, then who are we?

We can then get so caught up in making other's decisions for them we forget that they have a right to make their own. We forget that failing, falling, and hurting are a part of the human experience. We forget that they have a right to feel, be, and do what it is they need to feel, be, and do for themselves in the world. We take it upon ourselves to decide for them.

To care for others in society keeps society alive, well, and running smooth! But this principle has been taken to the extreme and confused in many of our Tiny Little House blocks. We are taught others cannot take care of themselves. We are taught to believe they cannot survive without us, so we must do for them what they could do for themselves, if given the chance. So we must do for them! This happens in parenting children, caring for our elders, with spouses, close friends, and those in society who need a hand up. We do for them because we believe they do not know better. In doing so, we can limit their possibilities by living their lives as if it were our own.

Have you ever suggested to a friend a different decision than the one they had made, because you thought the one they had made was bad for them? Have you ever suggested to a spouse or a family member a healthy alternative to the life choices they have been making? How did it make you feel? Did you get praise or admiration for it?

It all starts out so innocently. You are probably a kind, thoughtful, and loving person. You do care for others and you do want what is best for them! When we do things for others we learn it can make them happy. We like people to be happy. We are happy when they are happy. They are happy when they are happy. We want to keep that feeling. We think it was us who made them happy. We think we caused it. We might even think we control it. We might even think we are responsible for their happiness. Others might tell us we are responsible for their happiness. We might feel like failures or less than if they are not happy. We might even feel like they are wrong or bad if they are not happy. We might then begin to do things, direct things, and want them to do what we think they should do, just to make them happy, just so that we are happy, which makes everyone miserable.

Caring for others can turn into living another person's life for them. We can become angry, resentful, or forcefully upset when those we care for don't do things our way. We can impose what we see as their possibilities for their lives upon them, with no regard for their wishes, or their need to learn on their own.

We do this with our children, our parents, our friends, work colleagues, even random strangers. We want them to do it our way! We want them to watch and live our channel, our reality, our choices, for them. This is the one that works for us, so it should work for everyone, right? Even now you might be thinking *Oh, if only so and so could bear this then they'd be okay, then they'd be happy, then they'd get it.*

We get fooled into thinking they cannot do for themselves what we could do for them, and sometimes they can't. But instead of sharing options, we take their choices. We make their decisions for them. We begin to control, force change, and put what we think is best upon them.

Once you become aware of being personally responsible for yourself and your story, it is then imperative to understand that others must also be personally responsible for themselves, their stories, and the possibilities for their lives.

GIVING CHOICES

Care Giving and Care Taking are two different things. Giving implies the person who is receiving has a choice. They can do whatever they want with your gift! Once you give it is gone. You let go of it as yours and give it to someone else. Wisdom, thoughts, ideas, even physical gifts are now theirs. And they get to choose what to do with your gifts. Even better, ask what they want as a gift! How often do we take forever finding the perfect gift for someone, when asking them what they want would be a much quicker way. We find the challenge to give people what we think they need. That is Care Taking.

Care Taking implies we are taking other's choices away from them. We are doing it the way our Tiny Town self believes it should be done. There is no choice. We "take it upon ourselves" to do what they cannot. We move into controlling others by trying to get them to see our Tiny Town point of view. Even if we believe it is a good one, the difference is in control and responsibility.

If we believe we are "responsible" for another's behaviors then they must live the way we think they should live. If they do not live the way we think they should, we can take it as a reflection on us. We can see it as our story. It is not. It is theirs! People have their own lives. People have their own stories. People have their own Tiny Towns and I the Observers, and choices! Even the smallest child has their own life to lead. They have their own stories to tell and their own Tiny House to build. We are simply all here, living in this great big world together.

This slight perspective change in declaring our intentions to caring changes everything. From choice to no choice. From taking to giving. From our responsibility to theirs.

Those who take on too much responsibility for everyone's realities and potentials can get stuck in Care Taking. They can feel they know better, so they must do for others. We don't! We do have choices. Others have choices! We can choose how we show others we love them. We can choose how we send that care out into the world. We can choose how to have relationships and how those relationships exist in our World of Possibility. Everyone is responsible for themselves.

This concept can be a foreign one in our Tiny Town worlds. To let people be who they are and it's okay? What a thought. To let them live life the way they want to live it without people commenting on it all the time? Oh! What a shock!

It is. It is a huge change in perspective. It is a really deep, very profound, and hard-to-bust-those-blocks-all-at-once change in perspective. So? Let's make it easy.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Living in Possibility as a Possibility Person means the only thing you are responsible for is to show others new potentials and new possibilities. You gift it. They live it. Simple.

Just like the shining light of a Lighthouse, you can shine the light of possibility, offering other choices and possible storylines to others. It is then up to them to choose or not choose their own reality! You can lead a horse, as the saying goes. You can offer new ideas, solutions, and possibilities, but then you have to let people go. As hard as it is, to truly shine, you have to let them live their own life, have their own struggles, and find their own way. It is their life to live. It is their boat to row. It is their choice what to do with your light, your gift.

Even children have their own personalities and perspectives. As many of you know, no matter how hard you try to control your children, they will have their own view and experience of the world and of you! As early as two years old a child will let you know they are their own person. One single word says it all. "No!" They already know it. They have their own lives to lead.

THE GREATEST FEAR

It can be hard to watch some people live their own lives. Watching someone you love choose over and over again life choices or options that are harmful to them or others is the most excruciatingly difficult thing to do in this world. For when you can see the possibilities that would better their lives, when you can see all the wonderful possibilities and decisions that would make their life so much better, you want to share it. You want them to see! Why can't they see!

From chastising our children for not living like we do, to judging strangers for how they dress, to dictating what our spouses eat, to believing everyone should have our spiritual or religious beliefs, we take choices away from others to live life in their own way.

We have many reasons for doing so. We have many good reasons for doing so, we tell ourselves. If they lived life differently we might not be as close. We might not have the same interests. They might move away from us. We might lose them in our lives. If they keep choosing harmful options they might die. This is all true. But what we choose for them might not be any better! They might die because they were never allowed to learn how to live or they are so miserable from not having any choices at all.

We cannot stop others from feeling pain or loss in their lives, no matter how hard we try. But? Sometimes the worst things in life can be the best for us. We do not always know what is best for everyone. We also see life from a Tiny Little limited House viewpoint. To accept that others have a right to live their own life reveals the very truth we fight so hard to see as human beings. If others live their own lives and have a right to make their own choices they could make choices that lead to their own death. That is the greatest fear of all.

Accepting that death is a part of life and being okay with others' deaths (and our own) is a part of life that we have to accept in order to fully love another human being. Oftentimes we even want to control how people die and how we think they should live up until they die! To be able to let go of them fully and accept loss is to love fully, openly, and generously. It is a great gift to those we love and to ourselves. It allows us to become free of unconscious beliefs and fears. Without choice there is no love. Without love there is no loss.

THE GREATEST THRILL

Most times, ironically though, the reason we make choices for others has nothing to do with death or loss or other people at all! By focusing on others it creates excitement, drama, and distraction in our own lives that stops us from having to face and choose our own possibilities. Focusing on others is exciting! Focusing on ourselves can be too, but it is much harder to do.

To truly live your own life and deal with your own issues is tedious and difficult. To sit and look at your own Tiny Little House insides when it is much easier to look out the window and criticize the neighbors is hard! It is so much easier to tell other people what to do with their lives than sit with the pain of indecision in our own. If you are constantly talking about other people's problems, looking to better others' lives, or telling people what to do, take a look at what you might be avoiding in your own life!

SHINE YOUR LIGHT!

To be a true Lighthouse means showing the possibilities in the world by living those possibilities for ourselves. We become the Lighthouse by shining the light, not talking about how others should be able to see the light or forcing their faces towards the sun.

A Lighthouse does not move. It does not jump to fix. It does not go out to sea to drag the sailors to shore. If it did, its light would drown and there would be no light for others who need it! A Lighthouse lives its own life solid and strong, keeps its own windows clean and its fuel full so it can shine the light of possibility in its port of call, respectfully watching as the boats use its light to find their own way home.

This is your responsibility to the world. Live your best life. Be your best self in all the ways you learn, grow, change, and choose. Others do see you! Others see you! There are strangers in the street who see your actions, your persona, and are inspired or changed. You cannot control how they see you, what they think of you, or how they will use whatever it is they saw to make decisions in their lives. That is not your job as a Possibility Person. Your job is to be you. Shine your light! And those who need it will find you and find their way to their most authentic lives, whatever that happens to be in that given moment.

Your responsibility to yourself is the same. You are only responsible to remind yourself constantly that there are other choices. You have choices! You do not need to be Stuck in Tiny Town! You can change your story. You can change how you see the world, each and every day. You can help others by helping yourself.

To live in a World of Possibility one must constantly remind oneself that this is not all there is. There is so much more. There is always another path, another moment, another possibility. We just have to find it by making more choices.

There are other choices. There are other ways. You can be the Stranger in Tiny Town just by living your life and shining your light. You can also do this for yourself! Be a

Lighthouse for you! Be your own Stranger in Tiny Town and choose a new story. Changing your story will open you and others up to a world of being Lighthouses for each other. Take turns out in the sea of possibility, finding the answers in the time and place that are right for each one of us at the exact right time.

The effects of group mentality run deep and are enforced convincingly in the world. Living in Possibility is freeing oneself from what one has been blocked and learning to live from a place of pure compassion for oneself and others.

To truly allow others to live their own life and be their own Lighthouse is a gift. It is in this way we all shine. Leading the group does not mean going and rowing each boat individually yourself to get the world to shore. It means standing up tall and proud shining the unique viewpoint only you have from your Tiny Little House as the great big Lighthouse you are!

Lead the world by shining! Those who are ready will see. Those who are not may see too. It is their choice.

And that? That leads us to Gazelles.

