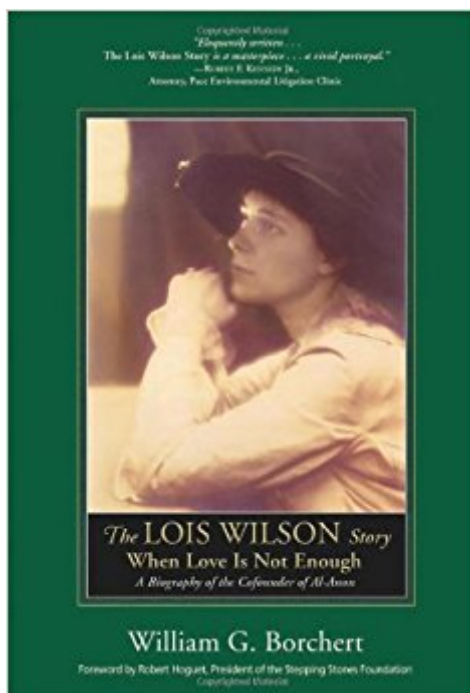


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# The Lois Wilson Story: When Love Is Not Enough



## Synopsis

Available for the first time in paperback, the biography of one of the recovery movement's most influential figures: Lois Burnham Wilson, creator of Al-Anon and wife of AA cofounder Bill W. Acclaimed author and screenwriter William G. Borchert explores the life and times of Lois Burnham Wilson, the spirited creator of Al-Anon and wife of Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Bill Wilson. From her privileged childhood in turn-of-the-century New York City to her socialite status as the 'Wall Street Wife' of the charismatic Bill in the roaring '20s to the couple's audacious crosscountry motorcycle excursions in the 1930s, Lois was every bit the adventure-seeker. But nothing could have prepared her for the chaos, anguish, and loss caused by Bill's seventeen-year descent into the depths of alcoholism. In this moving story, Borchert reveals how the couple rose from a life of despair to institute one of the twentieth century's most important social movements, and how Lois created a legacy of hope for millions of families devastated by addiction through her uncommon love and unshakable faith. Borchert drew from a series of exclusive personal interviews with Lois Wilson to write this definitive biography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William G. Borchert was nominated for an Emmy in 1989 for writing the screenplay for the highly acclaimed Warner Brothers/Hallmark Hall of Fame movie *My Name Is Bill W.* His background includes reporting for a New York City daily newspaper and a major media wire service, writing for a national magazine, and creating syndicated shows for radio. As a partner at Artists Entertainment

Complex, Borchert produced several box office hits, including *Serpico* and *Dog Day Afternoon*. He lives in New York City and South Carolina.

I am one of those "very grateful Al-Anon members" whose life was changed when I finally attended my first meeting. Weekly meetings and contact with other Al-Anon members has been a life-saver for me, but it also made me thirsty for information about the group and its founding members. I've already read "Lois Remembers" and watched the movie "My name is Bill W."...both of which are excellent and highly recommended. The Lois Wilson Story filled in the blanks and really gave me a deeper understanding of the miracle that occurred when Bill W. met Dr. Bob. I wish that everyone who attends Al-Anon would read some of these historical biographies, so that they could see how hopeless Bill and Lois' lives were before they founded the two programs. So many people never get past the feeling that once the drunk takes his last drink everything will be better. Lois discovered, and I have, too, that for the serious AA's, their sobriety MUST be the most important thing in their lives....family MUST be second. Until you understand and accept that, you are going to feel slighted by your AA's involvement with his fellow drunks. Books like this drive home that message.

Actually lots of great ties and references to American history's that made the timeline of Great Depression. I bought this to try to gain some understanding of why alcoholics can't not drink. How losing everything may not be enough. Losing everything 3 times may not be enough. I'm still mystified as I read the 12 steps. Impacting the world, but almost so simple its hard to understand as a nonalcoholic why the steps are the key. Not love of family. Sacrifices made by loved ones along the way. But these steps... If you have had an alcoholic in your life or the life of a loved one, take the time to read this.

Clearly written and informative biography that includes AA, Al-Anon, and many of the cast of characters in early program days--as well as Lois herself.

Although I'm sure there were times she felt like she couldn't take it any mire, serendipity stepped in and now Al Anon families can heal as well. The alcoholic is a disease but it changes non-drinking family into people they no longer recognize. Thanks to this book which is highly helpful.

AA has helped many to stop drinking and more recently stop using. Addiction affects and effects family, friends and associates. It creates an abnormal situation. Bill did help create AA and sell its

power throughout the country. That being a given, the author writes as if he knew what people were thinking, doing and feeling. Some of his sources are Bill's own writings which are filled with conflicting facts. Lois was a woman who took on a man who was damaged and in the process she became damaged goods herself. Yet her founding of ALANON created a safe place for those who are dealing with or have had to deal with chemical abusers to meet others wrestling with the same problems. They find that they are not alone and are provided an avenue to share with those who are less judgmental than the normal population. For that she gets praise. While the author had access to Lois, I do not think that he strayed outside AA approved literature for his sources and for that reason I am skeptical of the veracity of his work.

The most incredible accounting of the experiences one has when in love with an addict. I felt as though I were reading about my own life experience with the love of my life who happens to have become addicted to prescription drugs at the hands of a doctor who runs a Pain Management Clinic or, as I would call it, a pill mill. My wife is clean and sober but this doctor has plenty of other addicts who continue to support this criminal. This story is real and allows one to understand the unbelievable gift God blessed the world with through the private struggles Lois and Bill along with Dr. Bob and his wife Anne endured to create programs that save lives and relationships every second of everyday around the world. As a result of their work, miraculous events continue to unfold by those who follow AA, Al-Anon, CoDa, and other related programs today. I loved it as I did the Big Book.

Great to hear other side of the story

A very wonderful book that I will probably read again. I especially like the photos and the fact that Lois was born the same year as both my parents. I find myself comparing Lois to my mother and her parents to my grandparents. The book is very hard to lay down and it overwhelms me that I was actually living in the 1900s when all of this happened.

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