Discussion Questions for *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994)

126 minutes (2 hours, 6 minutes), R-rating for language

Summary: Meg Ryan plays Alice, a woman with an alcohol use disorder. The film is about how Alice’s addiction impacts her family and how she recovers.

1. Early in the film, Alice tells her husband, “You don’t know what I go through” as an excuse for her drinking. How have you rationalized your addiction in the past?

2. After nearly drowning, Alice makes a promise to her husband that she’ll cut back on drinking; she later breaks her promise. Are there times you’ve broken promises in active addiction? Discuss.

3. Alice makes attempts to hide her addiction from her husband. What are some ways you’ve tried to hide your addiction from your loved ones?
4. Is Alice a “functional alcoholic”? Why or why not?

5. Is Alice’s husband her enabler? Why or why not?

6. In what ways do you relate to Alice?

7. What was the most powerful part of the movie for you?