


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...



...A JOB HE ENJOYS...



YOU'RE DOING GREAT, JOE.

THANKS, CHARLIE!

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 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 DON'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.

THAT NIGHT...

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

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 MORNINGS!

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!



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!

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST


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
HAPPIER 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 green jacket over a grey turtleneck, is looking down at a document he is holding. He has a somber expression. In the background, a woman in a black dress and a man in a dark suit are walking away from him down a hallway. The scene is framed by a white circular border.

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

A man in a green jacket and dark suit is standing in a doorway, holding a document. He is looking towards a woman with dark hair who is wearing a black dress and is shown in profile. The man has a slightly nervous or earnest expression. The background shows an interior room with a window and a potted plant.

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.

JOE'S FAMILY LIFE CHANGES.




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



A man with a goatee, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored sweater and a dark tie, is speaking to a woman whose profile is visible on the left. They are at a bar with a bottle and a glass on the counter. A speech bubble above the man contains the following text:

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.

A man with a goatee is speaking at a wooden podium. He is wearing a dark jacket over a sweater. He is gesturing with his right hand. In the foreground, the backs of two women's heads are visible, showing they are part of an audience. A speech bubble above the man contains the following text:

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

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

YES NO

- YES NO DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
- YES NO DO I TRY TO GET EXTRA DRINKS?
- YES NO HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING BUT STILL GOT DRUNK?
- YES NO HAVE I MISSED WORK OR CUT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF DRINKING?
- YES NO DO I HAVE BLACKOUTS-TIMES I CANNOT REMEMBER?
- 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 **"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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P-38
35M - 8/12 (Ripon)