

A New Year's Resolution: A Journey from Addiction to Redemption

Many years ago, I 1 _____ to spend New Year's Eve with my family. I 2 _____ new year with my parents but I had nowhere to go, and being with my family seemed preferable to being on my own.

When my parents 3 _____ the door I could see they 4 _____, and that they were genuinely happy to see me. I 5 _____ addicted to alcohol for 10 years, and for them, seeing me was the confirmation that I wasn't dead in an alley. Unfortunately, I 6 _____ nothing new or exciting to tell them, just the same sad old stories. I 7 _____ from crappy job to crappy job, being invariably sacked, and I 8 _____ to crime whenever I was out of money. Same old, same old.

During dinner, I 9 _____ a few glassfuls of whisky. I 10 _____ something to ease the pain, because for the whole evening my sisters 11 _____ at me with such contempt that it was unbearable. My own sisters 12 _____ me. Then I had a moment of realisation; I 13 _____ that they would never hate me as much as I hated myself.

When we finished dinner I 14 _____ one last glass of whisky. "I'm going into rehab," I said. My parents 15 _____ at me with some kind of hope. Parents never lose hope. But my sisters just 16 _____ down with disdain. They 17 _____ perfectly well that I had been in rehab centres many times before, and that this time wouldn't be different.

But this time, it was different. After that day, I 18 _____ that look in my sisters' eyes every day, every time I 19 _____ to drink. Ten years later, on New Year's Eve, I thanked my sisters because they 20 _____ my life. They kissed me with their new look in their eyes, the look of love.