

CAL: What's In? What's Out?

Cast:

Narrator:

Clueless Clara:

Soothe-em Suzy:

Mean Martha:

Psychotic Sarah:

Do It Yourself Don:

High Helen:

Nellie Newcomer:

Pastor Penny: .

Hapless Harriet:

Other Interested and "straight" Al-Anons

Self Righteous Sally:

Please bring any book you would like to use as a prop.

This is a physical comedy. Please overact as much as you can. If you're a "Straight Al-Anon" roll your eyes, tap your feet, look at your watch, talk to the Chairperson telling her things are getting out of hand; whisper to your neighbor, or say things like "Well I never."

Narrator:

We invite you into an Al-Anon meeting in Anytown, Arizona. You've all heard one or more of these people. We're here today to challenge you and make you laugh.

Clueless Clara: Welcome to the 'Read Anything You Want Al-Anon Family Group.'" This is a Literature Meeting. At this meeting you can bring any books you want, and quote from any documents, articles, or publications ever printed--even things you just made up yourself! We ask that you please limit the time you share so all who wish to, have an opportunity to participate. We invite you to just go ahead and use any readings you like without any regard for traditions. So lets just all have fun and have our own way at running the show!! Tonight's topic is well, who needs a topic. Share on whatever the heck you want to.

Mean Martha: Oh My Stars! This is NOT the way we do things in Tuscaloosa where I come from. Take THAT! (Martha hits Leader over the head with her umbrella.)

Do It Yourself Don: This is my favorite literature. (Waves a service manual for a truck or car.) I have found the Service Manual really saves my life sometimes. When I don't know what to do, when the clutch goes out, I just turn to this puppy and find out what the group conscience of vehicles says.

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Mean Martha hits Don over the head.

Nellie Newcomer: "I heard someone mention Conference Approved Literature. What is that?"

Hapless Harriet: "Oh, that's pretty much anything the Conference would agree with. For instance, I like this book. (Holds up *Life's Little Instruction Book*,)

Mean Martha taking a threatening pose with the umbrella, "You can't say that to a newcomer." Turns to **Nellie Newcomer** and says, "She's wrong, you know."

Self Righteous Sally: This meeting is totally out of control, and it's YOUR job to fix it, Chairperson. I wouldn't PUT UP WITH THIS NONSENSE. I've got enough to do without teaching clueless newcomers how to run a meeting. I've got 23 years in this program and I ought to know how things ought to go.

Soothe-em Suzy. Oh dear, please everybody just be nice. I hate conflict. People just want the freedom to be who they are.

Psychotic Sarah: Holds up a book marked "Quotes from Sigmund Freud" I just love Sigmund Freud. He is my Higher Power. Well, he IS better than a doorknob. Here's today's reading: Every normal person, in fact, is only normal on the average. His ego approximates to that of the psychotic in some part or other and to a greater or lesser extent. (Sigmund Freud). Isn't that good stuff?

Mean Martha tries to hit **Psychotic Sarah**, and is stopped by **Soothe-Em Suzy**, who says: "It's not nice to hit people. I'm sure you're breaking a tradition!" They fight.

Clueless Clara: I just love this meeting. It just goes to show you there are NO musts in Al-Anon. We can all do what we want. It's autonomy. I pass.

High Helen (obviously stoned): I belong to Pot smoker's Anonymous. Here's a great reading from our text: "Acceptance is the answer to all our problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I am not quite high enough, and I can find no serenity until I call my dealer."

Pastor Penny: I want to mention my Church Bulletin. It's always full of happy thoughts. And tomorrow's sermon will be on Harmony. You all come out and hear it, brothers and sisters. As we all know, Participation is the key to Harmony. I wouldn't be where I am without my Church,

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the Church of the Better Thee than Me! Yea, though I walk through the Valley of Alcoholics, I fear NO evil.

High Helen: sways on her chair, raises her hands in praise and says: Preach it, Sister !

(**Soothe- em Suzy** and **Mean Martha** have been scuffling, **Martha** trying to swat people with her umbrella. By this time, **Martha** is lying down and **Suzy** is sitting on her or holding her down.

ALL: There is arguing and scuffling between ALL the players. Some are in tears, and blowing their noses loudly. After a few moments of this, they all return to their seats, with their arms crossed on their chests, and the Narrator stands up from the chair on the side where he/she has been sitting.

Narrator: We've all been in meetings where something happens that makes us shudder. When we go to an Al-Anon meeting, we expect to find recovery from the effects of the family disease of alcoholism, whether we attend a meeting at home or in Tuscaloosa. I guess maybe there are some musts in Al-anon. Here's some of what the Conference Approved Literature says about the use of CAL in our meetings:

One by one some of the offenders stand up to read some CAL on What's In What's Out:

Do It Yourself Don: From Page 101 in the *Service Manual*: "When sharing at meetings, members limit any mentions of outside literature to a brief reference.

Chairperson Clueless Clara: From the *Service Manual*, page 149: "The GR, recognizing the importance of CAL, makes sure that the pamphlet, *Why Conference Approved Literature* (P-35) is always available at the meeting. He encourages use of a variety of CAL for meeting topics.

Hapless Harriet: From the *Service Manual*, page 24: Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon
1. Discussions of Religion: Al-Anon is not allied with any sect or denomination. It is a spiritual program, based on no particular form of religion. Everyone is welcome; no matter what affiliation or none. Let us not defeat our purpose by entering into discussions concerning specific religious beliefs.

High Helen: (no longer high) From the *Why CAL?* pamphlet: "Outside literature may or may not convey the Al-Anon message. Using other materials in our meetings can lead to dissension and affect our group's unity; it can be particularly confusing to a newcomer. Members are always free to read and study whatever they wish outside of meetings. Al-Anon takes no stand of approval or disapproval of any outside material. Exclusive use of Al-Anon materials at our meetings helps to make sure that Al-Anon will remain Al-Anon. Our members know that wherever they may go throughout the world, the Al-Anon message of help and hope will be

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consistently there. "

Soothe Em Suzy:

From Al-Anon Guideline G-3 *Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.*

SHOULD AL-ANON STOCK AND/OR USE A.A. LITERATURE?

No. In general, neither fellowship stocks nor uses the other's literature at meetings. When Al-Anon members use A.A. literature for their meetings, there is a tendency to concentrate on the alcoholic and his/her behavior rather than the family experience and our own recovery. There is, of course, a great deal of reading value in literature other than that which is Al-Anon Conference Approved. But it is not the purpose of Al-Anon to make its members familiar with all the approaches—only the Al-Anon approach. Those who wish to acquaint themselves with A.A. reading material can readily find it at an A.A. open meeting.

Narrator: It's still not easy applying your knowledge of the importance of CAL in a meeting, to handling problems. How can you be tactful, kind, and educate with love. How do you talk things over and reason things out without criticism?

Let's hear your solutions about keeping CAL—and Al-Anon—in our meetings.