

***WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE...***



***...AND HIS DRINKING PROBLEM***

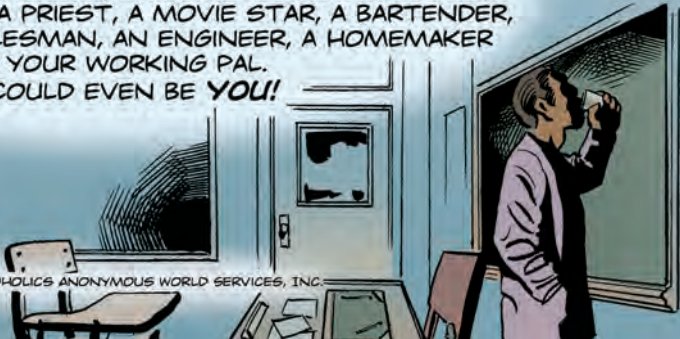
A large illustration of a man in a suit drinking from a bottle. In the background, there are faint silhouettes of other people.

# 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...



...A JOB HE ENJOYS...



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.



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



HIS WIFE CONFRONTS 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 DON'T  
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!

ONE DAY  
AT A  
TIME

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...

FIRST  
THINGS  
FIRST

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

...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 mustache, wearing a dark green jacket over a grey shirt, is sitting on a sidewalk. He is looking down at a newspaper he is holding in his hands. In the background, a man in a dark suit and a woman in a dark jacket and skirt are walking away from him. The scene is outdoors, with a building and a car visible in the background.

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

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black top, is sitting in a chair and looking towards a man. The man is standing in a doorway, wearing a dark green jacket over a grey shirt. He is holding a piece of paper in his hands and looking at the woman. The scene is indoors, with a window and a potted plant visible in the background.

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!








JOE'S FAMILY LIFE CHANGES.

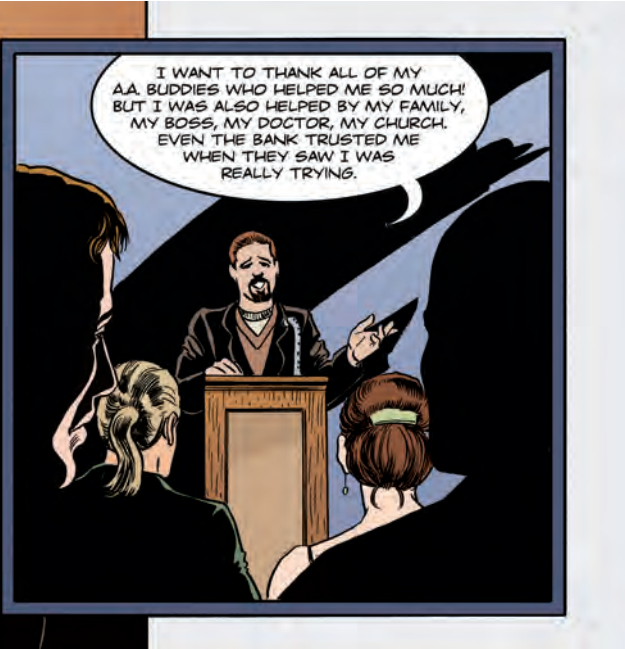
GEE, DAD.  
WE'RE SO PROUD  
OF YOU!

TELLING HIS OWN STORY, JOE HELPS AN OLD FRIEND  
WITH HIS DRINKING PROBLEM...





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. ☐ ☐ HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING FOR A WEEK OR SO, BUT COULD NOT DO IT?
2. ☐ ☐ HAVE I WISHED PEOPLE WOULD STOP TALKING ABOUT MY DRINKING?
3. ☐ ☐ HAVE I CHANGED DRINKS TO TRY NOT TO GET DRUNK?
4. ☐ ☐ DO I EVER NEED A DRINK TO GET ME GOING IN THE MORNING?
5. ☐ ☐ DO I ENVY PEOPLE WHO CAN DRINK WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE?
6. ☐ ☐ DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS AT HOME?

YES NO

7. ☐ ☐ DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
8. ☐ ☐ DO I TRY TO GET EXTRA DRINKS?
9. ☐ ☐ HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING BUT STILL GOT DRUNK?
10. ☐ ☐ HAVE I MISSED WORK OR CUT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF DRINKING?
11. ☐ ☐ DO I HAVE BLACKOUTS-TIMES I CANNOT REMEMBER?
12. ☐ ☐ 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 **"A.A."**  
PHONE THEM OR GO TO THEIR ADDRESS.

OR WRITE TO:

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT **WWW.AA.ORG**

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