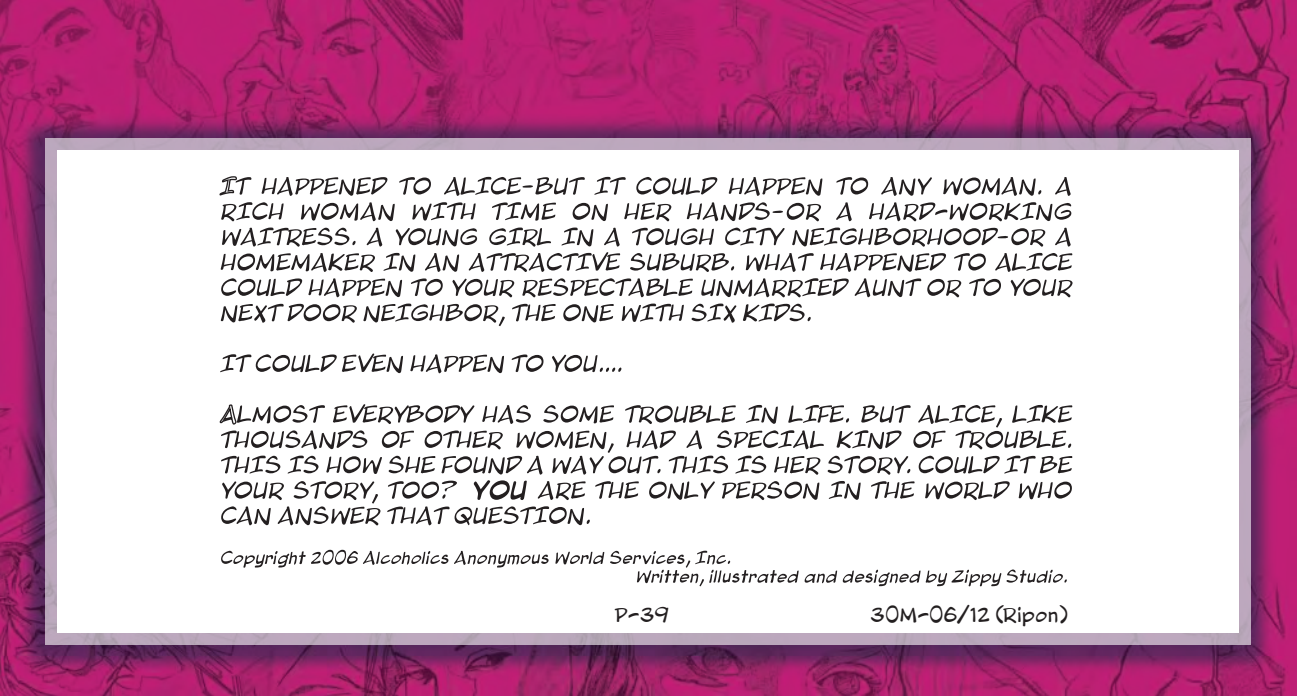




# IT HAPPENED TO ALICE

HOW SHE FACED A DRINKING PROBLEM



IT HAPPENED TO ALICE-BUT IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANY WOMAN. A RICH WOMAN WITH TIME ON HER HANDS-OR A HARD-WORKING WAITRESS. A YOUNG GIRL IN A TOUGH CITY NEIGHBORHOOD-OR A HOMEMAKER IN AN ATTRACTIVE SUBURB. WHAT HAPPENED TO ALICE COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR RESPECTABLE UNMARRIED AUNT OR TO YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, THE ONE WITH SIX KIDS.

IT COULD EVEN HAPPEN TO YOU....

ALMOST EVERYBODY HAS SOME TROUBLE IN LIFE. BUT ALICE, LIKE THOUSANDS OF OTHER WOMEN, HAD A SPECIAL KIND OF TROUBLE. THIS IS HOW SHE FOUND A WAY OUT. THIS IS HER STORY. COULD IT BE YOUR STORY, TOO? YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

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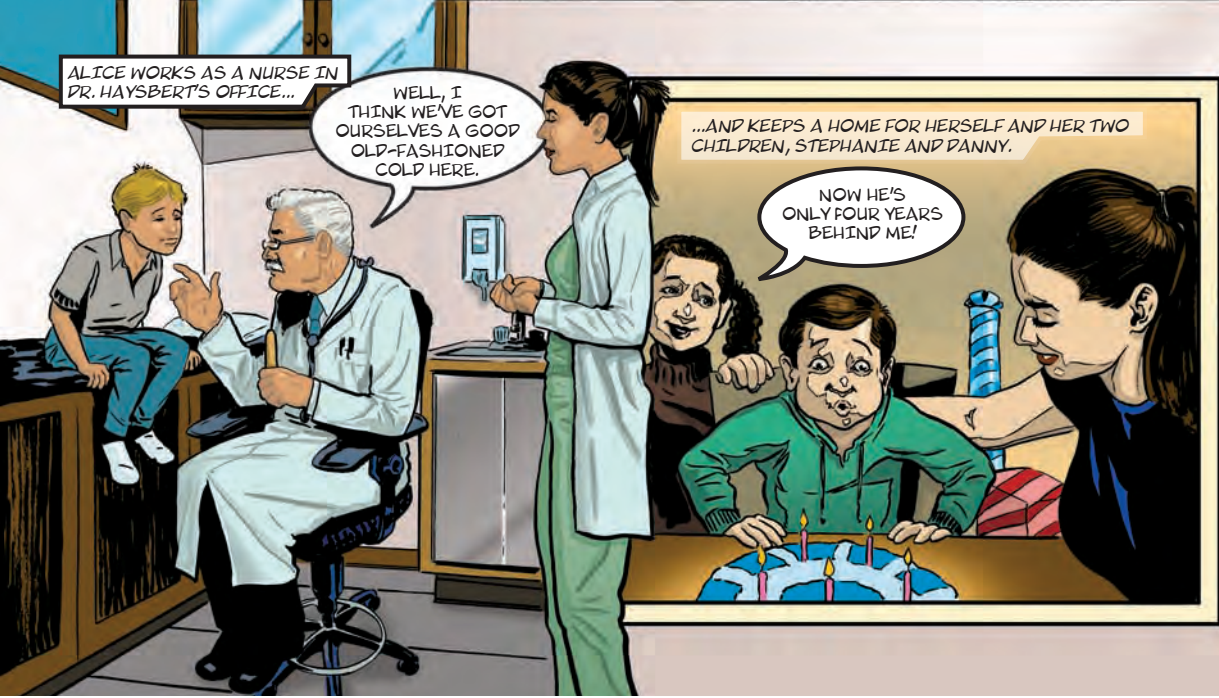
*Written, illustrated and designed by Zippy Studio.*

ALICE WORKS AS A NURSE IN  
DR. HAYSBERT'S OFFICE...

WELL, I  
THINK WE'VE GOT  
OURSELVES A GOOD  
OLD-FASHIONED  
COLD HERE.

...AND KEEPS A HOME FOR HERSELF AND HER TWO  
CHILDREN, STEPHANIE AND DANNY.

NOW HE'S  
ONLY FOUR YEARS  
BEHIND ME!





I'VE GOT TO  
GET OUT OF DEBT BEFORE  
THE CUSTODY HEARING.


...SURE, SURE.  
I CAN BE IN EARLY  
TOMORROW.

I'LL HAVE TO  
GET SOMEONE TO TAKE THE  
KIDS TO SCHOOL.





OCCASIONALLY, LIFE'S PRESSURES BUILD AND ALICE CUTS LOOSE. SOMETIMES THIS CAUSES HER TO MISS IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS.



Alice,  
you knew  
about that  
teacher's  
conference  
for *weeks*.

I know,  
mom. It was  
just this once,  
y'know.

I just went out  
for a little fun. It's  
not like I drink at work or  
anything.

Get off  
my case....



YOUR  
DRINKING IS  
GETTING OUT  
OF HAND.

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU, NEVER  
HELPING WITH THE  
**BILLS?**

LIKE MAKING  
PAYMENTS ON TIME IS  
THE **REAL** PROBLEM HERE,  
ALICE.

WEEKS PASS AND ALICE'S NIGHTS OUT OCCUR MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY.

HEY, C'MON,  
ALICE. UPSIE-  
DAISY.

WE CAN'T  
LET HER  
DRIVE....

I'LL DRIVE  
HER HOME.

...AND  
HERE WE  
ARE.

LET'S GET  
YOU PUT TO  
BED, OK?

...MMM.  
THANKS...

...MMM.  
S' SWEET  
OF YOU...  
<giggle>





MOMMY,  
UM, IT'S TIME TO  
GO TO SCHOOL.

HI, STEPHEN?  
YEAH, UM, WE NEED  
A RIDE... UH-HUH, MY  
CAR'S ACROSS  
TOWN.

SIGH.  
YES. YEAH, I  
KNOW.

hmmm? wha'?'  
ooh, what time  
is it...?

I HOPE  
I'M NOT GONNA  
BE LATE....

HOW  
DID I GET  
HOME?



THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN HER ATTORNEY'S OFFICE....

YOUR HUSBAND'S  
LAWYER CALLED ABOUT  
YOU LOSING YOUR  
CAR...

AN INCIDENT LIKE  
THIS *IS* PRETTY SERIOUS,  
ALICE.

OH, NO,  
WHO ELSE  
KNOWS ABOUT  
IT?

HOW  
SERIOUS?

WELL, IT  
CERTAINLY COULD MAKE  
A MESS OF CUSTODY.

ALICE,  
I KNOW  
THIS IS REALLY  
PERSONAL, BUT HAVE  
YOU EVER THOUGHT OF  
ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS?

THEY HELP  
AN AWFUL LOT OF  
PEOPLE.

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, ALICE TRIES  
TO HIDE HER ESCALATING DRINKING PROBLEM.



MOMMY,  
YOU PROMISED!

⟨GASP⟩



SOON, HOWEVER, HER  
DRINKING BECOMES  
IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE.

ALICE,  
THIS HAS TO  
STOP.

I'M TAKING  
STEPHANIE AND  
DANNY....

MOMMY?



ALONE IN HER APARTMENT, ALICE  
RECALLS HER ATTORNEY'S WORDS.

HELLO?  
ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS?

YES, MY  
NAME'S ALICE AND,  
UH, I NEED SOME  
HELP...



...ALICE ATTENDS HER FIRST A.A. MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

...TAKE YOUR  
COAT?



ALICE FINDS MANY RECEPTIVE AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE...

HELLO, MY  
NAME IS DAVE.  
WELCOME!

HI, MY  
NAME'S  
TRACY.

H-HI,  
I'M ALICE....

WOULD  
YOU LIKE  
COFFEE?

...AND LEARNS ABOUT A.A.

ALCOHOLISM  
IS AN ILLNESS, AND  
FOR US A.A. IS THE  
SOLUTION.





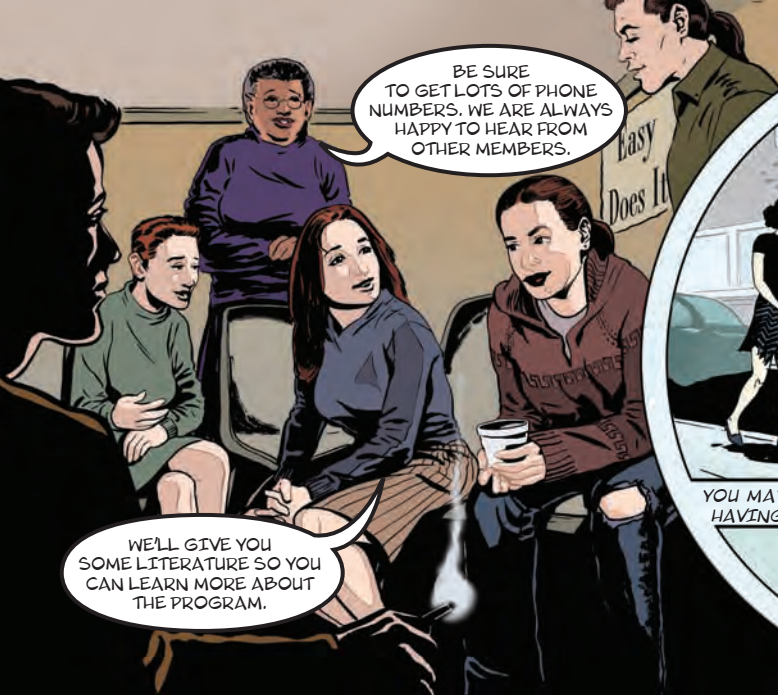


ONLY YOU  
CAN DECIDE, BUT WE WILL  
ALWAYS BE THERE IF  
YOU WANT US.

WE HAVE NO DUES,  
AND ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A DESIRE  
TO STOP DRINKING. WE TALK ABOUT YOUR  
PROBLEMS ONLY WITH YOU.



WE HELP  
**YOU**, BECAUSE IT  
HELPS **US**.



BE SURE  
TO GET LOTS OF PHONE  
NUMBERS. WE ARE ALWAYS  
HAPPY TO HEAR FROM  
OTHER MEMBERS.

WE'LL GIVE YOU  
SOME LITERATURE SO YOU  
CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE PROGRAM.



YOU JUST NEED TO  
CALL ONE OF YOUR A.A.  
FRIENDS-DAY OR NIGHT.

YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF  
HAVING AN URGE TO DRINK.

IN THE COMING WEEKS, ALICE ATTENDS A.A. MEETINGS REGULARLY. ONE DAY SHE SITS DOWN TO DISCUSS IT WITH HER FAMILY.

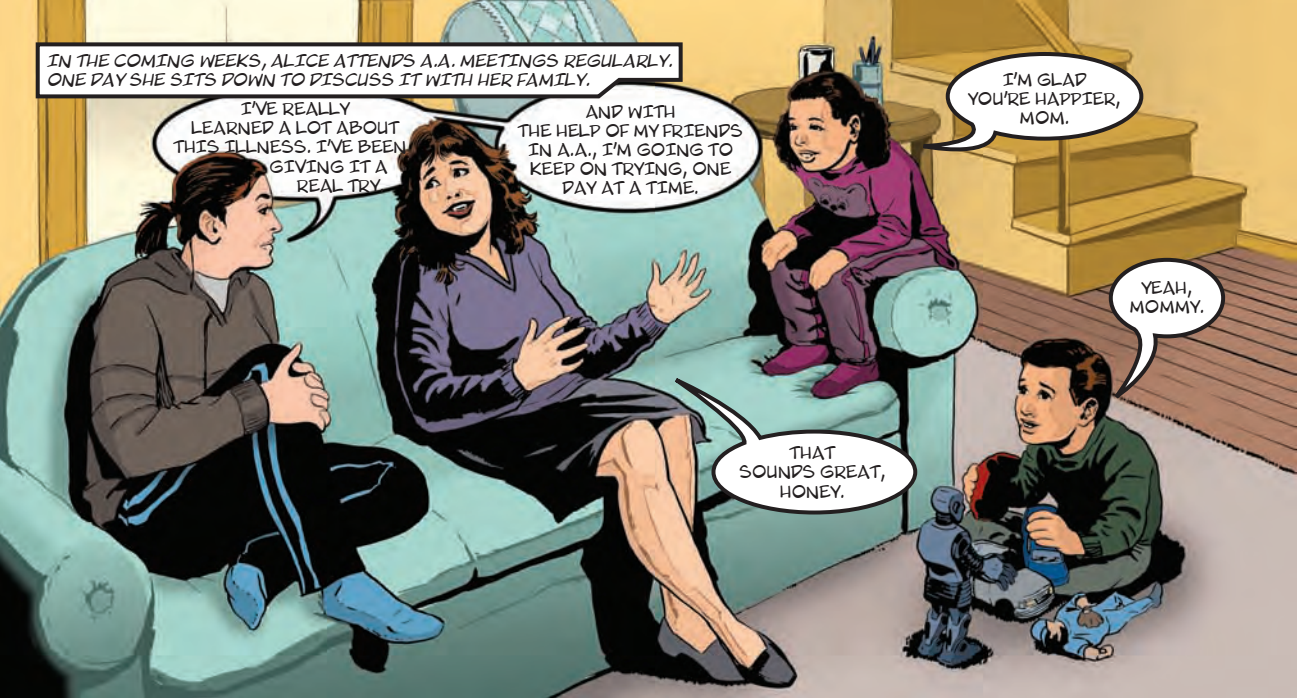
I'VE REALLY  
LEARNED A LOT ABOUT  
THIS ILLNESS. I'VE BEEN  
GIVING IT A  
REAL TRY

AND WITH  
THE HELP OF MY FRIENDS  
IN A.A., I'M GOING TO  
KEEP ON TRYING, ONE  
DAY AT A TIME.

I'M GLAD  
YOU'RE HAPPIER,  
MOM.

YEAH,  
MOMMY.

THAT  
SOUNDS GREAT,  
HONEY.



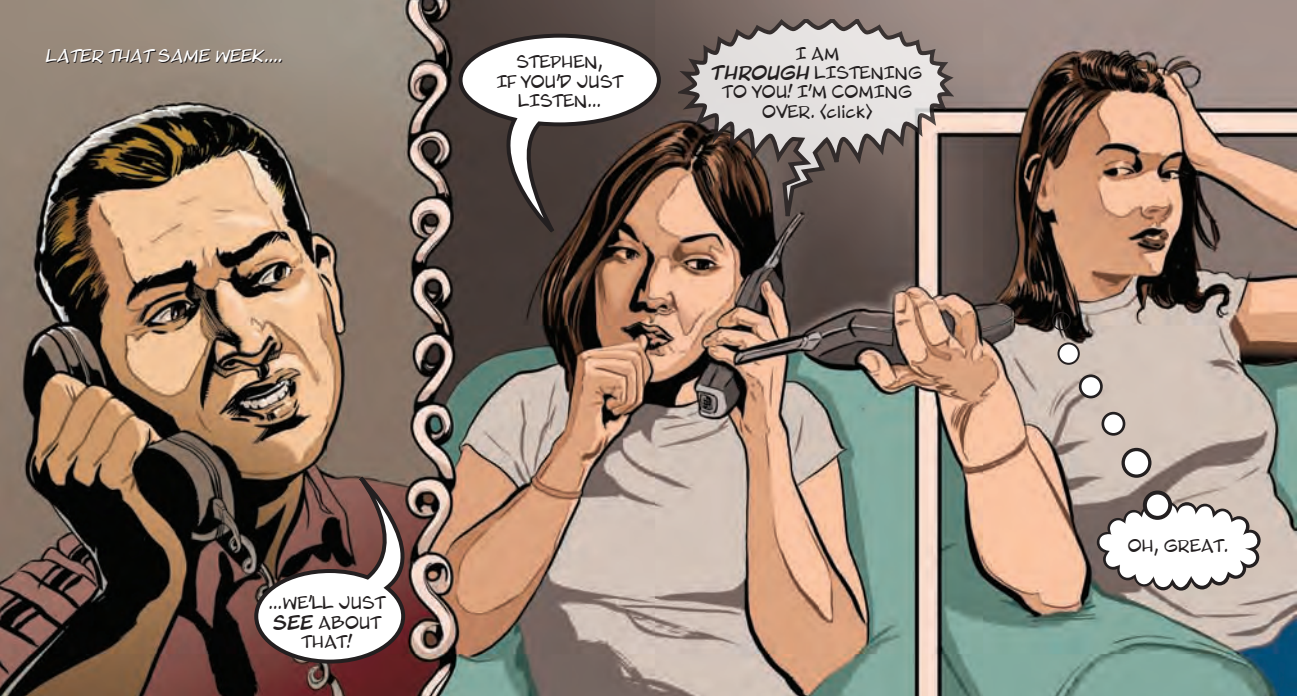
LATER THAT SAME WEEK....

STEPHEN,  
IF YOU'D JUST  
LISTEN...

I AM  
THROUGH LISTENING  
TO YOU! I'M COMING  
OVER. <click>

...WE'LL JUST  
SEE ABOUT  
THAT!

OH, GREAT.







I JUST  
CAN'T **HANDLE**  
THIS.

MAYBE IF I  
HAVE A GLASS OF WINE,  
I COULD TAKE THE  
EDGE OFF...



OH, NO. NOPE,  
THAT'S JUST HOW  
IT STARTS.

I'M NOT HEADING  
THERE AGAIN. HERE'S  
THAT NUMBER....



DAWN? HI,  
IT'S ALICE FROM  
THE MEETING.

YEAH, YOU  
SAID I SHOULD  
CALL IF....

COULD YOU?  
OH, THAT'D BE  
**GREAT.**

THIRTY MINUTES LATER AT A  
COFFEE SHOP CLOSE BY....

...RIGHT  
THING TO  
CALL.

I MUST  
ADMIT I  
WAS A BIT  
NERVOUS.

I COMPLETELY  
UNDERSTAND. I'VE HAD  
THAT KIND OF NERVOUSNESS  
BEFORE.

LIFE'S PRESSURES  
AND ANXIETIES DON'T GO  
AWAY WHEN YOU'RE  
SOBER.

WHAT YOU  
LEARN, THOUGH,  
IS THAT DRINKING'S  
JUST THE WRONG  
WAY TO DEAL  
WITH THEM.



WHEN ALICE RETURNS, SHE FACES HER PROBLEMS.

YEAH.  
YEAH, I SEE  
THAT THINGS'VE  
CHANGED....



AS TIME PASSES, ALICE FEELS MORE LIKE A MEMBER OF HER GROUP.

THESE ARE MY  
CHILDREN-THE  
BEST KIDS IN THE  
WORLD.

THEY'RE  
BEAUTIFUL....



ONE AFTERNOON THAT SPRING, ALICE GETS A CALL FROM AN OLD FRIEND.

ALICE?

DEBORAH...  
HEY, WHAT'S  
WRONG?

OH, I DON'T  
KNOW.... SAY, COULD  
YOU STOP BY?

〈SOB〉  
I JUST CAN'T GO  
ON LIVING LIKE  
THIS.

DEBORAH, I WANT  
YOU TO MEET SOME OF MY  
NEW FRIENDS. I MET THEM AT  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THEY  
HELPED ME AND CONTINUE TO  
HELP ME OVERCOME  
MY ILLNESS.

〈SNIFF〉  
I'D HEARD YOU HAD  
GOTTEN BOOZE OUT OF  
YOUR LIFE. DO YOU THINK  
A.A. COULD HELP ME?



ONLY YOU CAN SAY THAT FOR SURE-A.A. WILL HELP YOU ONLY IF YOU WANT THEM TO HELP YOU.

BUT IT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE HAS TO DECIDE FOR HIM OR HERSELF. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF MY FRIENDS. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

DEBORAH DISCOVERS THAT A.A. IS FOR HER. LATER THAT SUMMER, SHE JOINS ALICE'S FAMILY FOR A DAY AT THE BEACH.



AND THEY BOTH TAKE THEIR RECOVERY ONE DAY AT A TIME.

# 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:  
**BOX 459**  
**GRAND CENTRAL STATION**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10163**

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

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