

Character descriptions

5 **Slugg.** Ratty suit, almost-parted greasy hair, ugly glasses, shaved not more recently than three days ago, short, stocky. Slugg, the perpetually angry, eternally resistant, ultimately miserable.

Yoish (oldst)

10 **Jake.** Mr. Clean himself, the foil for Robert, Eddie and Slugg. Black, mainstream, well-dressed, tall, smiling, even-tempered, 327 years of continual abstinence, everybody's sponsor, the Higher Power's golfing partner.

30ish

hispanic **Eddie.** Frazzled. The newcomer to your group who wants so badly to make it work, but scared shitless. Always something wrong appearance wise (shirt unbuttoned)

20's

15 **Robert.** The 30-day wonder--gets well remarkably quickly, then every thirty days wonders what happened. Pseudo-intellectual. Mr. Grandiosity 1987, '88 and '89. Everyone's neighborhood authority on just about everything except how to keep Robert clean. Yuppie-

20's

20 **Marge.** Relative newcomer. Enthusiastic, a bit flakey, in pain at times.

30's

Serena. Female Jake.

(Ordinary) 30's

25 **Denilah.** This year we see Denilah on the fringe. Later, she'll get worse and worse; the punchline on Denilah's visits for quite awhile will be, "But N.A.?! I'm not *that* bad!!" Eventually, we hope to get her to a meeting at a detox, right after her spirit utters her "not *that* bad" line for the last time as it tries to take leave of her body, which lies below it on an emergency room table. Super well-dressed - high string almost beat-

20's

Daansbomesque
4/6 frame
Simple - Background Around
ASAP
One character in - one frame

~~Example~~

Slugg's dilemma

Jake: "Do you want to talk, Slugg?" Slugg: "Not really..."

5 Jake: "Oh, come on! Get it off your chest, Slugg! You can trust me, pal..." Slugg: "I don't know if I care to discuss it..."

Slugg: "I don't fit in!" Jake: "Hmmm..."

10 Jake: "Well, Slugg, maybe you don't *want* to fit in..." Slugg: "You're right, I don't! Who'd want to fit in with a bunch of smiling idiots?!"

Jake: "You can be miserable, or you can be happy, Slugg...It's your choice. Why don't you try to open up a little?" Slugg: "I could I guess..."

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Jake: "Just keep coming back, Slugg. It gets better." Slugg: "Oh, well that makes it alright, then..." (*Heavy sarcasm.*)

Slugg spends a quiet evening at home

Caption: "Suffering inwardly." Slugg's torso, head apparently sucked down his neck.

- 5 Caption: "Suffering downwardly." Slugg upside down on his sofa, head jambed between cushions.

Caption: "Suffering stupidly." Slugg slamming own forehead with large mallet.

- 10 Caption: "Suffering by choice." Slugg seated on sofa, arms crossed on chest, *glaring* at phone.

Poor Slugg

Slugg, face only: "Nobody ever calls."

- 5 Phone, ringing. Slugg looking left and right at same time, frantically; one face scared, one face angry. "That's probably my smiley sponsor. I'm not home."

Slugg looks at his watch. "Time for that stupid meeting... Another chance to be ignored."

- 10 Meeting room. Slugg seated, arms crossed. Jake at podium. On wall behind speaker, plaque w/N.A. logo and words, "Never Alone."

Caption: "After the meeting..." Slugg and Jake facing one another. Jake: "Coming for coffee, Slugg?" Slugg: "No, I've got things to do."

15

Slugg at home on his couch. Arms crossed, scowling, tears trickling down one cheek.

Caption: "Why does Slugg feel so lonely?"

Slugg has a difficult day

Slugg at the top of a step ladder, a noose around his neck. Slugg: "I don't feel so good."

Caption: "Slugg hasn't been to a meeting in two weeks..."

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Caption: "Drop-kicking the cat didn't help much..." Shows Slugg doing just that, the cat screeching as it flies through the air with the greatest of dis-ease.

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Caption: "...and lying in a fetal position on the floor hasn't enhanced Slugg's program of spiritual growth either..." Slugg on the floor as above.

Caption: "Why doesn't Slugg call his sponsor?" Slugg staring angrily at telephone, nose to phone. Slugg, "No way! Not till I'm good and ready!"

Eddie needs to share

Eddie sitting on a chair, quaking. Thought bubble, "I gotta share, I gotta share, I gotta share... Too many people... What am I gonna say... Oh, God, I hate this..."

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Eddie's heart thumping, brow glistening. Thought: "He's going to finish sharing any minute... I'll have to jump... Oh, God, he's finishing... Help!"

10 Eddie's face small in corner of box, thinking: "Here goes nothing..." Overwhelmed by HUGE lettered voice, "Hi! My name is Bill, and I'm an addict..."

Eddie's face, sweat dripping, eyeballs a-rattle, hair sticking out, head shaking, thinks, "Rats rats rats rats rats... I missed out..."

15 Eddie's head cocked about 15 degrees to one side, look of frustration on face, as he is overwhelmed by word bubble from "Bill", "I used to take little old ladies down just for the fun of it... Drone, drone, drone... It used to be horrible, now it's wonderful... Drone, drone..."

20 Another voice bubble over Eddie's head, "All right, thank you, it's time to close the meeting now..." Eddie's face loses control, distressed, large-lettered thought, "AAAAARRGGH!!!"

Marge's moment of clarity

Marge and Eddie at cafe table, coffee cups and ashtray on table. Marge: "Right now I feel, like, really centered."

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Eddie: "That must be nice."

Eddie and Marge looking across table at one another.

10 Marge: "Yes, it was."

Marge gets ninety days

Marge at podium, Serena to her side. Marge: "I want to thank Serena for giving me this 90 day keytag."

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Marge: "Three months clean! And I did it all by myself..." Serena, horrified expression.

Marge, leaping in air, hair on end, lightning striking her posterior. Serena with knowing, slightly smug look.

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Marge, back on feet, hair still frazzled, looking up, "Well, OK, I had a *little* help!" Serena smiles.

After the ASC

Serena and Marge at table, books and papers. Serena pouring coffee, Marge seated.
5 Marge: "Thanks for taking me to my first ASC meeting, Serena." Serena: "No problem, Marge."

Serena sits down, Marge continues speaking: "I was amazed to see addicts could work together like that. And there wasn't *that* much squabbling..."

10 Marge and Serena just sit, coffee steaming, looking down into their cups.

Both look up at each other. Marge says, "I think I need a meeting." Serena: "I'll drive."

Robert's dream

5 Robert, head on pillow, eyes closed. Thought bubble with dream scene: figure at podium saying, "...and the Clean and Sober Club Dance will be held..." Caption, "This looks like a job for Always Serene Guru..."

10 Caption, "...Defender of Traditions. Guru Robert springs into action..." Robert shown leaping down from above in a Superman-type outfit (cape, tights, etc.) with a big "G" on chest. Man at podium, hands thrown up, cries, "Oh no! It's ALWAYS SERENE GURU!!"

10 Caption, "Wherever the "s" word is spoken, whenever outside enterprises are endorsed..." Guru Robert shown holding up Basic Text, saying, "Read and heed!"

15 Robert's head on pillow, eyes closed, thought bubble coming up with scene of Guru standing, arms cocked on hips, glaring down on the Infidel on his knees, arms reaching up, clasping hands, weeping. Caption, "Our Great Guru will find a way to be of loving service."

Robert's Third Step

Robert and Jake at coffee. Jake, "So how's the Third Step coming, Robert?"

- 5 Robert, "I don't know, Jake. I've got so many questions. Like, is God the Totally Other, transcendent yet omnipresent? Or is the word God just a euphemistic anthropomorphization of the cosmic vibration?"

- 10 Robert, "Are vibratory patterns purposive? Is it possible for the totality of natural phenomena to favor discrete entities with individual care? What do you think, Jake?"

Jake, thought bubble, "I'll give him 30 days, tops." Jake, aloud, "Yeah, I think so."

Robert gets a date

Robert: "I've been telling my sponsor that I've been kind of lonely lately."

5 "I told him I thought I was ready for a relationship."

"So he told me that he was gonna fix me up with something soft and cuddly tonight."

Robert on bed, cradling a teddy bear. "But this wasn't exactly what I had in mind."

Denilah and the "yets"

Denilah on the phone; pamphlet in hand, but you can't see what it is: "My boyfriend told me I'd lost the car for the last time..."

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"...my mother puts her purse in the wall safe when I come to visit..."

"...I OD'd three times last week..."

10 We see the title of the IP in her hand, *Am I an Addict?*, Serena saying, "...but N.A.!!! I'm not *that* bad!!"