

# *William Gardener*

**Act I, Scene 4 (AH) — Five and a half years later**

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The last several years have been good for you. With Barbara and Charles finally settled down, and no significant demands on your own time, you've poured yourself into your work. To say that your career is going well is an understatement.

You appreciate these family garden parties every year. They're a nice chance to relax a bit and pamper your young niece, Stephanie. You gave her a dozen gifts earlier on this evening, most of which she utterly adored. You know that Barbara and Charles are going through a rough time financially right now, so you're happy to give Stephanie the toys her parents couldn't afford.

You were very sorry to hear about Virginia's recent stroke. The thought of being trapped in a failing body and mind horrifies you more than a little bit and dealing with Virginia this evening has been a challenge. You don't know how Barbara and Charles manage to live with it every day, especially with the four of them packed in a small two bedroom house. They have some hard decisions to make about what to do as Virginia continues to slide downhill. You don't at all envy them having to sort it out.