

# Finishing the Bottle

A game by Nicolai Strøm Steffensen





# The game

*Finishing the Bottle* is the story of four regulars who are stuck in life and their alcohol addiction. At the local pub they support each other when life is tough, and together celebrate life when lady luck is smiling upon them. In the game we follow them over a period of four weeks and get a chance to see what challenges they face in life accompanied by addiction. The focus is on low key drama and social realism.

The game is about alcoholics and their relationship to Addiction. During play Addiction is a character which is both their best friend when times are tough and their worst enemy who ruins everything.

The central premise in the game is that addiction not only affects oneself. It is therefore both how a game about Addiction affects and influences the regulars and others in their life.

Every player portrays two characters. One regular and Addiction for one of the other regulars at the pub. There is furthermore a short list of NPCs in the game whom you as the GM will play.

## Thanks to

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To my brother Casper and his continued fight with Addiction. May you never fight alone.



# The game

The story is divided into a prologue and four acts, one for each week. The first act is tightly structured and every scene in the act is mandatory. Fewer scenes are mandatory in the later acts and more scene are optional until the final act where only one scene is mandatory. This gives you as a GM the option to choose scenes fitting for the story which the players tell.

Every act consists of a series of everyday scenes which tells the story of the regulars living with Addiction outside of the pub.

In the prologue and at the end of each act one or more scenes are played at the pub. The scene takes places on Sunday where all four regulars always meet up. The scene functions as a closure and time for looking back at the events of the week.

## The regulars

**Bjarne** has a grownup daughter which he and Addiction rarely sees.

**Kamilla** recently met Lars and is now fighting with Addiction over who gets him.

**Lise** is after many years with Addiction starting to push her husband Peter away from her.

**Svend** have recently buried a close friend and is now fearing his turn is next.

The game is neither a story about how four alcoholics gets sober nor a story of four regulars who dies from drinking. It is meant as a peek into the daily lives of four people who are stuck.



# About addiction

Addiction is a central part of the game but it is not expected that you or your players are experts in the field. What is important is that you all get a good game and playability is always more important than medical accuracy.

The game is about alcohol addiction but in their essence all addictions are similar. You and your players can therefore take advantage of experiences with other kinds of addictions, when sharing your own relationship with addictions right before play (see Preparations)

Some addicts talk about their addiction as their best friend. They feel as if it gives them something they never had before. This could be the courage to talk with people or a way to limit their excessive thoughts. Suddenly they are capable of managing situations which previously have been impossible. It fills them with joy and they feel like a better version of themselves.

This is only for a while though and it gets harder and harder to cope with being sober. The things which the addiction helped to overcome gets amplified and worsened. A

life without an addiction get harder to imagine and it is this negative spiral that traps many people in their addiction.

The addiction starts to show itself as an enemy when the focus on it ruins one's private life. Even though one is aware of the damaging nature of the addiction it still remains one's best friend.

It is complicated inner conflict which makes it hard for many people to choose to break the spiral and get rid of the addiction. The vast majority will instead try and balance the needs of the addiction and their surroundings.



# Addiction in the game

In the game alcohol addiction is simulated via the characters Addiction, who is tied to each of the four regulars. This means every player both portrays a regular and Addiction for one of the other regulars.

The characters Addiction is the only way for the game to show the alcohol addiction of the four regulars. Players are therefore not allowed to play drunk, but getting drunk is a surrendering to Addiction and its wishes. Players can therefore actively use intoxication of the regular to explore the conflicts of the character.

Addiction can only interact with the regular which it is tied to. In the game there are four different ways of interacting between the regular and Addiction.

- Thoughts in the head
- Physical contact
- Speak on behalf of
- Take control of

## **Thoughts in the head**

It is possible for Addiction and the regular to talk together whenever they please. None of the other characters can hear this

conversation. It doesn't matter who starts the conversation.

## **Physical contact**

The two characters can at any time initiate physical contact. This could as an example be the regular and Addiction holding hands. Before the game the players get a chance to negotiate physical boundaries (see Preparations). Both characters can initiate this interaction.

## **Speak on behalf of**

Addiction has the possibility of speaking through the regular to the other characters present in the scene. This works by having Addiction place their hand in front of the regular. Everything Addiction says will now be said as though the regular said it.

## **Take control of**

Addiction can control the regular's movement by grabbing their arms or hands and move them around. As an example, Addiction can with this technique force the regular to drink.



# The pub

A big part of the game takes place at the pub. Originally the game was designed with the Danish “bodega” in mind. If you know what such a pub looks like then go ahead and use this in the game but otherwise just forget it. Think dark and brown pub where the local alcoholics spent their days. If you are playing with players who all have a specific kind of pub/bar in mind please go ahead and use that. As long as all players have a common frame of reference. In Preparation before play you will talk about the pub and it is okay to spend more time if needed on this part to make sure all is on the same page.

At the pub the regulars meet every Sunday to share their life with each other. It makes sense that some of the characters spends more than one day a week at the pub but it is not necessarily relevant for the game.

Sunday is an important tradition for the four regulars and it is here where they truly feel like they belong. In the game the pub scenes are meant to be a bit longer than the other scenes. Game tests show that players have plenty to talk about in these scenes, but it is also totally fair if your group instead

uses the time for self-reflection and “stomach play”.

In the prologue the players are co-creating the pub. This is facilitated by them one after the other describing the pub. You and the players are welcome to use your own experiences but if you have none then it is okay to just make something up on the spot. What is important is that you together build the pub and not that the pub is 100 % realistic.

There might be situations in the pub scenes where it makes sense for you as a GM to play the role of the bartender. Make it short though since play with the bartender moves the focus away from the regulars and their conflicts.



# Characters and NPCs

## **Bjarne**

**Themes:** Loneliness and deprivation.

Bjarne has a grown-up daughter, Silje, whom he only sees once in a while. Soon she is getting married, but she hasn't invited her father yet. In the evenings Bjarne writes letters to Silje, apologizing for his drinking.

## **Bjarne's Addiction**

Bjarne's daughter is soon getting married and Addiction is jealous of his love to her. This is why it has plan to ruin their relationship so that Bjarne understands how much he needs Addiction.

## **Kamilla**

**Themes:** Love and lies.

Kamilla recently met Lars and is now totally in love. She has been with many other men but every time Addiction ruins it for her. Now she tries everything to hide the fact that she drinks in hopes that will last. Addiction have also shown a big interest in Lars, Kamilla is not willing to share him though. Not long ago Kamilla moved in with Lise.

## **Kamilla's Addiction**

Addiction creates a net of lies around Kamilla which already have ruined several relationships but now Kamilla and Lars is a thing. Normally Addiction don't care about the men she is interested in, this time it is different though. This time Addiction want Lars.

## **Lise**

**Themes:** Love and pity.

Lise have been married to Peter for a long time now but many years of alcohol have strained their relationship, which leads to Peter unloading his frustration unto her from time to time. She still loves him dearly and hopes things will get better in time. Not long ago Kamilla moved in with Lise.

## **Lise's Addiction**

Addiction is fed up with Lise's husband Peter and the way he treats her badly. Even though Addiction despises Peter, it knows that Lise is happy when he is happy. Therefor Addiction will sometimes do a lot to uphold the good mood. Deep down Addiction hopes that someday Lise leaves Peter and it can be the two of them together forever.



# Characters and NPCs

## **Svend**

**Themes:** Fear of death and a new beginning.

Svend recently buried a dear friend, Kurt, who died by the hands of alcohol. They knew each other since childhood and the loss have taken its toll in Svend. At the moment Svend is carrying around a severe cough, which doesn't seem to stop by itself. It is not clear if it due to alcohol related pneumonia or it is just a persistent harmless cough.

## **Svend's Addiction**

After Kurt died Addiction have lost faith in Svend's health. To make sure that Svend is not plagued by disease in his final years, Addiction have decided to try and actively shorten his life.

## **NPCs**

In the game there are a handful of NPCs you as a GM will have to play. It is not certain that all NPCs will be needed in your game but here is a short list of them all.

## **Lars**

Lars is Kamillas new flirt. He likes her but senses that she is hiding something. He will

break the relationship if things get too complicated.

## **The doctor**

Svend's doctor worries for his health and would like to examine his cough more closely. You as a GM can decide with this NPC how serious his cough is. From an innocent cough to a serious alcohol related pneumonia.

## **Silje**

Silje, Bjarne's daughter, gets married to Anna in the fourth act of the game. She hasn't invited her dad yet but wishes to meet with him and give him a chance to prove that he is able to behave at the wedding.

## **Peter**

Peter is Lise's husband whom after many years of marriage is fed up with Lise spending her days getting drunk and watching handball (or some other sport fitting for the players). She rarely cleans or fixes what she promises to fix. He loves her but is having a harder time seeing them in a lasting relationship.



# How to run the game

## **Structure**

The game is divided into four acts each representing one week in the game. Before the four acts there is a short prologue which takes place the Sunday before the other acts.

Every week has some everyday scenes and one or two pub scenes. Some everyday scenes are mandatory while others are optional. In the first week all everyday scenes are mandatory. In the following weeks less and less scenes are mandatory until the fourth week where they are all optional. All pub scenes are mandatory. The first and last pub scene in the game will be run as a story telling session. More on this later.

In every week it is up to you to decide which scenes will be played and in what order as long as the pub scene is played last. My suggestion is not to play several scenes in a row with the same regular and vary scenes containing one or more regulars if possible.

In the majority of scenes only the regulars and their addiction are present, but in a few

of them there are NPC's present which you will play.

In the final pages of this script is an overview "*Scene catalogue*", which gives briefly introduces the prologue and the four weeks with their respective scenes.

## **Every day drama**

The game depicts the life of four regulars at a pub over the course of four weeks. These weeks are not the end of the characters life or their relationship with Addiction. The characters are free to move in a direction of either death or soberness though.

## **Everyday scenes**

The majority of the scenes in the game is everyday scenes. In these scenes the characters story is played out and their conflicts see the light of day. All of the everyday scenes are set outside the pub, either in the regular's home or in the local town.



# How to run the game

Optional scenes which haven't been played in their respective acts can be chosen to be played in any of the later acts.

The everyday scenes benefit from being short and it is advice that you cut them whenever the central premise of the scene have been played out. As a rule of thumb, it is better to cut the scene earlier rather than later. Ending on a high is better than letting the energy of the scene deflate before cutting.

## **Pub scenes**

In the end of the prologue and each week one or two pub scenes are played. These scenes don't add anything to the story of the game, but instead gives room for the regulars to sit and reflect or discuss the past week. As the name suggest all pub scenes are played at the pub.

Contrary to the everyday scenes the pub scenes are meant to be longer and they are not meant to be cut on a high note. If the players don't have much to say during these scenes then it is totally okay. Instead just give them some time to feel their characters

in the silence, but run the scene a bit shorter in this case.

## **Setting and cutting a scene**

You can choose to set the scenes as you please, but I have personally when running the game read out loud the name of the scene, who is present, and the scene text in italic and then started the scene. It might be that the scene text doesn't match 100 % to the story you are currently playing. In this case just change it so fits your run.

It might be a good idea to think one or two scenes ahead. When one scene is running have an idea of the next. This way you reduce the time between the scenes and makes the experience smoother and tighter.

## **Difficult topic**

Alcohol and addiction are a hard and tough subject. Make room for players who have a tougher time with it. Make it clear that they can at any time stop a scene and take a break, that a player can at any time stop the game and leave the room if they please, and it is totally okay to be affected by the theme and feel the need to withdraw.



# Preparations

Before you are ready to play a series of preparations is needed beforehand. My suggestion is to do it in the below order. The overview “*Before you play*” is a shortened version of the below.

## 1. Preparing the room

The room needs to be divided into two areas. One area with a table and chairs where you can sit before the game and which is used as the pub in the game. Another area with enough room to stand during the workshop and which can be used for the everyday scenes.

A good idea is to have glasses or bottles for the game so that the players doesn't need to mime that they are drinking. If you are running this game at Stockholm Scenario Festival then I will make sure that this is present for the run.

## 2. Introduction to the game

Start by introducing the game shortly so that your players are aware what they are supposed to play. Make it clear for the players that the game is about alcoholics

and their addiction. Make it clear that they are playing both regular and Addiction.

## 3. The pub briefly

Explain the pubs position in the game, which kind of pub you are playing in, and that the players are co-creating it.

Take a round where you let your players tell about their own experience with a pub like this. Start with yourself.

## 4. Saying stop

Some players might have a hard time playing the theme of this game and make it clear that they can at any point pause a scene to take or break or leave the game if necessary.

## 5. Addiction briefly

Explain how it is to have an addiction. How it is both your best friend and worst enemy.

Take a round where you let your players reflect over their own relationship with addiction. Remember that addiction might come in many different forms but deep down they are all alike. Start with yourself.



# Preparations

## 6. Addiction as a character

Explain that addiction in this game is symbolized by the character Addiction and that the players should therefore not pretend to be intoxicated. Introduce that concept of them all playing Addiction for another character. Explain the four different ways in which Addiction can interact with a regular and place the overview “*Addiction’s powers*” out on the table in front of the players:

- Thoughts in the head
- Physical contact
- Speak on behalf of
- Take control of

The players will be able to try these four techniques out in the workshop.

## 7. The games structure

Present act structure of the game with the prologue and the four weeks. Take the time to explain the difference between everyday scenes and pub scenes, how some everyday scenes are optional and that each act ends with one or two pub scenes. Place the overview “*The four weeks*” on the table in front of the players.

## 8. Characters and casting

Introduce the four regulars and their addiction and let the players choose which character they want to play. The four regulars and their Addiction have the following themes:

**Bjarne** – Loneliness and deprivation

**Kamilla** – Love and Lies

**Lise** – Love and pity

**Svend** – Fear of death and a new beginning

Cast the characters based on the players wishes. A player will play the following combination of regular and Addiction

- Bjarne & Lise’s Addiction
- Kamilla & Svend’s Addiction
- Lise & Bjarne’s Addiction
- Svend & Kamilla’s Addiction

Let them read their characters and answer any question they might have.

## 9. Workshop

The workshop focuses on the players who are playing regular and Addiction together. The goal is to make them comfortable with each other and the techniques of the game. Start by getting up and stand on the floor.



# Workshop

In the first part of the workshop you pair the players who are playing Addiction for each other. Let them introduce themselves to each other if they haven't already done so and ask them give each other a hug. Make them hug long enough for it to be awkward.

The game can be played with quite a big amount of intimacy between regular and addiction so instruct them to negotiate physical boundaries.

In the second part of the workshop you are trying out the four different ways in which a regular and their Addiction can interact. Repeat the four different ways possible.

The players are now going to play a scene as both regular and Addiction. Everyone will be playing the same scene and it is therefore going to be repeated four times in total.

The players can either play their own character in the scene or choose to be a generic regular/Addiction.

## **Just one more... – Regular, Addiction & bartender**

Everyday scene – Mandatory  
At a bar (not the pub from the game).

You are sitting in the bar and the regular believes you had enough to drink. Addiction wants to drink more and will try and convince the regular. It doesn't work and Addiction then takes matters into their own hands and will use their means of interaction to influence the regular. Try and get all four different interactions in play.

Ask one of the other players to play the bartender who is willing to serve the regular another round.

When everyone has played the scene as a regular take a short talk about what worked and what didn't.

You are now ready to play the prologue.



# Prolog

*Duration: 15-20 minutes*

In the prologue the four regulars and the pub are introduced. The different Addiction characters only come into play in the first week. The prologue is set the Sunday before the first week and consists of two mandatory scenes, the everyday scene 'Sunday morning' and the pub scene 'My second home'. Both scenes are not to be run for too long.

## **Sunday morning - Everyone**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

In the home of each regular

Let the players describe the four regulars' home and what they do on a Sunday before they go to the pub. Choose a regular to start and ask the following if they don't bring it up themselves.

- Are they still drunk from yesterday?
- Are they alone?
- Do they drink before they leave?

When a player had a chance to describe their regular's morning, cut to another. A

good idea is not to have Kamilla and Lise right after each other, since they live together. When all players have had a go then go to the next scene.

## **My second home - Everyone**

*Pub scene – Mandatory*

In the pub

Let the players describe the pub one after the other in the order the regulars arrive. Start by letting the first one arriving describe the pub from outside. If the players don't mention it, you can ask the following:

- What is the first thing one notices when entering the pub?
- What does the bar desk look like?
- Where do the regulars sit? Do they have a reserved spot?
- Which sounds and smells are present in the pub?

Ask the Addiction characters what their regular orders. Let the players play a short scene as the regulars, when the pub is established.



# First week

*Duration: 30-45 minutes*

In the first week the regulars and their Addiction is introduced. There are five mandatory scenes in this week, four everyday scenes and the pub scene '*Here we are again*'. Remember to cut the everyday scenes short and the pub scene longer. The order of the scenes is up to you as long as the final scene is the pub scene.

## **Dear Silje – Bjarne & Addiction**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At Bjarne's place

Bjarne is sitting at home and is trying to write a letter for Silje. A letter which explains how much he loves her and how he regrets everything. Evenings like this where he misses his daughter a lot, loneliness creeps up on him. Luckily Addiction is there to keep him company.

## **He is mine – Kamilla & Addiction**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At Lars's place

Kamilla have been invited to Lars's place after a long and romantic day. Lars have gone to shower and he left Kamilla in his room. She can feel a desire towards Lars and his body. By her side is Addiction who has the same horny look in its eyes.

Cut the scene before Lars is done showering.

## **Us, forever – Lise & Addiction**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At Lise's place

Peter just left for work and he slammed the door when he exited the apartment. He was frustrated that Lise have been sitting at home getting drunk, not doing chores and watching sports. She even forgot that it is their anniversary today. Again. Lise is sitting in the living room with a tear down her chin and Addiction by her side.



# First week

## **Without Kurt – Svend & Addiction**

*Everyday scene* – Mandatory

At Kurt's shelter

Svend is sitting in his room at the shelter with a picture of Kurt. He misses him a lot. He would normally sit and drink beer at this hour, but he hasn't found the will to open the first. Addiction is handing him the first bottle from the supermarket plastic bag. They aren't going to drink themselves...

## **Here we are again – Everyone**

*Pub scene* – Mandatory

In the pub

The four regulars meet at the pub every Sunday as usual. They share stories from the past week and enjoy a safe space from the troubles of their life.

If the players aren't talking for long then let the scene run for 5-10 minutes. Otherwise let it run for at least 15 minutes.



# Second week

*Duration: 45 minutes*

The regulars and their relations are explored as well as the relationship between regular and Addiction is further developed in the second week.

There are four mandatory scenes in the second week, three everyday scenes and the pub scene 'Another week'. On top of this there is a selection of three optional scenes. I recommend playing one or two of these.

## **RIP Kurt – Bjarne & Svend**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At the graveyard

Bjarne and Svend is at the graveyard to lay flowers at Kurt's grave. This is the first time Svend sees the grave. The only reason he is here now is because Bjarne brought him along.

Do the Addictions follow along?

## **Can Lars come over? – Kamilla, Lise & the Addictions**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At Lise and Kamilla

Kamilla invited Lars over for a romantic evening but forgot to mention it to Lise. Lars is standing outside the building on the street and is waiting to be let in. Peter is off for the night and Lise is looking forward to a night alone with him.

## **Silje calls – Bjarne, Addiction and (Silje)**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*

At Bjarne's workplace

Bjarne is sitting concentrated at work when suddenly his phone starts ringing. It is Silje. She is calling to ask if they can meet next week at a café. She asks Bjarne to promise he won't be drunk.



# Second week

## **Social security demands – Lise & Svend**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

Infront of the local supermarket

Lise and Svend bump into each other in front of the local supermarket. Lise is mad at the social security office. She has been called in to a meeting. They want her to start working again.

Is the Addictions present?

## **Rosé bottles – Kamilla & (Lars)**

*Everyday scene - Optional*

At Kamilla's place

It is morning and Lars is getting dressed when he stumbles upon three bags full of rosé bottles in Kamillas room. Some are empty, some are full, and most are somewhere in between.

## **It is not that bad – Svend, his Addiction & Bjarne**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

Bjarne calls Svend to hear how he is doing and how the coughing is coming along in particular. Will Svend seek advice with Bjarne or will he deny any problems?

## **Another week – Everyone**

*Pub scene – Mandatory*

In the pub

The four regulars meet in the pub Sunday exactly as they normally do.



# Third week

*Duration: 40-50 minutes*

Conflicts who haven't surfaced yet is to be put into play in the third week. The conflicts which are already in play are to be escalated further.

There are two mandatory scenes in the third week, one everyday scene and the pub scene 'We got each other'. There are seven optional scenes to choose from in this week. You can also choose to set a scene you didn't play from last week. I recommend playing 3-5 optional scenes.

## **Is it me or the booze? – Lise, Addiction & (Peter)**

*Everyday scene – Mandatory*  
At Lise's place

Peter has a talk with Lise about her addiction. He has finding the courage for this for a while now. He gives Lise a choice. Either she chooses him or the alcohol. At her side sits Addiction hoping it is the last time they will see Peter.

## **Doctors appointment – Svend, Addiction & (the doctor)**

*Everyday scene – Optional*  
At Svend's room in the shelter.

Svend have decided to call the doctor concerning his cough. Not because anything is wrong. Just to confirm that everything is okay and it will soon be better. Is Addiction going to stop him?

## **Bye forever – Kamilla, Lise & the Addictions**

*Everyday scene – Optional*  
Hos Kamilla & Lise

Kamilla is sitting and watching television with Lise when she receives a text from Lars. He breaks up with her, says that he doesn't trust her anymore and isn't ready for a relationship with such a complicated person.



# Third week

**I want you to come, dad –Bjarne,**

**Addiction & (Silje)**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

At a café

Bjarne and Silje meet up at a café since she wants to invite him to the wedding. Though on the condition that he won't drink or do something stupid.

If you choose to run this scene then don't run the scene '*Can we meet sometime after the wedding?*'.

**Can we meet sometime after the wedding? – Bjarne, Addiction & (Silje)**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

Silje regrets meeting with her dad and calls him to ask if they can postpone it to sometime after the wedding.

If you choose to run this scene then don't run the scene '*I want you to come, dad*'.

**An old tradition – Bjarne, Svend & the Addictions**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

At a lunch restaurant

Svend and Kurt had an old tradition of meeting and eating lunch together every Saturday. Svend decided to start that tradition again and has therefor invited Bjarne out to eat lunch.

**I write again... - Bjarne**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

Bjarne is sitting and writing a letter to Silje. Addiction is not present and he is struggling to just write a few sentences.



# Third week

## **Alone with the fear of death - Svend**

*Everyday scene* – Optional

At Svend's room at the shelter

Svend is sitting alone in his room without Addiction. He is thirsty and wants to drink a beer. But how does he cope with the fear of death alone?

## **We got each other – Everyone**

*Pub scene* – Mandatory

In the pub

The four regulars meet in the pub Sunday exactly as they normally do.



# Fourth week

*Duration: 30 minutes*

Focus is to finalize the games conflicts in week four. This doesn't mean that the conflicts have to be resolved. It is more than fine if many of them remains unresolved. Make it clear that this is week in which Silje is getting married Saturday.

There are two mandatory pub scenes in the fourth week. There are six optional scenes to choose from in this week. You can also choose scenes you haven't played from week two and three. I recommend playing two or three optional scenes.

## **A toast for Silje – Bjarne & Addiction**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

Hos Bjarne

Bjarne is sitting and writing a toast for Silje at her wedding. Next to him is a carafe full of freshly brewed coffee, a bottle of schnapps, and Addiction. Is Addiction going to help him?

## **At the doctor – Svend, Addiction & (the doctor)**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

In the doctor's office

Svend is at the doctor to get his cough looked at. Addiction is there to help conceal his symptoms so he doesn't get the help he needs.

You can decide exactly how serious Svend's cough is and how much you want to pressure the player.

## **Can't we figure it out? – Lise, Addiction & (Peter)**

*Everyday scene – Optional*

In Lise's apartment

Peter is sorry how it all panned out last week. He apologized for all the things he said and wants to find a way for them to be together,

Let Peter call Lise if they aren't a couple at this time.



# Fourth week

## **If things were as before – Bjarne & Kamilla**

*Everyday scene* – Optional  
In front of Bjarne's apartment

Bjarne and Kamilla follow each other home after a long day at the pub and talk about the time when they used to be dating. They end up outside Bjarne's apartment. Maybe Kamilla asks if she can come inside?

Are the Addictions present?

## **We have each other's back – Kamilla & Lise**

*Everyday scene* – Optional  
At Kamilla and Lise's place

Kamilla and Lise is sitting in the living room and talks about how much of a bitch life can be and how important it is that they have each other's backs.

Are the Addictions present?

## **A trip to the graveyard – Bjarne or Svend**

*Everyday scene* – Optional  
At the graveyard

Bjarne or Svend is at the graveyard. Maybe to visit Kurt or maybe just to be alone. Is Addiction there as well?

## **So much have happened – Everyone**

*Pub scene* – Mandatory  
In the pub

The four regulars meet in the pub Sunday exactly as they normally do.

When the scene ends then cut to the last scene of the game '*Last call*'.



# Fourth week

## **Last call - Everyone**

*Pub scene* – Mandatory

In the pub

The last scene in the game is a mirror of the second scene in the prologue '*My second home*', in which the players describe the pub when the regulars enter one after the other.

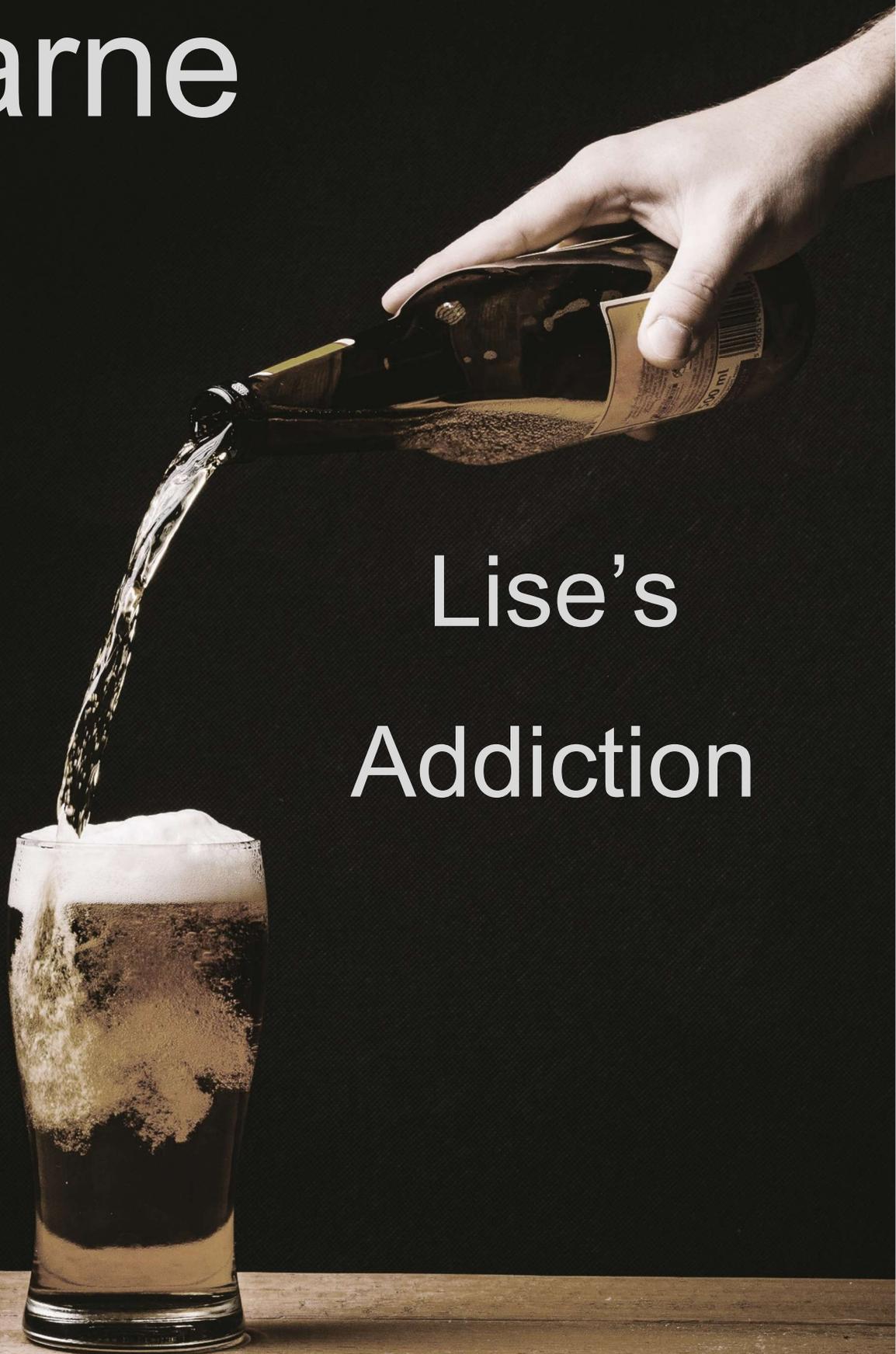
Let the players explain what the regulars do when the pub closes on Sundays. Start by letting the first one to leave describe which routines they do when last call is called. Get them to use details established earlier. If the players are not mentioning it then ask the following:

- Where do the regulars sit? In their normal spots?
- What is the last thing they drink?
- What smells and sounds are present at closing hour?

When a player has described the final routines, let them then describe the regular leaving the pub. Once a regular has left the pub that player is no longer part of the game. Continue until all have left the pub.

Bjarne

Lise's  
Addiction





# Bjarne

*“Dear Silje*

*I’m so tired, so very, very tired ... I can’t stand being drunk anymore but I still do it... I can visualize myself drinking... I keep promising ... I can’t take it anymore and I have no idea what to do.*

*I’m so very sorry, more than words can express ...”*

*This is how I’ve started on the letter I’m writing. It has taken a long time to compose the words on the paper. I don’t know what else to write to her, so I spend most of my time staring into the depth of the coffee. I miss her beyond belief and lucky enough I’m not alone.*

*Addiction is there for me when life gets tough and the deprivation for Silje is at its peak. Like tonight where loneliness creeps up from behind. Addiction caresses my hand and pours schnapps in my coffee. I feel the heat from the alcohol spreading throughout my body and everything seems a bit easier to deal with. Easy enough to finish the letter.”*

Bjarne is an alcoholic and has an adult daughter, Silje, who he too rarely sees. Once he was a proud family man with a lucrative job, a dear wife and the apple of his eye, Silje. That’s not how it is anymore. Now Addiction has become the biggest part of his life.

It all started with the divorce. It was an excruciating and lengthy process and while Bjarne doesn’t quite remember the exactly how it happened Silje ended up moving in with her mother and he started drinking. Back then Silje was 14 years old. Now she’s 27 years of age and engaged with Anna. They are to be married in about four weeks. Silje has been talking a lot about Anna but Bjarne has yet to meet her. Bjarne doesn’t know why he hasn’t met her yet, but he hopes to discuss it with Silje. Furthermore, he hasn’t even received an invitation to the wedding. It probably got lost in the mail.

Occasionally Bjarne writes letters to Silje where he apologizes and begs for them to meet. He promises that he will leave the bottle and looks forward to meeting Anna.



# Bjarne

*Today was the day where everything was supposed to be better! I hadn't been drinking all day and all throughout the week I had been excited to meet up. I was finally ready to talk without any problems at all. Now I sit at the restaurant. Alone and drunk. Silje sobbingly left the table and yelled something at me which I can't remember.*

*Addiction sits by my side and whispers in my ear that she's not worth it. That it's better if it's just the two of us. That she doesn't love me and the only thing I need, the only thing I crave is Addiction.*

*I deeply wished that I had the strength to push Addiction away from me and run after her, confessing and try to get her to understand that it's not my fault. I wanted to explain that it's Addiction that's being jealous and tries to push me away from her.*

*If only I could choose both Addiction and her...*

Bjarne has had Addiction in his life for a long time now. The time after the divorce was affected by a long-lasting depression

for Bjarne. According to him, Addiction helped him through the dark part of his life. Bjarne has on numerous occasions contemplated if he would even be alive if it weren't for it. Sheer gratitude and pleasure towards Addiction is something Bjarne doesn't have. He understands that it's the reason he doesn't see his daughter more than he does. But he fears that a life without alcohol would mean him sliding back into depression.

On weekdays Bjarne works part time at the municipality. It is boring and repetitive but pays for the small apartment where he lives. There are many pictures of Silje in it. Most of which are from the time where she was young. Only a few are newer. Even though the pictures remind Bjarne of a better time the thought of all that could have been gets too nauseating and he needs to escape. Out into the world and down to the local pub with all the others. Those who are stuck as well.



# Bjarne

## **Kamilla**

Last year Kamilla and Bjarne dated for a short while. In the beginning they were both in love with each other, but her lies and denials took a toll on Bjarne. When Bjarne couldn't do it anymore, he ended the relationship and Kamilla started dating another man.

Now Kamilla is in love with Lars, who she met a while ago. Bjarne has now seen that Addiction and her lies ruining many of her relationships, but she seems convinced that Addiction won't interfere this time.

## **Lise**

Lise has been happily married with Peter for a long time. However, he has been worn thin by Lise's long-time relationship with Addiction, especially now when Kamilla has moved in with them.

## **Svend**

Bjarne and Svend recently had to bury a common acquaintance, Kurt, who died of alcohol. Svend and Kurt were childhood friends and the loss has taken a toll on Svend. Bjarne and Svend have never been close friends but maybe their relationship will be closer after the loss of Kurt.

Svend's health hasn't been good lately. He coughs a lot but writes it off as an innocent cough when asked about it. Furthermore, Bjarne has noticed that Svend often looks terrified when he opens a beer.

## **Questions for the character**

Why does Bjarne keep sending letters to his daughter?

What does Bjarne wish for from the future?

Can Bjarne imagine a life without Addiction?



# Lise's Addiction

*It is night and Peter is about to head out. He must go to work. I have been at home all day and just been watching TV with Lise. Now Peter scolds Lise. He often does that. He is always mad at her for some reason or another. He doesn't deserve her at all, but she is just about as in love with him as always, so it isn't easy to get her to understand it.*

*I look at Lise, visibly shaken over the scolding. How in the world can he allow himself to act in that way? I have to do something to make Lise feel better. Even though I'm not much for it there's only one way to help her. I slowly get up and on behalf of Lise I apologize. I stare him deep in the eyes and cranks up the charm. Not before long he smiles and shortly hereafter, we kiss. Eww. What I don't do for Lise.*

*I can see Lise getting happy now that Peter is happy as well, but I detect some sort of jealousy. If she just knew that I did it for her and not because I want to kiss that sleazy parody of a person that Peter is.*

Lise has had Addiction by her side ever since the accident where she fell from a scaffold and shattered her hip. It was a rough time with a long and painful treatment- and rehabilitation period where the alcohol became a necessary painkiller.

Lise has a husband, Peter. In the beginning after the accident Peter was supportive and understanding for Lises needs to soothe her pains with alcohol. But the longer it takes the less he concerns himself with Lise.

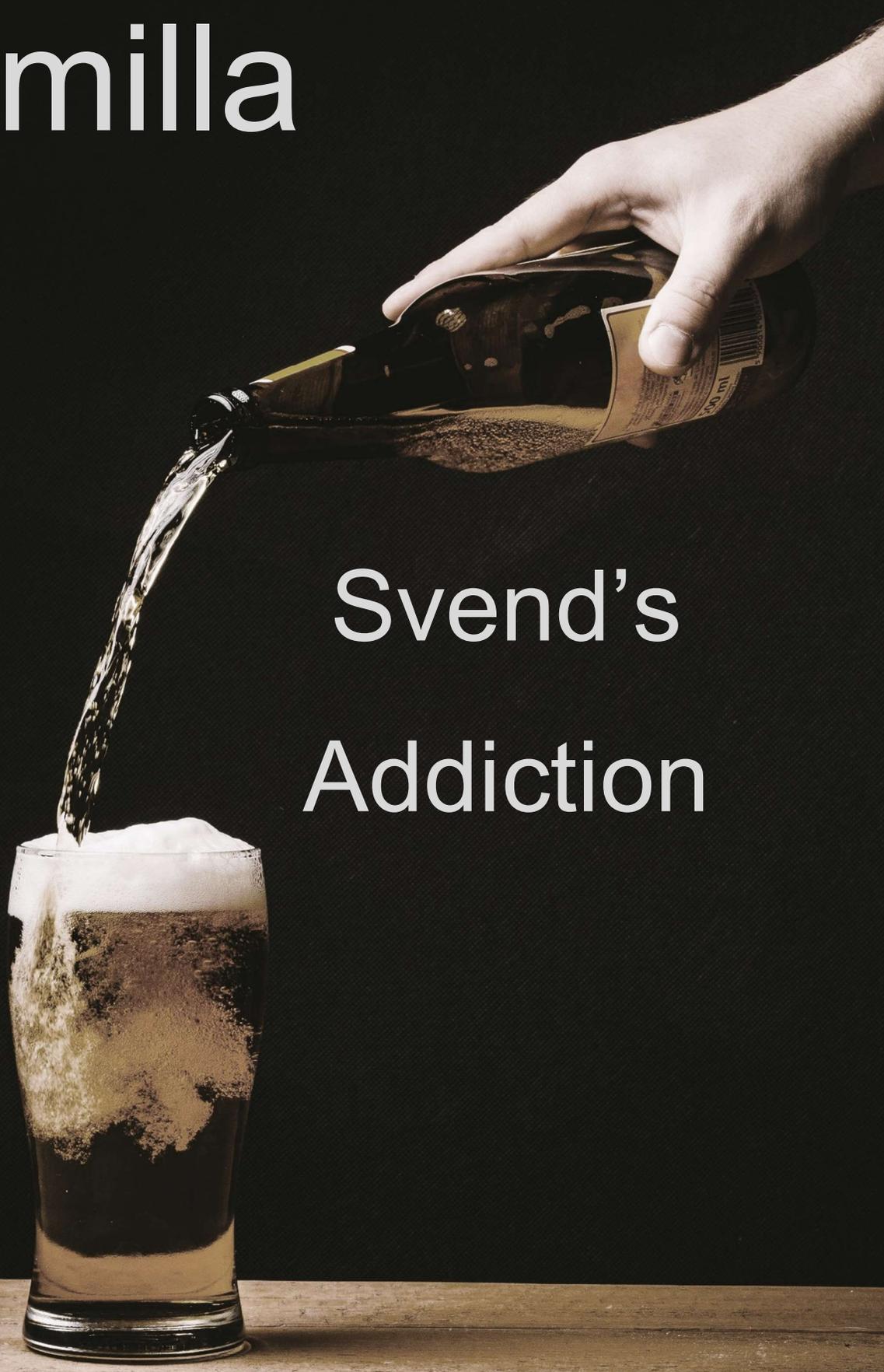
*Recently Kamilla from the pub has moved in with Lise and Peter, ever since she had no roof over her head. Peter is obviously not thrilled to help a person in need. Typical. Is there even anyone he would like to help beside himself?*

## **Questions for the character**

To what lengths will Addiction go to be alone with Lise?

How does Addition feel with Kamilla and her Addiction having moved in?

# Kamilla

A hand is shown pouring a golden beer from a dark glass bottle into a tall, slender glass. The beer is being poured from the right side of the frame, creating a stream that falls into the glass. The glass is already partially filled with beer and has a thick, white head of foam on top. The background is dark, and the scene is lit from the side, highlighting the liquid and the hand. The text 'Kamilla' is in the top left, and 'Svend's Addiction' is in the middle right.

Svend's  
Addiction



# Kamilla

*It feels fantastic to be in love and it is amazing to be in love with Lars. Lars is an awesome man! The way he stares into my eyes and the way he speaks to me makes me feel like a new person. We met each other a couple of months ago and from the first time we kissed I was sure that he was "the one". We are a match made in Heaven.*

*One morning he found a lot of empty bottles of rosé under my bed. I froze from the head down and I was sure he'd figured me out. Sure, that he knew exactly why those bottles were under the bed. Knew without a doubt that I like to drink a bottle of rosé before I go to sleep. That he would storm out the door and that I'd see him never again...*

*Addiction breaks my train of thoughts and starts speaking for me. "Those are from a party from last week. It got pretty wild." I can see that Lars gobbles up the lie and he kisses me. What should I do without Addiction?*

Kamilla is an alcoholic and has been for nearly all her life. Both her parents were alcoholics and from an early age Addiction became a part of Kamilla's life as well. Kamilla has a hard time lie to people, but Addiction has never had those problems and has time and time again used lies to help her through life. Wherever Kamilla goes an intricate web of lies follows and it gets difficult to find head and tail between reality and fiction.

Recently Kamilla met Lars and they started dating. He is not the first man Kamilla has fallen for and not the first she believes is "the one" either. Her previous relationships haven't worked out even though Addiction and its lies has covered for her needs to drink.

This time it's different. Normally Addiction isn't particularly interested in those men that Kamilla falls for. This time Addiction can't talk about anything else and Kamilla doesn't want to share Lars with anyone. Not even Addiction.



# Kamilla

*I've spent all day with Lars. From when we woke up late this morning in his apartment, to the strolls on the beach and the romantic picnic. Now we've wound up at his place and he's taking a shower. All I can think about is his naked body under the shower and how much I want him.*

*Addiction sits beside me on the bed.*

*"Tonight, he is mine" it says and looks intensely at me. I don't want to share him with anyone, so I insist that he is my date and it is I who want him. That doesn't get well received and the tone from Addiction changes.*

*"Do you honestly think that he wants to be with you, Kamilla? I am the fun one, I'm the naughty one and I'm the smartest one. Lars would never have fallen head over heels for you, if it wasn't for me. He doesn't know it yet, but it is me that he wants! So, when I tell you that I want Lars then I get Lars, is that understood? You don't actually want to have me telling the truth, right?"*

*So, it ended up with me just lying there while Addiction and Lars made love.*

*If only I could find a man without Addiction was present. If only I could live my life without it...*

Kamilla has always have difficulties at to school and the consequences have meant that she dropped out. Since then Kamilla has been doing a variety of things. She has worked in an organic village, lived in India, studied under a guru and lived several years in a hippie commune. Recently she has moved into Lise and her husband's place. It's not a large apartment and it's obvious that Peter is marked by living with two women and to Addictions.

Kamilla spends most of her day by going down to the local pub. With the others. Those who are stuck as well.



# Kamilla

## **Bjarne**

For a while Kamilla and Bjarne were a couple. In the beginning they were in love with each other, but Kamilla's lies and denials took a toll on Bjarne. Bjarne had to end it and Kamilla started dating another man.

Bjarne has an adult daughter whom he, because of Addiction, has involuntarily pushed away from him. She is to be married. He hasn't been invited to the wedding yet but he is sure that the invitation will arrive anytime soon.

## **Svend**

Svend has recently had to bury an acquaintance, Kurt, who died of alcohol. They were childhood friends and the loss has taken its toll on Svend. Moreover, he has a nasty cough going on that won't go away.

## **Lise**

Ever since Kamilla started visiting the pub Lise has helped her with some small stuff. Mainly those involving money and the municipality. Recently when Kamilla had no roof over her head Lise offered a place to stay with her and her husband, Peter.

Lise has for a long time been happily married to Peter. He has been worn thin by Lise's long-time relationship with Addiction, especially now when Kamilla has moved in with them as well.

## **Questions for the character**

Why do Kamilla think that the relationship with Lars ends better than all of the rest?

What will happen if Lars found out about Kamilla being an alcoholic?

Can Kamilla imagine a life without Addiction?



# Svend's Addiction

*I sit beside Svend on his bed. Svend holds a picture of Kurt in his hand. He was a handsome and stoic man even in his final days before his death.*

*I take the picture out of his hand and stares on the old photography. The deprivation fills me, and I start crying. Svend's health isn't the best currently and he's afraid that his time is near. He is a measly man, sitting by my side. There aren't a lot of years left before he dies. Especially if he doesn't stop drinking so many beers.*

*It's not because I don't care about Svend, but we have lived together for so many years and it's not as fun as it used to be. Once we were the life of the party and we were full of energy. Now Svend is old and tired. Maybe it's best if it ends soon.*

*I hand him two beers. "One for each leg". In the fleeting moment of opening the beer I can see the mortal fear in his eyes. I calm him by opening the other for him. While he drinks beer number two, I've already fetched two more. He says that two is fine now and that he's not in a hurry. He's not that thirsty. After the anxiety has taken hold*

*of him it's not quite as easy to get him to drink as it used to be.*

**"JUST DRINK THOSE FUCKING BEERS, GOD DAMNIT!"**

*I can't take his apologies anymore. It's over now. It has been fun, but not anymore.*

Svend has had Addiction by his side from when he was young. It wasn't just alcohol in the beginning, but as he grew older, he put the drugs on the shelf, and now it's mostly beer that he drinks.

Recently Svend's childhood friend, Kurt, died of alcohol. Svend's health is declining and Addiction wonders if it's for the best to not drag it out any further than it must be. Better die on a couple of years than living 10 more years as sick and old.

## **Questions for the character**

How long will Addiction go to help Svend meet his maker?

Is Addiction aware that it itself will disappear when Svend dies?

Lise

Bjarne's  
Addiction





# Lise

*It is evening and Peter is about to head out the door. He must go to work. All day I've been at home and just watched TV with Addiction. When Peter woke, he wasn't happy. He was complaining that I hadn't cleaned after breakfast or lunch. And the whole apartment reeked of smoke. And there was bottles on the floor in the living room. It's not that I don't want to do my part of the responsibilities, but the hip hurt an extra bit today and there was football playing on the television.*

*When I see Peter stand and scold me, I regret that I haven't done more. Smoked less and being a better wife. I feel so insignificant and worthless, so stupid and lazy. Nowhere good enough for him.*

*But when I feel at my most useless Addiction gets up from the couch and starts apologizing on my behalf to Peter. In the beginning he's sceptic but Addiction lights up the charm and Peter starts to smile. Addiction sends me a look that says, "I'll handle this". Shortly after they kiss.*

*Again, Addiction saves me from a tough situation. I'm part happy and jealous. If only I could make Peter as happy as Addiction can.*

Lise is an alcoholic and a former scaffolding worker, now she is retired. She hasn't worked since the accident where she fell from the scaffold and shattered her hip. It was a rough time with a long and painful treatment- and rehabilitation period. In the beginning the morphine was enough but slowly its pain relief wasn't enough and she started drinking instead. Since then she has stopped with the morphine, but Addiction has been following her instead. Lise has never fully recovered from the accident and she uses her electric scooter to get around.

Lise has a husband, Peter, who works at night in a home for foster kids. This means that they often spend their daytime hours together and Lise can see on Peter how much it tears on him to see her get drunk around noon.



# Lise

Peter gave Lise lots of support right after the accident and was understanding of her needs to dull the pains with alcohol. But the more time since the accident the less he concerning and helping he is.

Recently Kamilla from the pub has moved in with Lise and Peter ever since she had no roof over her head. The idea at first was that it was temporary, but their friendship has been closer because of this. However, the distance to Peter has been growing.

*I'm lucky to have Peter. He is and always will be the love of my life. Without him I wouldn't be where I am today. There once was a time where I was good at showing him how much he matters to me. I'm not capable of that anymore. Now it's only Addiction that knows how to show it.*

*If only he understood that I love him more than ever. A tear runs down my cheek. I'm sitting alone at home. It's evening and Peter has left for work. By my side Addiction scoffed: "What are we going to use him for? He is just angry all the time. No matter what you do it's wrong. Can't you see that he*

*doesn't love you anymore? It should just be the two of us and no one else. Us, beer and handball."*

*Fuck Addiction! It is Peter I love and want. He'll cool down again. Just you wait and see. I take a beer from the table and down it.*

The social security office tries to get Lise to start working again. They've put together a plan where she can begin on reduced hours in a stationary job. Lise is determined to explain that she is incapable of working and will never be.

When Lise can't stand sitting around at home and feel the powerlessness and frustrations from Peter she heads out. Outside, on her electric scooter and down to the pub. Down to where the others are. Those who are stuck as well.



# Lise

## **Bjarne**

Bjarne has an adult daughter whom he, because of Addiction, has involuntarily pushed away from him. She is to be married. He hasn't been invited to the wedding yet but he is sure that the invitation will arrive anytime soon.

## **Kamilla**

Ever since Kamilla started visiting the pub Lise has helped her with some small stuff. Mainly those involving money and the municipality. Recently when Kamilla had no roof over her head Lise offered a place to stay with her and her husband, Peter.

Now Kamilla is in love with Lars, who she met a while ago. Bjarne has now seen that Addiction and her lies ruining many of her relationships, but she seems convinced that Addiction won't interfere this time.

## **Svend**

Svend has recently had to bury an acquaintance, Kurt, who died of alcohol. They were childhood friends and the loss has taken its toll on Svend. Moreover, he has a nasty cough going on that won't go away.

Svend never quite understood why Lise doesn't work. Well, she does have a bad hip but it shouldn't be an obstacle according to Svend. There are lots of people who does stationary work all day long, so why shouldn't she? Svend believes that idleness is the root of all evil

## **Questions for the character**

How does Lise believe that the relationship with Peter could improve?

How does the jealousy change and affect Lises relationship with Addiction?

Can Lise imagine a life without Addiction?



# Bjarne's Addiction

*"Dear Silje*

*I'm so tired, so very, very tired ... I can't stand being drunk anymore but I still do it... I can visualize myself drinking... I keep promising ... I can't take it anymore and I have no idea what to do.*

*I'm so very sorry, more than words can express ..."*

*This is how Bjarne started on the letter he is writing. It has taken a long time for him to compose the words on the paper. He spends most of the time staring into the depth of the coffee. He looks measly as he sits there hunched over the letter. I can see a tear rolling down from the corner of one of his eyes, which I quickly wipe away.*

*I caress his hand and ensure him that all will be well while I fetch a schnapps and pour a little in his coffee. The smile on his lips, as he takes a sip of the coffee confirms that it was the right thing to do. I'm the only one who's here for Bjarne when he has it rough. I'm his only real friend.*

Bjarne got Addiction in his life after a rough divorce that resulted in his daughter, Silje

moving in with her mother. That was 13 years ago, and Bjarne ever rarely sees her. Ever since the divorce he got hit with a depression and Addiction was there to help him through it. Addiction is convinced that Bjarne wouldn't have made it without its help.

Addiction is jealous of Silje. It can't handle all the joy and unlimited love that Bjarne has for her in his voice when he talks about her.

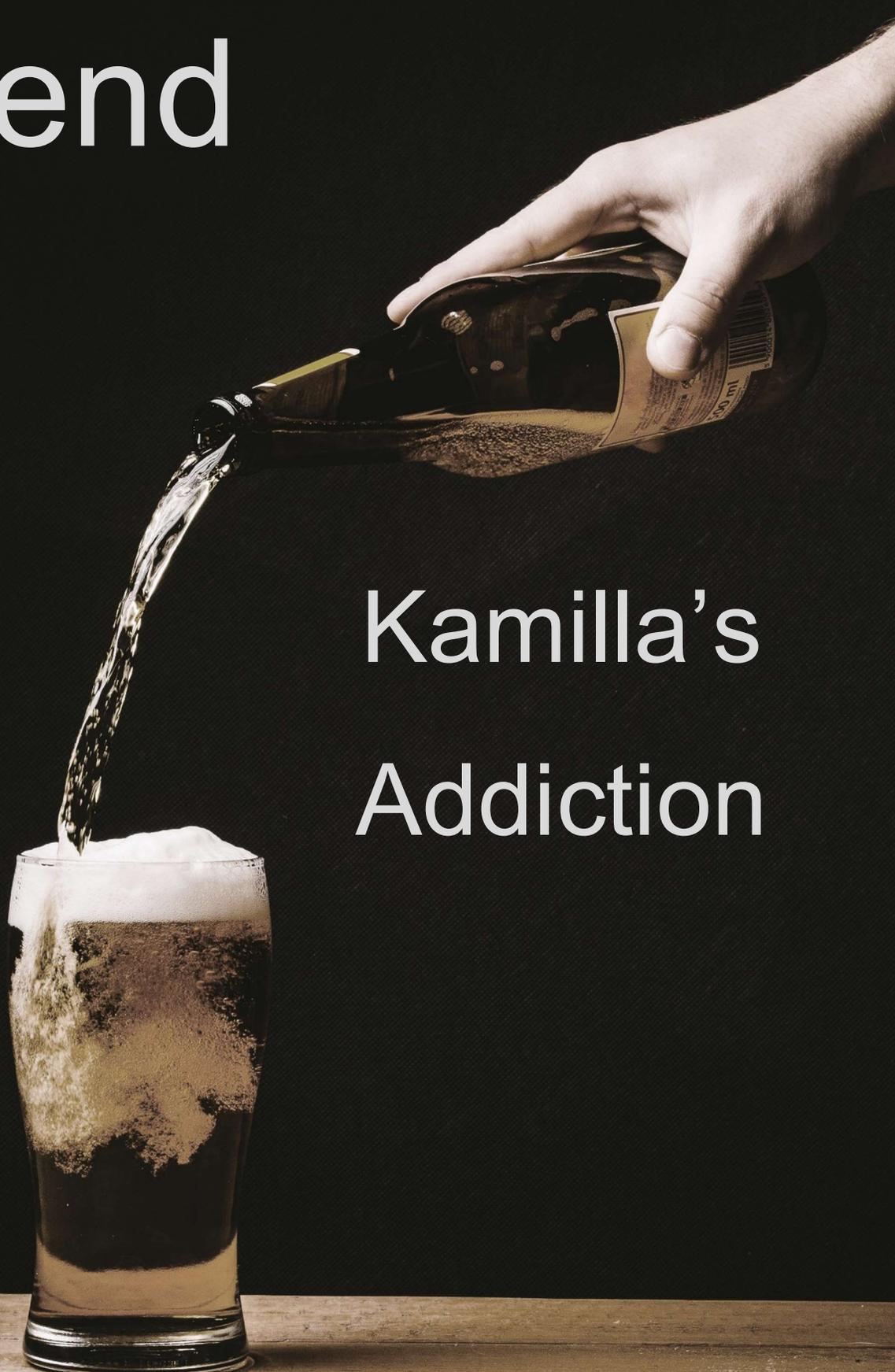
Silje is soon-to-be-married with Anna and Addiction has a plan. Bjarne still hasn't got an invitation for the wedding. But if Addiction can convince Bjarne that the invitation will come, and everything will be perfect then it will hurt even more when things go wrong. And there is only one Bjarne turns to when things get too hard.

## **Questions for the character**

What will Addiction do if the plan fails?

Why is Addiction jealous of the love Bjarne has for his daughter?

# Svend

A hand is shown pouring a dark beer from a bottle into a tall glass. The beer is dark and has a thick, white head of foam. The glass is sitting on a wooden surface. The background is dark.

Kamilla's  
Addiction



# Svend

*I have never been good at funerals. You can't see it on me. Unlike the others I don't cry. Instead I cough so loud and hard into my pocket cloth that people are staring. By my side is Bjarne with tears flowing down his cheek. To comfort him I put my arm around his back, and he smiles. Once again, I'm the strong one. The one that helps the others.*

*In the coffin is my childhood friend Kurt. He had been struggling with the alcohol for a long time and has lost. By my other side sits Addiction and holds my hand. I'm scared. Not just afraid-of-the-dark-scared. No, like really scared, really frightened. Filled with anxiety, terrified. That's after I went to the hospital and saw Kurt, who laid in the chapel all pale and shallow in the face and dead. Stone cold dead. He resembled a skeleton, as if someone had pulled an old and wrinkly piece of skin over. Each beer I open makes me see myself lie in the chapel. Cold and alone. And now for the funeral as well.*

*I close my eyes and I feel Addiction grab both my hands and telling me to take a*

*deep breath and count to ten. When I open my eyes, the anxiety has settled. Now all I can think about is the beer I'll have when all this is over.*

Svend is an alcoholic and has been that since he was young and the party couldn't be wild enough. Back then several drugs were a part of the weekend menu. He has put those on a shelf but Addiction has been following him ever since.

Addiction has always been there for Svend. Each time when life has been tough and his fortune has rejected him Addiction has helped him through it. Addiction and Kurt, of course.

Kurt was Svend's best friend. They often spoke about life and their problems at length. Kurt was a true friend. Now he is no longer with us and Svend doesn't have anyone to talk to anymore. Bjarne is a good friend but they haven't been close. Not really. Not like he and Kurt was.



# Svend

Svend's health isn't what it used to be. Once he jumped around and was always the life of the party. Now his body is sore when he wakes, and he has gotten a terrible cough that won't go away.

He hasn't been to the doctor. What could a doctor tell him that he doesn't already know?

*I sit on my bed with a picture of Kurt in my hand. He was a handsome and stoic man even in his final days before his death. Nothing could get him down. Well...*

*I get interrupted in my train of thought by Addiction who takes the picture from me. It looks at the old photo and cries. It misses Kurt. Me too. Addiction hasn't been itself since the funeral. It has grown quieter and doesn't speak to me that often - not the way it used to. When we drank beers together in the past, Addiction was always in high spirit and full of lie. Now I'll consider myself lucky if all I get is a smile.*

*Addiction seems keener on me drinking beer as now, where it hands me two bottles.*

*"One for each leg". I open one of the beers and immediately I see myself lie in the chapel at the hospital. Addiction calms me and opens the second one. While I drink beer number two Addiction already went at got two more. I explain that two is fine and I'm not in a hurry.*

***"JUST DRINK THOSE FUCKING BEERS, GOD DAMNIT!"***

*I'm not sure if Addiction wants what's best for me anymore.*

Svend has worked his whole life as a handy man. He has always been happy for working and Addiction has never been a problem when work had to be done. Now that he's retired, he misses the work from time to time. Svend has never been good with money and therefore he lives in a room at the Church's Cross Army. When he isn't at the residence, he visits the pub not far from there. Down to where the others are. The ones who are stuck as well.



# Svend

## **Bjarne**

Svend is happy that Bjarne attended the funeral as well. Even though they don't have the same relationship, like the one he and Kurt had, Svend hopes that they will have one someday.

Bjarne has an adult daughter, who, because of Addiction, he has involuntarily pushed away from him. She is to be married. He hasn't been invited to the wedding yet, but he is convinced that the invitation will arrive soon enough.

## **Kamilla**

Now Kamilla is in love with Lars, who she met a while ago. Bjarne has now seen that Addiction and her lies ruining many of her relationships, but she seems convinced that Addiction won't interfere this time.

## **Lise**

Lise has for a long time been happily married to Peter. He has been worn thin though by Lises long-time relationship with Addiction, especially now when Kamilla has moved in with them as well

Svend never quite understood why Lise doesn't work. Well, she does have a bad hip but it shouldn't be an obstacle according to Svend. There are lots of people who does stationary work all day long, so why shouldn't she?

## **Questions for the character**

Will Svend go see the doctor due to the cough if it continues?

Can Svend picture Bjarne as a replacement for Kurt?

Can Svend imagine a life without Addiction?



# Kamillas Misbrug

*We've spent all day with Lars. From when we woke up late this morning in his apartment, to the strolls on the beach and the romantic picnic. Now we've wound up at his place and he's taking a shower. All I can think about is his naked body under the shower and how much I want him.*

*Kamilla is sitting on the bed besides me. "Tonight, he is mine" I say and looks intensely at her. She looks confused and insists that Lars is her date and that she won't share him. And he is into her and not me, by the way.*

*"Do you honestly think that he wants to be with you, Kamilla? I am the fun one, I'm the naughty one and I'm the smartest one to listen to. Lars would never have fallen head over heels for you, if it wasn't for me. He doesn't know it yet, but it is me that he wants! So, when I tell you that I want Lars then I get Lars, is that understood? You don't actually want to have me telling the truth, right?"*

Kamilla got Addiction early in her life. Both her parents were alcoholics and she wound up in the same place. Kamilla has a hard time lie to people, but Addiction has never

had those problems and has time and time again used lies to help her though life.

Wherever Kamilla goes an intricate web of lies follows and it gets difficult to find head and tail between reality and fiction.

Recently Kamilla met Lars and they started dating. He is not the first mand that Kamilla has fallen for and not the first she believes is "the one" either. Her previous relationships haven't worked out even though Addiction and its lies has covered for her needs to drink.

*This time it's different. Normally they are dull and uninteresting men that Kamilla falls for, but Lars is exciting and really handsome. Now more than ever it's important to stick to the lies so I can be with Lars. With all the times Kamilla got help to get down with a man then it should be my time to get the man.*

## **Questions for the character**

How will Addiction ensure that Kamillas relationship with Lars won't collapse?

How big of a part does Addiction accepts as her blame?



# Overview

## Before you play

### 1. Preparing the room

Divide the room into two areas. One with tables. One with room. Prepare bottles or glasses.

### 2. Introduction to the game

*Finishing the bottle* is a game about four regulars who are stuck in life and their relationship with Addiction. Players play both regular and Addiction.

### 3. The pub briefly

Explain the pubs role in the game. Take a round where you talk about your experiences with pubs.

### 4. Saying stop

Make it clear that players can at any time pause a scene or leave the game.

### 5. Addiction briefly

Explain how Addiction is both your best friend and worst enemy. Take a round where you talk about your relationship with addiction.

### 6. Addiction as a character

Introduce Addiction as a character and that the players aren't playing drunk. Place the overview "*Addiction's powers*" on the table and introduce the four ways Addiction can interact with a regular.

### 7. The games structure

Present the games structure with the prologue and the four acts referred to as weeks. Place the overview "*The four weeks*" on the table.

### 8. Characters and casting

**Bjarne:** Has an adult daughter whom he rarely sees. She is getting married soon and he is not invited.

**Bjarne's Addiction:** Is jealous of Bjarne's love to his daughter and want him for himself.

**Kamilla:** Recently met Lars and is hoping that this relationship will last.



# Overview

## Before you play

**Kamilla's Addiction:** Has fallen in love with Lars and wants to steal him from Kamilla.

**Lise:** Has been with Peter for many years, but alcohol has teared their relation and Peter is letting his frustration out on Lise.

**Lise's Addiction:** Is tired of Peter and the way he treats Lise. Wants Lise to forget about him.

**Svend:** Recently buried his best friend Kurt, who died because of alcohol. He is now struggling with his own fear of death.

**Svend's Addiction:** Has lost faith in Svend and wants to help him die earlier, rather than seeing him Getting old and sick.

Cast the characters. The following combination of regular and Addiction exists:

- Bjarne & Lise's Addiction
- Kamilla & Svend's Addiction
- Lise & Bjarne's Addiction
- Svend & Kamilla's Addiction

### 9. Workshop

Pair the players and make them hug until it gets awkward. Ask them to talk about limits.

Play the scene: "*Just one more...*" four times and make sure every player gets to every character.

You are now ready for the prologue.



# Overview

## Scenes

### Prologue (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** Introduce the pub and the regulars.

#### Mandatory everyday scenes

*Sunday morning* – Everyone

#### Pub scene

*My second home* – Everyone

### First week (30-45 minutes)

**Purpose:** Establish relationship between regular and Addiction.

#### Mandatory everyday scenes

*Dear Silje* – Bjarne & Addiction

*He is mine* – Kamilla & Addiction

*Us, forever* – Lise & Addiction

*Without Kurt* – Svend & Addiction

#### Pub scene

*Here we are again* – Everyone

### Second week (45 minutes)

**Purpose:** The regulars' relationships are explored and conflicts with Addiction is intensified.

#### Mandatory everyday scenes

*RIP Kurt* – Bjarne & Svend

*Can Lars come over?* – Kamilla, Lise & the Addictions

*Silje calls* – Bjarne, addiction & (Silje)

#### Optional everyday scenes

*Social security demands* – Lise & Svend

*Rosé bottles* – Kamilla, Addiction & (Lars)

*It is not that bad* – Svend, his Addiction & Bjarne

#### Pub scene

*Another week* – Everyone



# Overview

## Scenes

### Third week (40-50 minutes)

**Purpose:** Escalate conflicts and get remaining ones into play.

#### Mandatory everyday scenes

*Is it me or the booze?* – Lise, Addiction & (Peter)

#### Optional everyday scenes

*Doctors appointment* – Svend, Addiction & (the doctor)

*Bye forever* – Kamilla, Lise & the Addictions

*I want you to come, dad* – Bjarne, Addiction & (Silje)

*Can we meet sometime after the wedding?*  
– Bjarne, Addiction & (Silje)

*An old tradition* – Bjarne, Svend & the addictions

*I write again...* - Bjarne

*Alone with the fear of death* – Svend

### Pub scene

*We got each other* – Everyone

### Fourth week (30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Finalize the games conflicts.

#### Optional everyday scenes

*A toast for Silje* – Bjarne & Addiction

*At the doctor* – Svend, Addiction & (the doctor)

*Can't we figure it out?* Lise, Addiction & (Peter)

*If things were as before* – Bjarne og Kamilla

*We have each other's back* – Kamilla & Lise

*A trip to the graveyard* – Bjarne or Svend

### Pub scenes

*So much have happened* – Everyone

*Last call* – Everyone



## Overview

# Addiction's powers

### **Thoughts in the head**

Conversation between regular and Addiction

Can't be heard by the other characters

### **Physical contact**

Touch between regular and Addiction

Can be used as a calming hand on a shoulder as an example

### **Speak on behalf of**

Addiction is speaking through the regular

The player places a hand in front of the regular player and speaks

### **Take control of**

Addiction takes control over the regular's movement

The player takes a hold of the regular player's hands or arms.



## Overview

# The four weeks

### Prologue

**Purpose:** Introduce the pub and the regulars.

### First week

**Purpose:** Establish relationship between regular and Addiction.

### Second week

**Purpose:** The regulars' relationships are explored and conflicts with Addiction is intensified.

### Third week

**Purpose:** Escalate conflicts and get remaining ones into play.

### Fourth week

**Purpose:** Finalize the games conflicts.  
(Silje gets married Saturday)