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The Lifeboat

You and the following people are on a sinking cruise ship that was headed to the Bahamas. As your ship is sinking, you spot an island and believe that you are close enough to reach it in a lifeboat. However, there are 14 of you left alive, but only room for 8 in the lifeboat. Those that go in the lifeboat will probably make it to the island where they will try to survive until they are rescued. Those that are left on the sinking cruise ship will likely go down with the ship and die. You are one of the officers of the cruise ship and the highest-ranking survivor. You are given the responsibility of deciding who remains on the ship and who goes aboard the lifeboat.

Lola – She is a 22-year-old go-go dancer who was on the boat to relax. She suffers from clinical depression and has had 2 suicide attempts but none in at least a year.

Mary Anne – She is a 45-year-old experienced nurse and single mother with 2 school-aged children at home however they are living with her sister due to Child Protective Services because she is an active alcoholic.

Billy – He is a 16-year-old boy on probation for stealing money from old ladies. He is very charming, friendly, and helpful when he wants to be but cannot be trusted.

Dr. Storch – He is 55 in good health except he has a prosthetic leg from a car accident. He is very intelligent but likes to throw his knowledge in everyone's face as he is a bit arrogant.

Sheena – She is 30 and is an ex-fitness instructor with an athletic build however she is HIV positive.

Mickey – Mickey is in his mid 40's and is an unemployed cocaine addict, however, he is unusually strong from years of street fighting and working on the docks. Mickey has a disfigured face from the years of street fighting and his hygiene is not the best.

Shane – Shane is a genius age 39 with a degree in cellular biology, making breakthroughs in his work on a cure for cancer but he is in a wheelchair and he comes across as selfish and rude.

Tom – He is 41 and a hero from both gulf wars but he hears voices when he isn't medicated.

Cindy – Cindy is a 70-year-old retired schoolteacher with 4 adult children and 15 grandchildren. She also is an expert chef and homemaker.

Barry – He is in his late 20's and has survival techniques from his years as a hired mercenary. He angers easily with a short temper but otherwise has excellent leadership skills when calm.

Xavier – He is 18 and in good health, but he barely speaks English as he is from some strange country you've never heard of but he is an aspiring musician with a newly signed record contract for playing the zither. He is on an international terrorist watch list but swears he is being wrongly racially profiled.

Fred – He is a 40-year-old husband and father of 4 and an expert in yachting and sea navigation and in good health but since you have been on this boat trip he has gotten on your nerves often because he is very opinionated. Fred is on this trip because he recently abandoned his sick wife and children and does not plan on ever seeing them again.

Discussion:

1. What personal morals and values came into play with your decisions? Did anything particular stand out to you?
2. Can people change their morals and values? If so what does it take?
3. How can alcohol and drug use/abuse affect one's morals and values? Give examples.
4. How do morals and values come into play with regard to substance use/abuse and recovery?