

Hank Parkhurst's Outline for the Book

(mid-June 1938)

CHAPTER ONE

Introduces Alcoholics Anonymous. There follows a description of ourselves, the alcoholic problem and our solution. The chapter is general and casts a shadow of that to follow.

Chapter Two.

Narrative One. An alcoholics life experience – How he found the answer.

Chapters Three to Ten, Inclusive.

The narrator of the first story introduces others, who will tell what they were like and what they have found. Comments at end of each story emphasizing and analyzing points.

Chapters Eleven to Fifteen, Inclusive.

These will contain groups of stories written by alcoholic men and women. Twenty cases or more will be covered with appropriate comment.

Chapter Sixteen.

Most of us were honest in being agnostic. This chapter is so directed.

Chapter Seventeen.

Testimony of a well known physician who has specialized a lifetime with alcoholics. At his hospital he has seen many of us recover whom he has pronounced incurable. It will also cover the problem in lay language from the medical and psychiatric point of view.

Chapter Eighteen.

Devoted to the vagaries of the alcoholic mind, bearing especially on mental and emotional states. Having observed each other under new conditions, we think our experiences will be of immense benefit to alcoholic readers. It will give the medical profession the intimate view of these mens minds they so much desire.

Chapter Nineteen.

Having secured the confidence of the alcoholic reader we tell him just what he can do about it. Detailed instructions for working out his situation with his priest, pastor, reader *[sic?]*, wife or best friend will be given. Our experience shows that a man can do this if he follows directions. Great numbers can be touched by the book in this fashion.

Chapter Twenty.

We observed that once an alcoholic has a spiritual experience he must throw himself into work for others. It is preferable that he work with other alcoholics for he can do things which no one else can do. This chapter will detail just how to help others and build up a new group of friends. This chapter will give a blind address, to which an alcoholic who has recovered, and is helping others, may write. When the correspondence indicates real results, we shall contact and draw them into fellowship.

Chapter Twenty One.

Dealing with wives, relative and friends, showing them how they may help.

Chapter Twenty Two.

Herein employers will be given the new view of alcoholism as it affects their interests. Many specific suggestions will be made, as to how in the best interest of all, the employer may handle the myriad situations which are so baffling to him at present.

Chapter Twenty Three.

We shall emphasize that we have no cure all. The sufferer must be willing to recover and cannot be too much handicapped by other great mental and nervous abnormalities. Our failures with many such types will be analyzed at length. We have learned more from our failures than our successes. This should be a valuable chapter for new men and women, that they may recognize their handicaps and may readily perceive the difficulties of those they seek to help.

Chapter Twenty Four.

This chapter will disclose our life as a group, our work as a group, our present situations, and our attitude toward the outside world of life and business. We shall show how our simple common denominator works in the every day world.

Chapter Twenty Five.

A chapter devoted to the potential alcoholic; that he and others may definitely recognize the symptoms before great consequences develop

SOURCE: William Schaberg, *Writing the Big Book: The Creation of A.A.*, pp. 641-43