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?**