

READING GUIDE

Crooked Lines: Bent, Not Broken

Discussion Questions & Reflection Prompts

by Shaun Critzer

How to Use This Reading Guide

This guide is designed to help you go deeper into the themes of *Crooked Lines*. Whether you're reading alone, with a book club, or in a recovery group, these questions will help you reflect on your own journey and connect with the universal truths in this story.

For Individual Readers:

Use the reflection prompts as journaling exercises. Don't rush through them—sit with the questions that make you uncomfortable. That's where the growth happens.

For Book Clubs & Groups:

These discussion questions are designed to spark meaningful conversation. Remember: this book deals with trauma, addiction, and recovery. Create a safe space where people can share vulnerably without fear of judgment.

PROLOGUE: The Liquor Store

Discussion Questions:

1. The prologue opens with Shaun 18 months sober but feeling "worse, not better." Why do you think early sobriety can sometimes feel harder than active addiction?
2. Shaun describes standing in the liquor store, "crying over bourbon bottles like a crazy person." What does this moment reveal about his relationship with alcohol?
3. The old-timer at the meeting says it got better when he "stopped fighting it" and "finally surrendered." What do you think surrender means in the context of recovery?
4. Shannon tells Shaun that not drinking is "everything." Do you agree? Why or why not?

Reflection Prompts:

- Write about a time you stood at a crossroads between two very different paths. What helped you choose?
- What does "surrender" mean to you? When have you experienced it?
- Who in your life has been your "Shannon"—the person who showed up when you needed them most?