

Discussion Questions
For

Jack in Astoria

At the start, she's carrying flowers and is dressed nicely, clearly headed out to see someone. Her day is interrupted by a passed out interloper. Talk about any times that your being drunk or passed out interrupted the life of a stranger.

After he wakes up, the first thing he asks for is water. And the neighbor says "tongue like a carpet, eh?" Talk about waking up dehydrated, and the feeling in your mouth and in your body and head.

She immediately begins to call the police. Has anyone called the police on you? What were the circumstances? Were you trespassing at the time? Did you beg them not to, or threaten them not to call?

The neighbor, after finding out his name is Jack, calls him Jackpot. He seems amused. Have you been amused at things such as a sleeping on a stranger's driveway? Or that type of thing? Do you find it amusing now?

Jack doesn't realize he's in New York City. Have you traveled in a blackout and not known where you were or how you got there? If not long distance, what about locally? Waking up in confusion?

Have you woken up with blood on you that you don't know where it came from? Vague memories of a violent or dangerous encounter?

Jack is supposed to be in Detroit for his son's wedding. Have you ever gotten drunk and been unable to do something important - that you wanted to do, or were expected to do?

How did you feel about it?

Jack wants water...and a beer, from the neighbor. Did you drink first thing in the morning to deal with a hangover?

Janet sees the danger in this behavior. She offers help, and warns him that he's courting death. He scoffs, and calls it an escapade. What were your attitudes toward danger associated with being drunk?

Have you lost your wallet or had it stolen while drunk? Wake up somewhere without your shoes, or missing other items?

The neighbor is willing to cough up \$20 to get Jack on his way, but Janet intervenes because she thinks he needs help. Talk about their points of view, and what you think is best to do?

Janet slaps him after he grabs her flowers. She's had enough of him. What have strangers done to you when they've had enough of your drunken antics?

Jack takes the money and drops the flowers on the sidewalk, off on his attempt to get to Detroit for his son's wedding - all with no wallet or money. He doesn't say thank you for the \$20, or sorry for intruding - he just goes. Did you have a self-centered attitude?

Janet confronts the neighbor for being irresponsible. She obviously cares about the well-being of others, but the neighbor couldn't care less. He says something rude to her, and she's left with her thoughts and feelings about what all just happened. She's powerless to help the drunk, and to change her neighbor's attitude. How did you affect well-meaning people with callousness and by not having respect or acknowledgement of them?