

He Drinks Daily, He Has to be an Alcoholic!

By Johanna Hocker



During our e-mail courtship, Jim frequently wrote about his culinary exploits. He would write in great detail what he had eaten and what he had to drink with the meal. Day after day, he wrote about having beer, or wine or a cocktail. Being a Norwegian this was a totally new experience for me. As a Norwegian, I was only aware of binge drinking. I don't know how I came up with my idea that Norwegians might drink only once a month, or every six months. When they drank, the purpose was to get drunk. Food was forbidden as it would impede the process of getting drunk. Frequency was the determining factor regarding problem drinking. A person who drank daily had to be a problem drinker - no matter what the situation.

Now I had a man in my life who was drinking daily – HE HAD TO BE AN ALCOHOLIC! I sensed that it was God's will that we be together, so I kept asking God - "Why are you bringing an alcoholic into my life?". I was certain he was an alcoholic. After I questioned him about his drinking so much, he didn't bother to write me about it any more. Anyway, we got married and had a "dry" reception. It wasn't long before the alcohol question came up – he wondered if I wanted a glass of wine with dinner each night. I said, "no thanks". Gradually I realized that the German attitude about drinking is nothing like the Norwegians'. Germans drink with their meal, but rarely if ever without consuming food. They rarely, if ever, get drunk. He was not an alcoholic after all.