

Discussion Questions
For
Dressed

The woman - Nora - has pearls on, is nicely dressed, and is in a plush looking room. What is your first impression of her?

The young man - Jamel - is on a cell phone in a white office, and is laughing and carrying on on the phone. He speaks a little Spanish. What is your first impression of him?

How did you feel upon seeing the bruise and bandage on Nora's forehead?

Nora sits with an unopened bottle of gin and a big glass in front of her, as well as a notebook and a phone. She takes her time, then picks up the phone and makes a call to AA. Did you reach out for help? Did you make a call to AA or to someone else? What was that like for you to do?

When the call comes in on the office phone, Jamel expects Danny or Rocco to answer it. He runs around and discovers that he is alone. He could let the call go, but he chooses to end his call and take the incoming call himself. What does this say about him?

When Nora hears the phone answered with "AA, hello?," she freezes. Can you relate to the fear of asking for help?

Jamel is patient, and says he'll wait til they're ready. How much do you think that attitude helps someone to come around?

Jamel tries to break the ice with a comment about basketball teams, and then Nora says she "got dressed today." It's kind of weird, but Jamel tries to be helpful. Do you relate to being vague about what's happening with you?

When Nora says she's not calling for herself, Jamel replies "oh, I know." People often call AA and say they're looking for help for someone else, when it's really for them. Can you relate to that?

Nora says her sister Roberta was drunk and died when she drove her car into a bus, killing six children also. Talk about any drunk driving accidents you were involved in, or were touched by.

Jamel is really listening to her, and letting her unfold her story. Do you want someone to listen to you in that way, and to express caring for you by giving you their undivided attention?

Nora uses Tanqueray gin to deal with the memory of her sister. Do you relate to self-medicating to deal with painful memories such as a loss, either to block them out or to try to keep the good times in mind?

Nora says that her husband was wealthy, but that she's been alone now for three years. It sounds like she's well set financially, and her home looks nice, but she's alone. And she says she

fell. We see the bruises on her face. Talk about your circumstances regarding having money, not having money, being in a big family or busy home life, or being alone, and relate this to getting to the point of falling while drunk and hurting yourself or something similar to that...being out of control.

Jamel expresses great kindness to Nora by saying there's nothing in the world he'd rather do than to be on the phone with her. He says he'd stay on the phone with her forever. How does hearing him say that make you feel?

Nora becomes emotional from hearing that, and Jamel asks if she wants help. She says yes, and that this is a good time. Do you believe that the moment when we accept help may not come again? Despite any doubts you may have, do you recognize that it's a potentially life-changing moment?

Jamel tells her two nice women will come to her to offer help. She says that's good, and she's welled up with tears. Although it may be scary, do you feel that it may be good to receive help?

Jamel sits back and gives a little fist pump. How do you think he feels now that he's guided her to accept help? Can you imagine yourself doing such a thing?