

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN

She is at home alone and sober but strung out.

M: HI.

H: HEY.

M: YOU OKAY?

H: NEVER BETTER

M: WHAT HAPPENED – SOMETHIN' AT AA?

H: UH – I'LL BE OKAY. IT'S JUST A REALLY BAD DAY

M: YOU WANNA' TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG – SOMETHIN' I CAN DO?

H: THANK YOU BUT...

M: CAN'T FIX IT UNLESS WE KNOW IT'S BROKE.

H: HOW WAS YOUR MEETING?

M: FIRST TIME. I'LL GET USED TO IT... IT WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE THERE FEELING SORRY FOR THEMSELVES. IT'S LIKE AN ALCOHOLIC HAS RUINED THEIR LIVES AND THEY'D RATHER BE A VICTIM THAN ... TRY AND FIX IT.

H: FIX IT HUH?

M: WHAT'D I DO NOW ALICE?

H: NOTHING MICHAEL, NOTHING.

M: I'M TALKING ABOUT SOME LOSERS AT MY MEETING – YOU'RE TAKING IT PERSONALLY.

H: THE TROUBLE WITH ALL THESE LOSERS AT YOUR MEETING IS THAT THEY'RE NOT PERFECT LIKE SOME PEOPLE. THEY'RE MARRIED TO ALCOHOLICS WHO ARE BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUCK TO DO. SO

YOU MIGHT HAVE TO BE A LITTLE TOLERANT – GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF
YOU'RE EXPERTISE AND PROBLEM SOLVING.

M: GOOD MEETING HUH – YOU GUYS DROP ACID OR SOMETHING.

H: LIKE I SAID – I'M HAVING A REALLY BAD DAY – AND I DON'T MEAN TO TAKE IT
OUT ON YOU.

M: WHAT IS IT - YOU WANT A DRINK REAL BAD?

H: THAT WOULDN'T DISTINGUISH IT FROM ANY OTHER DAY MICHAEL.

M: ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS FALL OFF THE WAGON?

H: NOTHING HAPPENED MICHAEL. NOTHING HAS TO HAPPEN FOR ME TO HAVE A
BAD DAY. THAT'S THE THRILLING PART OF ALL THIS. IT JUST COMES AND HITS
AND RUNS ME OVER LIKE A GODDAMN FREIGHT TRAIN.

M: OKAY – WHEN'S THE NEXT FREIGHT TRAIN COMING THROUGH? YOU GOTTA'
PRINTED SCHEDULE? CAUSE I COULD PLAN AROUND THESE THINGS YOU KNOW -
GIVE YOU THE SPACE SO YOU CAN YOU KNOW - SMOKE.

H: MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED TO MICHAEL. ONE OF THE WOMEN AT MY
MEETING IS GOING TO A HALFWAY HOUSE BECAUSE SHE'S NOT MAKING IT IN HER
HOME ENVIRONMENT. I...

M: WHAT?! YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT THIS.

H: I DON'T WANNA START JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS...

M: WHAT?! EXCUSE ME FOR TAKING MY LIFE PERSONALLY ALICE. WHAT IS
WRONG WITH OUR HOME.

H: NOTHING

M: NOTHING. YOU SAID IT WAS SOMETHING, WHAT IS IT? IS IT THE COUCH? IS IT AN AREA RUG. OR IS IT POSSIBLY - ALICE – ALICIA, ME! IS IT ME?

H: IT'S NOT YOU'RE PROBLEM.

M: NO IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM. BUT IT'S MY FUCKING FAULT. EVERYTHING'S MY FAULT. MY SICK WIFE IS NOT MAKING IT IN HER HOME ENVIRONMENT. WHY EXACTLY?

H: I AM NOT YOUR PROBLEM. I AM NOT YOUR PROBLEM TO SOLVE. IT WAS SO MUCH MORE FUN IN THE OLD DAYS WASN'T IT MICHAEL. I GET DRUNK, I PASS OUT AND YOU PUT ME BACK TOGETHER. THAT WAS THE BEST – HUH. THAT MADE YOU FEEL GOOD. AND THAT'S WHAT HURTS (REACH/ CONSOLE) OH FUCK THAT! FUCK MAKING IT BETTER MICHAEL. IT'S NOT GETTING BETTER. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER – AND I SWEAR TO GOD YOU DON'T EITHER.

M: BABY..

H: EVERY TIME YOU SAY THAT. EVERY TIME YOU LOOK AT ME MICHAEL – I WANNA' COME RIGHT OUTTA' MY SKIN. YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A STUPID – WORTHLESS - WEAK ANIMAL. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TRY ANY MORE.

M: NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WE'RE STICKING TOGETHER, ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TRYING FOR.

H: NO MICHAEL, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRY AND BE REAL. AND WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE – AND YOU'RE TOGETHER THAT IS REAL. AND WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW – YOU JUST DON'T KNOW. I THINK I CAN LOVE YOU AGAIN. IF YOU YOU COULD

JUST FOR ONCE SAY I DON'T KNOW

M: I DON'T KNOW. IT DIDN'T WORK DID IT. I'LL GO PACK SOME STUFF.

H: MICHAEL – I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT

M: NO ALICE

H: UM UM

M: COME ON – LET'S BE REAL. YOU'RE CLEAN, YOU STAY HOPELESS AND
CONFUSED – KEEP POLISHING THOSE SKILLS. AND I'LL TAKE ALL THE HEAT.
CAUSE I GOT SOME NEEDS OF MY OWN. WHEN I TOUCH SOMEONE - I LIKE IT
BETTER WHEN THEIR SKIN DOESN'T CRAWL.

H: THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT

M: MY WIFE HURTS. I NEED TO SAY WHAT'S WRONG HONEY . SOMETHING I CAN
DO. AND I LOVE YOU - SO FUCK ME.