

AA DRAGNET

(Dragnet main theme) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

Narrator: Ladies and Gentlemen the story you are about to see is nowhere near true, the names have been changed because we are anonymous.

(Dragnet theme) Dum de dah, Duh Duh dut da Dah - Dum de dah, Duh Duh dut da Dah

Friday: This is the fellowship, Northern Solano, Dist. 90. Many alcoholics recover here. Some do not. AA is a program of recovery from alcohol that works when you work it. Some folks try to take the program into their own hands, change it to fit their own needs. When they do, that's where I come in. My name is Joe "Can't get well by" Friday. I carry the big book.

(Dramatic Dragnet Music) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

Friday: Thursday July 17th, it was a warm sunny morning in Vacaville; I was working the day watch with my partner Gannon out of the Singleness of Purpose Division. The Capt. Is B.B. Thumper. We had just been filled in on a possible tradition break going on at a meeting over in Fairfield. *(look at partner, nod head)* let's roll.

(Dramatic Dragnet music, siren) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

We arrived at the Golden Golf Ball where the Brown Bags meet. AA members with long term sobriety and tradition knowledge frequent this meeting, but troublemakers can pop-up anywhere, even here.

(Dramatic Dragnet music) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

Secretary : *(frantic)* Officer Friday, thank goodness you're here, I didn't know what to do, it was horrible, he...he...he.....

Friday: OK just settle down ma'am, we need the facts, just the facts.

Secretary: That young man there *(points)* was sharing about drugs in here.

Friday: I see, so we got us a hopped up pill head, heh?

Gannon: Now wait a minute, Joe. Bill and Bob both mention taking sedatives to calm the morning jitters in their stories.

Secretary: Oh no he was going on about XTC, LSD, and THC.

Gannon: Huh? I know GSR, H&I, and even PI-CPC; what's all that other stuff about?

Friday: I'll tell you partner, it's about these arrogant young punks coming into our organization and trying to change us to fit their specific brand of sickness. Well I for one have had it with these malcontents trying to tear down what so many have built up into a program that works when you work it. How about it punk?

Perp 1: Whoa, chill out dudes, I just came here to get my slip signed, and the speaker guy called on me.

Gannon: Tell me son, did you hear the secretary read the format about keeping the discussion to alcohol and alcoholism?

Perp 1: *(stammering)* No...yeah.. I guess so, I was late coming in. Hey, check it out man, the judge says I have to come to these classes or it's Quentin for me, ya dig?

Friday: Classes! We don't have any class here sonny. What we do have is recovery meeting for those who want what "We" have.

Perp 1: Me, want what you have!?! Looking at those clothes I'd say I've thrown away more than you'll ever have.

Friday: That does it, I've heard enough, you're going downtown smart guy. Throw him in the backseat Bill.

(Bill escorts Perp 1 out)

Secretary: What's going to happen to him now?

Friday: That will be up to a power greater than ourselves to decide.

Secretary: Well, I'm so glad you guys showed up so fast. I wasn't sure what to do.

Friday: You did the right thing. We're here to protect and serve and keep these meetings safe for the right kind of alcoholics.

Secretary: Sergeant, why do these kids think it's all right to do these kinds of things in meetings?

Friday: Well this guy had the perfect excuse.

Secretary: How's that?

Friday: He's an addict. *(nods head)*

(Dramatic Dragnet music) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

Gannon: *(re-enters from taking away Perp 1)* Friday! Headquarters is on the radio. There's a 449 in progress over at the club in Vacaville.

Friday: 449? Acceptance Violation? Let's roll!

(siren wails)

Friday voiceover: We code three back to Vacaville in time to catch the end of the Munch Bunch, a relatively new meeting at the local clubhouse.

(Dramatic Dragnet music) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

Friday: What seems to be the problem here?

Secretary: I like that theme music when you enter a room.

Friday: Just the facts mister.

Secretary: Well, this lady shows up and starts sharing on her addiction to food.

Perp 2: And what's wrong with that? In Overeaters Anonymous we use the same 12 Steps and we just substitute the word "food" for "alcohol".

Friday: That's all well and good, ma'am, but in all my years on this beat I've never seen a dozen Krispy Kremes lead to jails, institutions and death.

Perp 2: You know, that's the problem with you AA people, you belittle other people's addictions. Not to mention encouraging people to overeat.

Gannon: How's that?

Perp 2: Well, I mean you just trade alcohol for food. I'm surprised the first step isn't "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol and had a potluck!"

Friday: Well, you certainly don't look like eating too much is your problem.

Perp 2: Well, you're not wearing a derty trench coat and sipping from a bottle in a brown bag either!

Friday: OK, OK, Look lady, the fact remains that this is a meeting of AA and you and your crowd are not welcome here. Now *(to secretary)* you read the singleness of purpose statement to her correct?

Secretary: Yes, of course. It's part of our format. It's right here. It says " In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

Friday: Do you understand this statement as it was read to you, ma'am?

Perp 2: I understand that you're not being very accepting of me. I just came here for help and support. What's the big deal?

Friday: I'll tell you what the big deal is. If a newcomer who is struggling with drinking comes in here and hears you babbling on and on about Twinkies and Snicker bars he may feel he's in the wrong place.

Perp 2: I'm not going anywhere. I just came here for some help... and maybe to check out the guys.

Gannon: Now we're a dating service too?

Perp 2: Well it's about 10 woman to 1 man at my fellowship. And even all the girls over at NA say the men in AA are the hottest, or at least still have all there teeth.

Friday: OK, I've heard more than enough, this isn't a meat market or a fat farm, you're coming with us.

Perp 2: I'm not going anywhere, I'm fine right here.

Friday: You're at least half wrong there lady. You're going downtown with us right now. And you shouldn't need much help not overeating there.

Perp 2: What do you mean by that?

Friday: You'll see when you get a load of the mystery meat on the dinner menu.
Take her away Bill. (Gannon removes perp 2)

Secretary: Sergant?

Friday: Yeah John?

Secretary: How does this sort of thing get started?

Friday: The better question is... where does it end?

(Dragnet music) Dum de Dum Dum, Dum de Dum Dum Dum

(All exit)

Narrator: On August 30th trial was held, in and for the county of North Solano, District 90. And now... what happened at that trial.

(Bailiff enters)

Bailiff: All Rise! The honorable Judge Judy is now presiding!

(Judge Judy enters and takes a seat.)

Bailiff: Your honor this is case number 164 on the docket, people versus Perp #1 and Perp #2. The witnesses have been sworn in. Be seated.

Judge Judy: I have read the complaint and I have to say I am stunned. Let me get this straight, Detective Friday, you arrested this man because he was talking about drugs at an AA meeting?

Friday: That's correct, that would be perp #1 your honor.

Judge Judy: And you arrested this woman for talking about overeating at a different meeting, is that right?

Friday: Yes, Perp #2 your honor.

Judge Judy: Can I ask you a question? Are you out of your mind?

Friday: I don't understand, ma'am.

Judge Judy: You don't understand. Why am I not surprised that you don't understand? What I am trying to say...

Friday: *(cutting her off)* I was just doing my job...

Judge Judy: *(cutting him off)* I'M SPEAKING NOW SIR! What I am trying to say is under what authority did you arrest these two people?

Friday: I have been a detective in and for the County of Solano for may years ma'am.

Judge Judy: I didn't ask you for your resume, sir. Answer my question.

Friday: Well, someone has to keep these meetings in line, your honor.

Judge Judy: You're right! And somebody does! Ever heard of a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience?

Friday: No, well it sounds familiar, but I'm not sure your honor.

Judge Judy: Again I am not surprised. Tell me Detective Friday, have you even heard of the 12 Traditions?

Friday: Of course I have. In fact, when I think about it that's the answer to the where I get my authority to arrest these troublemakers. One of the Traditions talks about "special workers". That's myself and my partner, Frank Gannon, your honor. We are AA special workers.

Judge Judy: Do you see the word "stupid" written across my forehead? That's a buncha baloney!

Friday: No, your honor, it is not. You may want to look it up.

Judge Judy: *(to Bailiff)* Byrd, he actually thinks he's smarter than me. *(to Friday)* Sir, on your best day you are not smarter than me! The Tradition you are referring to, Tradition Eight, is about AA not becoming professional, not about some AA members becoming a police force!

Perp 1: Yeah, you tell 'em, Judge Judy!

Judge Judy: Do I look like I need help, sir? My advice is if you are winning keep your mouth shut! Now, you Detective Friday have a lot to learn about how AA is run.

Friday: Your honor, I was just going in good faith on what I believed to be the right thing to do. If what I was operating on was false then I will investigate it. I want answers.

Judge Judy: You want answers?

Friday: I want the truth!

Judge Judy: You can't handle the truth! The truth, Detective Friday, is that you and your partner's behavior in both of these cases is egregious and inexcusable!

Friday: Your honor, I...

Judge Judy: *(cutting him off)* SHUSH! I want you to listen now, sir! In AA, singleness of purpose is a core principle that is true, but when people share about drugs in a meeting, YOU DO NOT ARREST THEM! Talk to them after the meeting about how we focus on alcohol, give them some pamphlets, sponsor them, but again, DON'T ARREST THEM! Many people come to AA knowing they are addicts, but not ready to admit they are alcoholics. Isn't that your story Byrd?

Bailiff: That's right.

Judge Judy: Now, those people may eventually come to understand they are alcoholics and adhere more closely to the singleness of purpose, but that will never happen if some Dirty Harry wannabe slams them against the wall and

arrests them! Do you understand what I am saying Detectives Friday and Gannon? And don't say anything I just want you to nod your heads!

(Friday and Gannon nod)

Judge Judy: Now, as for the woman who was sharing about overeating in a meeting, that is also unacceptable. The reason that Overeaters Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous and so on made their own separate fellowships is because the particulars are different and it helps newcomers to feel they belong. I would like both of you to know that you are welcome to attend any open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, and take with you anything you can from it. However, sharing in meetings is for alcoholics only. I wish you both the best on your journey of recovery. God bless you. You're dismissed.

Perp 1: Righteous!

Perp 2: Thank you your honor.

Judge Judy: There are many tactful, decent ways to handle this sort of situation. Cuffing them is not one of them! It is my decision that the two cases be dismissed and officers Friday and Gannon be required to read and study *(holds up books as she announces them)* "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", "The Language of the Heart" and "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age". Case dismissed. *(taps gavel)*

Narrator: ". The story you have just seen is still untrue. The message however is not. The singleness of purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is essential to it's survival. But love and tolerance is our code. As you have just witnessed, all charges were dismissed against the two defendents. Perp #1 continued to attend AA meetings and eventually came to the realization that he was in fact an alcoholic as well as a drug addict. He is currently serving his home group as their General Service Representative. Perp #2 also continued to attend open AA meetings, albeit in a much less vocal manner. She is still actively seeking "Mr. Right". So look our fellas, this cougar is still on the prow!

(Dragnet Main theme) whole song

The End