**The NEXT TO LAST DRINK** A Novel by Lois Mathieu

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MATHIEU’S STUNNING REPLY TO RUMI’S QUESTION: “WHY DO YOU STAY IN PRISON WHEN THE DOOR IS SO WIDE OPEN?”



**LOIS MATHIEU USES FICTION to arm characters with the necessary range of depth to reveal her insights on the most baffling aspects of alcohol addiction.**

**She brings readers along on the terrifying journey of Will Valentine as he tries to break out of the trap he has set for himself.**

**Will Valentine explains to his sister why he doesn’t contact AA when he feels the urge coming over him.**

**EXCERPT**: “The journey begins even before the first sip . . . it’s like sailing off without boundaries—yourself the boat. It doesn’t matter that the journey is short-lived because you don’t allow that thought to enter your mind. Problems don’t go away, but they just don’t bother you for the time you’re out there . . . Can you understand why, at that moment, I would never go for help?”

This story offers general appear to all readers because of the very likable and funny protagonist Will Valentine, who is on a dangerous journey. The book will also appeal to readers who want to understand alcohol addiction as they have never understood it before - in terms of a man struggling to stay alive in his own skin. There is much value in this book for anyone in recovery or therapy, and for professionals who prescribe medications and counsel alcoholics.

Lois Mathieu earned a B.A. degree from Syracuse University and a M.A. in English from Trinity College in Hartford Connecticut. Her early poems and poetry reviews are published in fine literary magazines and anthologies. She is the recipient of the Joseph E. Brodine Award, presented to her by The Connecticut Poetry Society for her poem *Counting Sheep by Night,* a poem on the Holocaust. Lois is the author of DEBUT, a novel originally published by SterlingHouse Publisher, and soon to be released by CreateSpace with the title, SONG FOR MY BIRTH MOTHER.

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