

**WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE...**



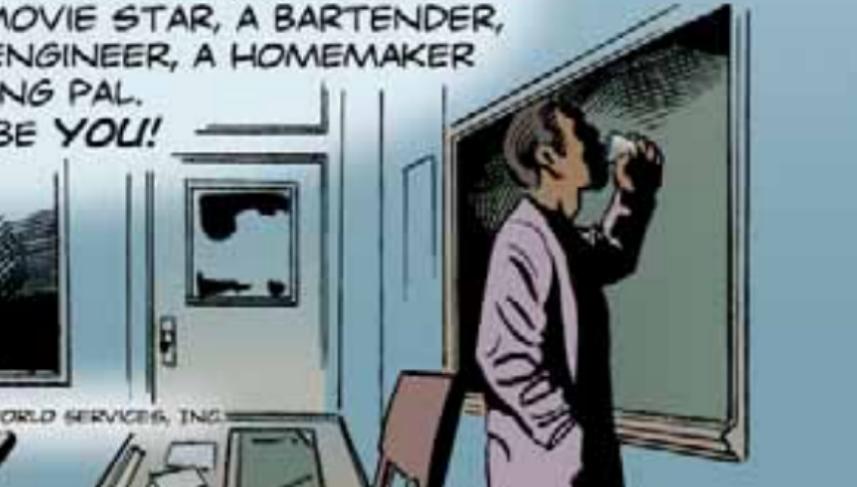
**...AND HIS DRINKING PROBLEM**



**THIS STORY COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE.**



MAYBE YOUR FRIEND, YOUR FATHER,  
YOUR MOTHER, YOUR SON OR YOUR GRANDFATHER.  
IT COULD BE THE SECURITY GUARD, THE DOCTOR, THE CLERK,  
AN ARTIST, A TRUCK DRIVER, AN ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE,  
A COLLEGE TEACHER, A PRIEST, A MOVIE STAR, A BARTENDER,  
A BALLPLAYER, A SALESMAN, AN ENGINEER, A HOMEMAKER  
OR YOUR WORKING PAL.  
IT COULD EVEN BE **YOU!**



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JOE HAS A STRONG MARRIAGE AND A JOB...



GOOD JOB, GOOD MARRIAGE  
AND LOTS OF FRIENDS.



JOE AND HIS WIFE GO OUT AT NIGHT, SOMETIMES HE  
HAS ONE TOO MANY...



...BUT WHO DOESN'T?

JOE COMES HOME DRUNK AFTER WORK. HIS WIFE IS AFRAID OF HIM.

JOE DRINKS MORE AND MORE...



LET'S HAVE  
ONE FOR THE  
ROAD, HONEY!



QUIT  
NAGGING!



NEXT DAY, JOE IS SICK AND FEELS BAD.



WHAT DAY IS IT?  
WHAT WILL I TELL  
JANET?

HE SITS DOWN ON THE JOB AND HIS BOSS GIVES HIM A WARNING.



HIS WIFE CONFRONT'S HIM ABOUT HIS DRINKING.

YOU HAVE TO STOP DRINKING, JOE... IF YOU LOVE THE CHILDREN...

I KNOW, I KNOW!  
LEAVE ME ALONE!

I'VE GOT TO  
GET HOME EARLY  
TONIGHT.

I DON'T DRINK ANY  
MORE THAN CHARLIE! I  
CAN STOP DRINKING WHEN  
I WANT TO.

IF MY WIFE  
DIDN'T YELL AT  
ME ALL THE TIME...  
IF MY BOSS  
WAS NOT MAD  
AT ME...

IF I DIDN'T OWE  
SO MUCH MONEY TO  
ALL THOSE PEOPLE...

JOE'S WIFE CALLS HER FRIEND..

I JUST  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO!

ASK JOE TO  
TALK TO JIM! HE  
WENT TO ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS.

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THAT NIGHT..

WILL YOU TALK  
TO MARY'S FRIEND  
JIM? HE'S IN A.A.

OKAY, IF IT WILL  
MAKE YOU HAPPY..  
BUT I'M NOT  
AN ALCOHOLIC!



JIM COMES TO SEE JOE. HE TALKS ABOUT HIS OWN DRINKING...

JOE... I USED TO DRINK LIKE YOU. I THOUGHT I COULD STOP ANY TIME. BUT I COULDN'T. I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD A DISEASE. ALCOHOLISM IS A DISEASE... JUST LIKE CANCER OR DIABETES.

BUT JOE IS SURE HE IS NOT AN ALCOHOLIC.

IF YOU WANT HELP, CALL ME! I'LL TAKE YOU TO AA! THAT'S WHERE I GOT HELP.

NO, THANKS, JIM. I'M NOT AN ALCOHOLIC. I HAVE A JOB AND MY FAMILY... I DON'T DRINK IN THE MORNING!

I'LL STRAIGHTEN UP FROM NOW ON!

AND JOE GOES "ON THE WAGON" FOR A WHILE.

YOU'RE DOING  
A GOOD JOB NOW, JOE!  
HOW ABOUT A BEER? ONE  
WON'T HURT YOU!

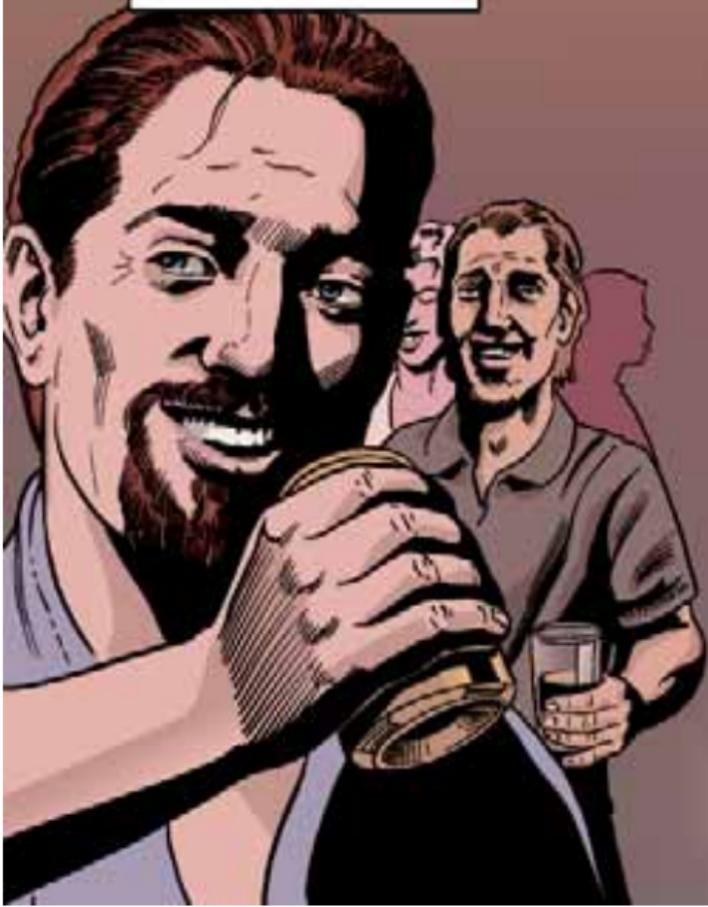
NO, THANKS, CHARLIE.  
I WANT TO WORK TWO  
MORE HOURS. I CAN USE  
THE MONEY!

BUT THEN, ONE HOT EVENING...

A COUPLE  
OF BEERS NEVER  
HURT ANYBODY.

I NEED  
A LITTLE FUN!

NOTHING BAD HAPPENS...



...SO JOE KEEPS ON DRINKING.



HE EVEN DRINKS MORE THAN HE USED TO.

JOE'S DRINKING LEADS TO FIGHTS...

...TO A CAR WRECK...

...TO TELLING LIES.

I ONLY HAVE  
A FEW DRINKS TO  
HELP ME SLEEP...



THEN ONE DAY AT WORK...



IF YOU DONT  
SHAPE UP, YOU HAVE  
HAD IT!

AND AT HOME...



IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN,  
JOE, I AM GOING AWAY WITH  
THE CHILDREN!

JOE THINKS ABOUT JIM'S STORY.

MAYBE I COULD  
USE SOME HELP! NOW,  
WHAT DID THAT  
AA. GUY SAY?

JOE MAKES HIMSELF GO TO AN AA. MEETING...

PROBABLY A  
BUNCH OF LOSERS...  
I WON'T STAY LONG.



JOE LIKES THE PEOPLE...

THEY ARE LIKE ME!  
THEY KNOW HOW IT IS.  
I CAN TALK TO THEM!



MAYBE I AM AN  
ALCOHOLIC. THESE AA'S DON'T  
SEEM TO MIND THE  
WORD AT ALL!





THE AA MEETING IS NOT LIKE  
JOE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...

MY NAME IS BOB...  
AND I AM AN ALCOHOLIC.  
LET ME TELL YOU WHAT KIND  
OF DRUNK I WAS...

HE SURE  
IS AN HONEST  
GUY!

ONE DAY  
AT A  
TIME

FIRST  
THINGS  
FIRST

...AND WITH THE HELP OF AA,  
I HAVE NOT HAD A DRINK IN FOUR YEARS...  
ONE DAY AT A TIME...

AND I AM  
HAPPYER THAN  
EVER BEFORE!

JOE TALKS TO MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES. THEY SAY THEY  
ARE ALCOHOLICS. BUT THEY ARE SOBER. THEY ARE NOT ASHAMED.



A man with a beard and a dark jacket is looking down at a newspaper he is holding. He has a thoughtful expression. In the background, a woman in a dark dress is walking away from him. The scene is outdoors, possibly on a sidewalk.

JOE HAS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT ON HIS WAY HOME..

A woman with dark hair is talking to a man who is standing in a doorway. The man is wearing a dark suit and holding a newspaper. He looks surprised or excited. The woman is wearing a dark top. The scene is indoors, likely in a house.

JANE...I AM GOING TO GIVE AA A GOOD TRY! THEY ARE GREAT PEOPLE. MAYBE THEY ARE RIGHT ABOUT THIS...DISEASE!

JOE LEARNS MORE AND MORE ABOUT AA...

WE HAVE NO DUES.  
AA IS FREE. ALL YOU NEED  
IS A DESIRE TO STOP  
DRINKING.

WE ARE NOT AGAINST  
PEOPLE WHO DRINK. BUT WE  
KNOW IT IS **POISON**  
FOR US!

WE TALK ABOUT  
YOUR PROBLEM ONLY WITH  
YOU. WE ONLY USE  
FIRST NAMES!

NOBODY PAYS US TO  
HELP EACH OTHER. WE DO  
IT TO HELP OURSELVES!



ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE.  
WE WILL ALWAYS HELP IF  
YOU WANT US TO!

"IF YOU  
NEED HELP, PHONE AN AA.  
FRIEND, DAY OR NIGHT."



WEEKS AND MONTHS PASS. JOE STAYS FREE FROM ALCOHOL.

JOE, YOU LOOK LIKE A NEW MAN. YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB!



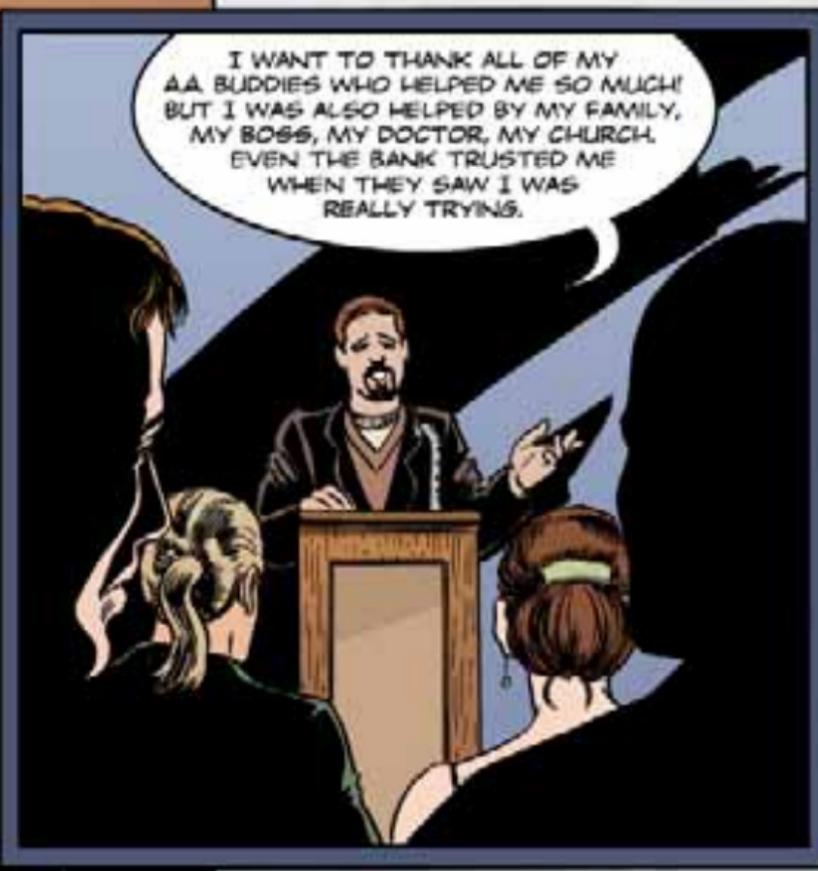
JOE GOES TO AA MEETINGS...

HI, HONEY! HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD MEETING TONIGHT.





IT IS NOT WHAT I DRANK,  
OR HOW MUCH THAT MADE ME  
AN ALCOHOLIC. IT IS WHAT ALCOHOL  
DID TO ME! WE DO NOT KNOW THE CAUSE  
OF THIS DISEASE...WHY SOME PEOPLE HAVE IT  
AND OTHERS DON'T! BUT  
WE KNOW HOW TO  
GET OVER IT.



I WANT TO THANK ALL OF MY  
AA BUDDIES WHO HELPED ME SO MUCH!  
BUT I WAS ALSO HELPED BY MY FAMILY,  
MY BOSS, MY DOCTOR, MY CHURCH,  
EVEN THE BANK TRUSTED ME  
WHEN THEY SAW I WAS  
REALLY TRYING.



I AM DOING ALL I CAN TO CLEAN UP  
THE PROBLEMS IN MY LIFE. I KNOW I CAN  
STAY SOBER TODAY AND THAT IS MY BEST  
CHANCE FOR A HAPPY TOMORROW!

NOW WE CAN HAVE A GOOD TIME  
AND STILL GO TO WORK TOMORROW WITH  
NO REGRETS AND NO HANGOVER.

END

# CHECK UP ON YOUR OWN DRINKING

THE ANSWERS ARE NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT YOUR OWN...

YES NO

1.  YES  NO HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING FOR A WEEK OR SO, BUT COULD NOT DO IT?
2.  YES  NO HAVE I WISHED PEOPLE WOULD STOP TALKING ABOUT MY DRINKING?
3.  YES  NO HAVE I CHANGED DRINKS TO TRY NOT TO GET DRUNK?
4.  YES  NO DO I EVER NEED A DRINK TO GET ME GOING IN THE MORNING?
5.  YES  NO DO I ENVY PEOPLE WHO CAN DRINK WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE?
6.  YES  NO DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS AT HOME?

YES NO

7.  YES  NO DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
8.  YES  NO DO I TRY TO GET EXTRA DRINKS?
9.  YES  NO HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING BUT STILL GOT DRUNK?
10.  YES  NO HAVE I MISSED WORK OR CUT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF DRINKING?
11.  YES  NO DO I HAVE BLACKOUTS-TIMES I CANNOT REMEMBER?
12.  YES  NO WOULD MY LIFE BE BETTER IF I QUIT DRINKING?

IF YOU HAVE SEVERAL **YES** ANSWERS, CALL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.  
SOME OTHER PEOPLE WHO ANSWERED **YES**, TOO, WILL  
GIVE YOU SOME GREAT NEW FACTS ABOUT DRINKING.

LOOK IN YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR  
**"ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS,"** OR **"AA."**  
PHONE THEM OR GO TO THEIR ADDRESS.

OR WRITE TO:

**AA.**  
**BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10163**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.AA.ORG](http://WWW.AA.ORG)

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**50M - 11/08 (INTRA)**