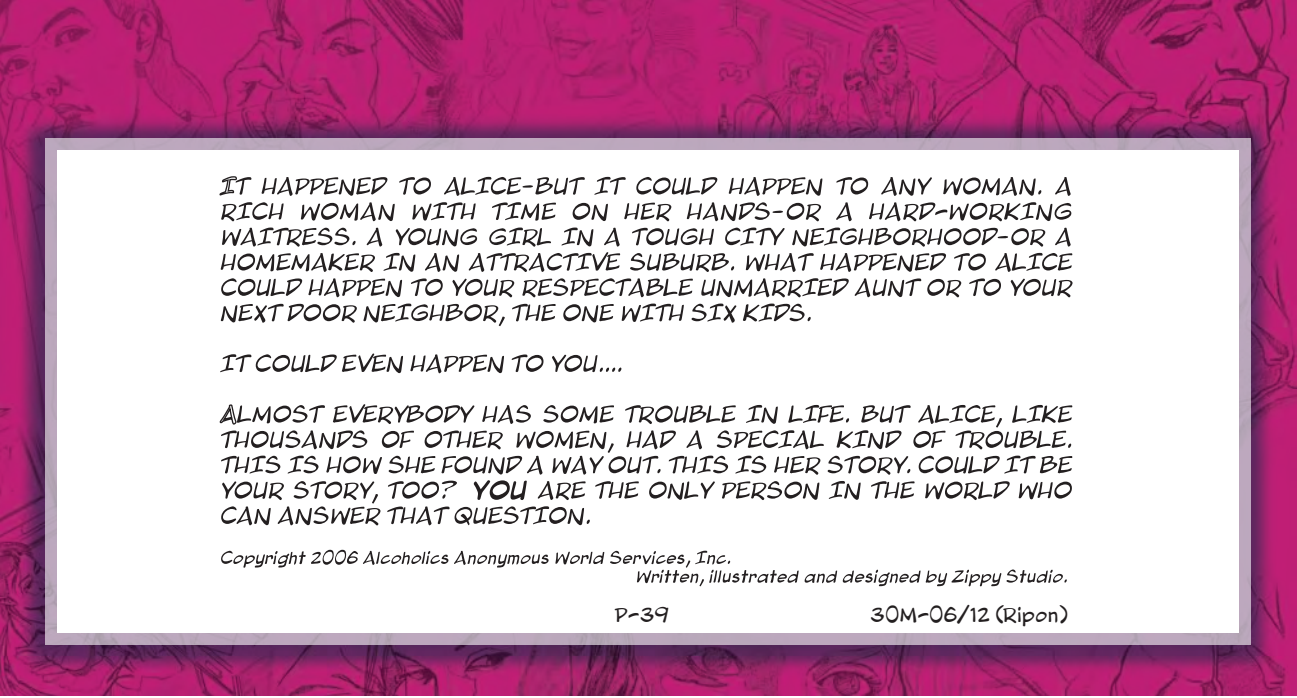




IT HAPPENED TO ALICE

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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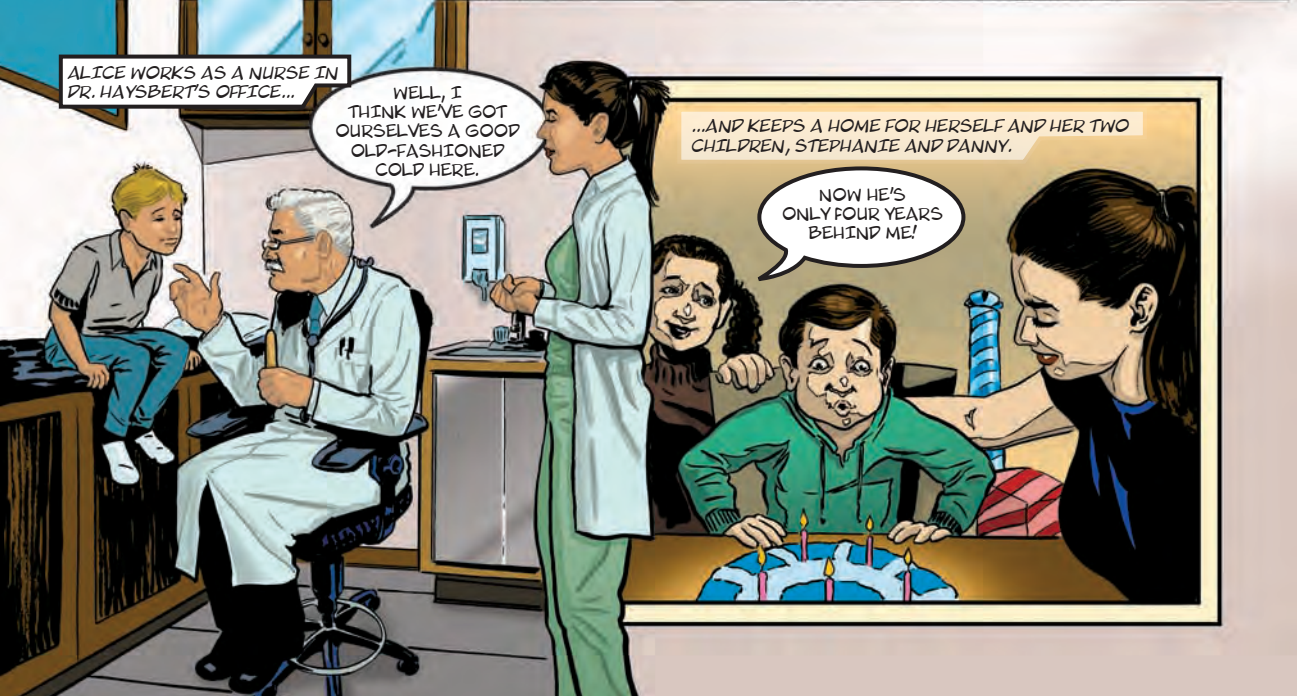
Written, illustrated and designed by Zippy Studio.

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!





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

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

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



JUST ONE MORE!

I THOUGHT MOM WOULD BE HOME....

HEY, STEPHANIE-LOOK AT THIS!

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.

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

HOW
DID I GET
HOME?

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

SIGH.
YES. YEAH, I
KNOW.

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



C'MON, KIDS. DADDY'S GOING TO GIVE US A RIDE.

MOMMY, WHERE'S OUR CAR?

IT'S, UM, OVER AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE. C'MON....

I HOPE HE DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY STATIC.



OVER AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE, HUH?

ALICE, THIS HAS GOT TO STOP. I AM GOING TO TALK TO MY LAWYER ABOUT THIS BEFORE THE CUSTODY HEARING.

KEYS, KEYS... WHERE ARE MY DAMNED KEYS?

OH, PLEASE, STEPHEN, NOT NOW....

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE....

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 MAY FIND YOURSELF
HAVING AN URGE TO DRINK.



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



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

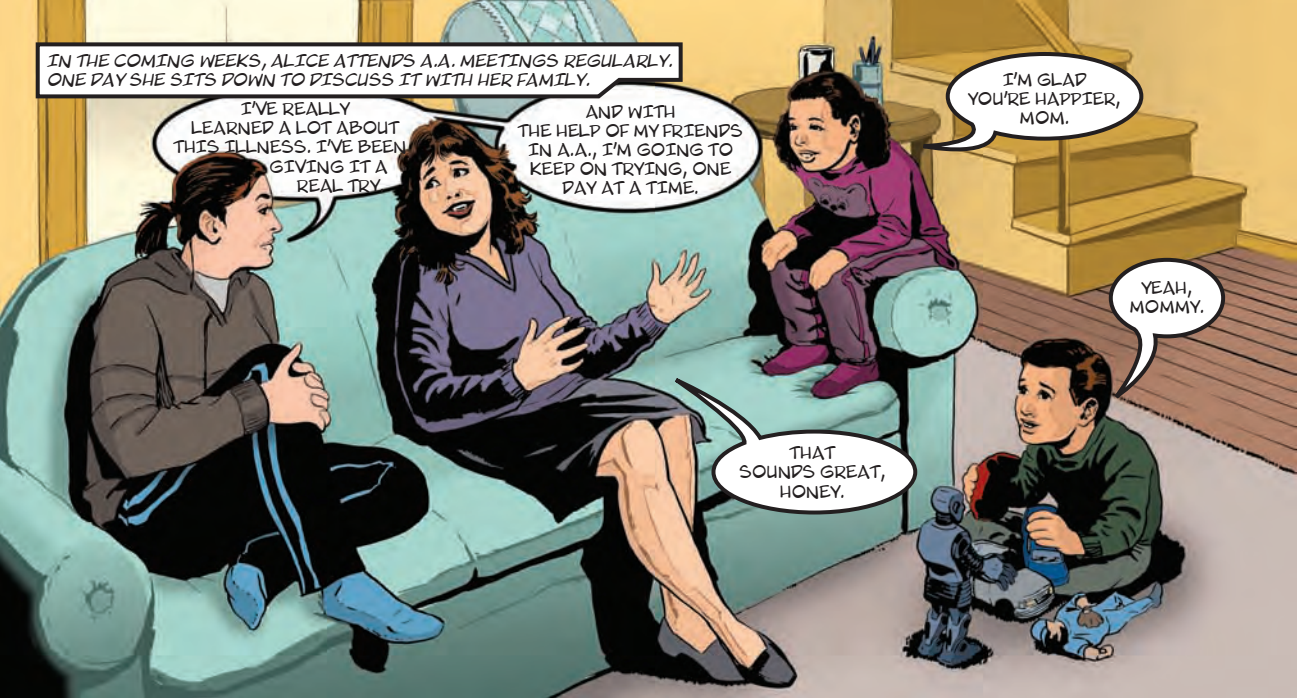
I'VE REALLY
LEARNED A LOT ABOUT
THIS ILLNESS. I'VE BEEN
GIVING IT A
REAL TRY.

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.



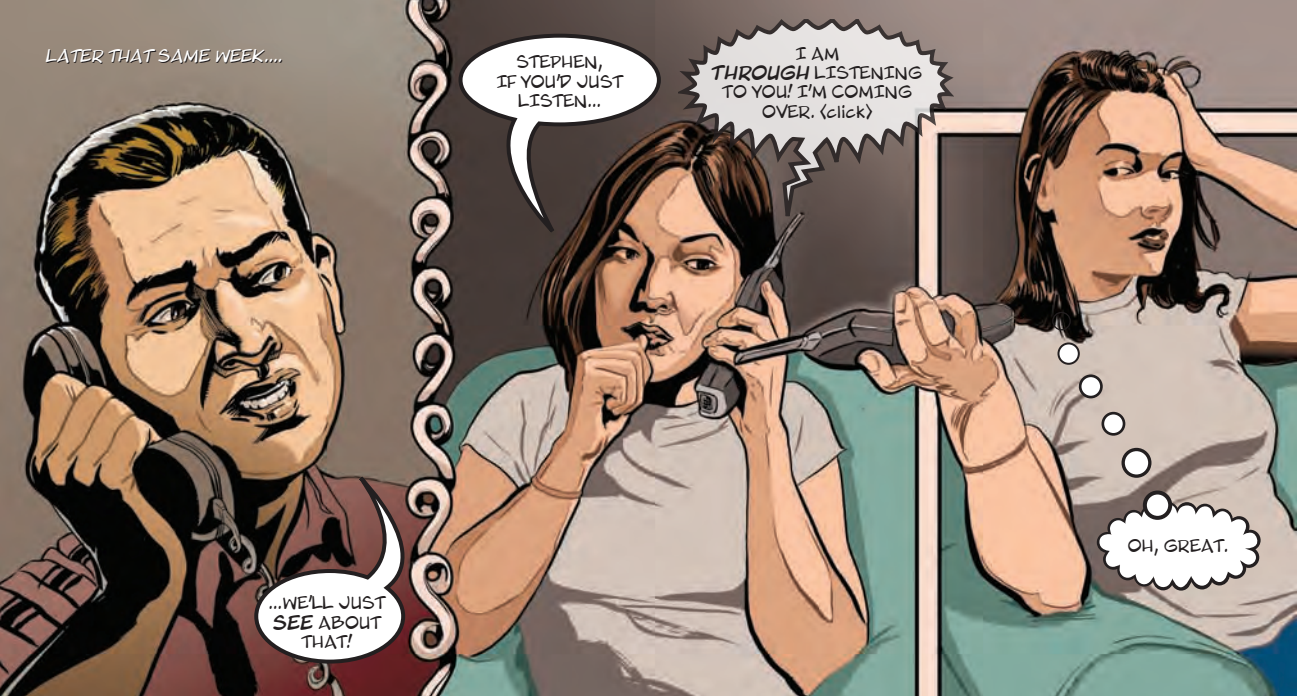
LATER THAT SAME WEEK....

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....




A close-up panel of Alice talking on a mobile phone. She is looking down with a concerned expression. A diagonal line cuts across the panel from the top left to the bottom right.

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?

A panel showing Deborah sitting on the floor, hunched over with her head buried in her hands, crying. Alice is sitting on a wooden chair next to her, with her hand on Deborah's shoulder, offering comfort. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor setting at night.

<SOB>
I JUST CAN'T GO
ON LIVING LIKE
THIS.

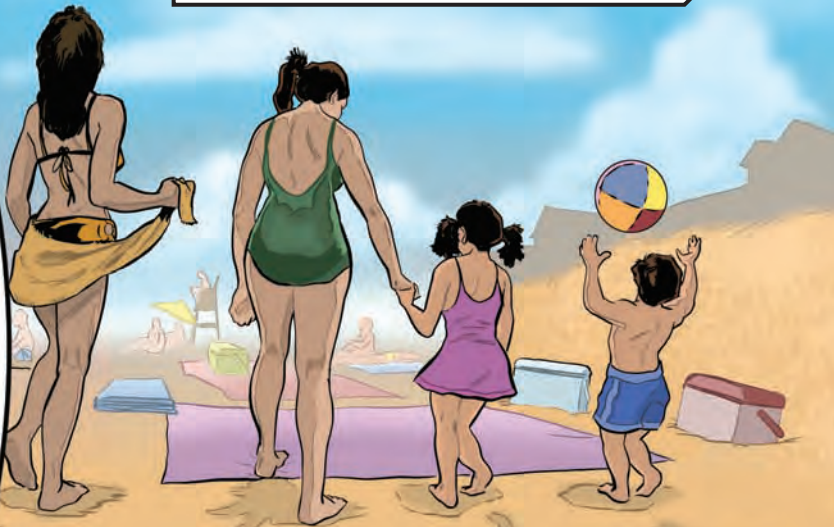
DEBORAH, I WANT
YOU TO MEET SOME OF MY
NEW FRIENDS. I MET THEM AT
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THEY
HELPED ME AND CONTINUE TO
HELP ME OVERCOME
MY ILLNESS.

<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

- 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:
BOX 459
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
NEW YORK, NY 10163

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.AA.ORG

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