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!
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.

He sits down on the job and his boss gives him a warning.

What day is it? What will I tell Jane?
HIS WIFE CONFRONTS HIM ABOUT HIS DRINKING.

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

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...

I KNOW, I KNOW! LEAVE ME ALONE!

I'VE GOT TO GET HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
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 A.A. 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 DOESING 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.
MY NAME IS LIZ AND THIS IS TOM!

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!

JOE FINDS FRIENDLY PEOPLE, THEY SAY THEY DRANK THE WAY HE DID, THEY UNDERSTAND HIS PROBLEMS...
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!
...and with the help of A.A.,
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.
JOE HAS A LOT TO THINK ABOUT ON HIS WAY HOME...

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.

SEE, 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.
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<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING FOR A WEEK OR SO, BUT COULD NOT DO IT?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>HAVE I WISHED PEOPLE WOULD STOP TALKING ABOUT MY DRINKING?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>HAVE I CHANGED DRINKS TO TRY NOT TO GET DRUNK?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>DO I EVER NEED A DRINK TO GET ME GOING IN THE MORNING?</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>DO I ENVY PEOPLE WHO CAN DRINK WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE?</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS AT HOME?</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>DOES MY DRINKING CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE?</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>DO I TRY TO GET EXTRA DRINKS?</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>HAVE I TRIED TO STOP DRINKING BUT STILL GOT DRUNK?</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>HAVE I MISSED WORK OR CUT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF DRINKING?</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>DO I HAVE BLACKOUTS-TIMES I CANNOT REMEMBER?</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>WOULD MY LIFE BE BETTER IF I QUIT DRINKING?</td>
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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

THIS IS AA. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE. PRODUCED BY ZIPPY STUDIO & DAE YOO.
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