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## Small Problem, Small Book?

One day a woman walked into our intergroup office who had been "sentenced" (her word) to AA in order to get her children back. We explained, of course, that AA is not punishment and that most of us, after some initial hurdles, come to AA because we want to.

Well, we have a literature display in the office, and she pointed out *Alcoholics Anonymous* and asked what it was. "That's what we call the Big Book," said one AA volunteer. "The first 164 pages contain the program of AA, followed by some personal stories that might help you identify as an alcoholic." The woman then pointed to the smaller "Twelve and Twelve" and asked about that. "Those are essays by our co-founder Bill W. on each of the Steps and Traditions. It too is very helpful, but in general we'd recommend that you get the Big Book, since that's where the program can be found."

Our visitor replied, "Well, I just have a small problem with alcohol, so all I really need is a small book."

Without missing a beat, the volunteer handed her the new miniature edition of the Big Book, saying, "Well, *this* is the smallest book we have."

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