

Discussion Questions
For
Julien

Allison has a hoody pulled up, and sunglasses on while walking to the liquor store, going incognito. Do you ever try to hide your identity when you're going to a liquor store, or to buy drugs? Why? How does it make you feel to have to do that?

Have you ever run into a sober person - or someone who is worried about you - when you're on your way to a bar or liquor store? Or when you've been drunk? What happened? Do you avoid people if you can?

Allison lies to Bobby about why she's at the liquor store. Do you lie about booze - how much, or why? Talk about that.

Why does Bobby say that it's dangerous territory in the liquor store, even just to buy a gift for someone?

Deb is Allison's sponsor. Why does Bobby ask if Allison had spoken to her about going to the liquor store. Why do you think he asks her that?

Bobby talks about how Allison had talked about feeling isolated, but was happy to now be part of a community. Talk about feeling isolated.

Allison admits that she wants and needs a drink. Bobby tells her that he's been there. It's called identifying with her feelings. Why is that important?

Bobby insists that Allison eat a protein bar. Why? Have you heard of H.A.L.T.? Talk about how you've been affected by H.A.L.T., and how taking care of those things could help.

Allison threw Julien out of her apartment after he started drinking and she had given him a warning. Shortly after that he killed himself, and she blames herself for it. Bobby tells her it's not her fault. Why does he say that?

Allison says she just wants to drink and "check out." Bobby reminds her of three people from their neighborhood who over the last 6 months all started drinking again and ended up dead. Do you know people who have died from drinking? Talk about them - tell their stories.

Bobby responds to Allison wanting to check out as a result of Julien's suicide by telling her about how he dealt with his mother's death when he was sober about the same amount of time that Allison is. He says he screwed up a lot of things, but the one thing he did not do was to drink. Why is that the most important thing?

Bobby gives Allison \$30, and tells her she can use it for a bottle of Jack Daniels, or to go to the diner and meet up with some sober women that he's going to call right now. Why does he give her this choice?

Bobby tells Allison that if she chooses to drink, it won't be because Julien killed himself, but it would be because she's an alcoholic. What do you think about that?

The story ends with Allison standing by herself. What decision do you think she makes, and why? What decision would you make, and why?