

Charles Gardener

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

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It's so hard watching Barbara, William and Stephanie as the perfect, happy family. You have drifted from girlfriend to girlfriend, never staying in a relationship for too long. You're still almost amazed that you've kept your job at the local college. The changing students help - there are always new kids, with new ideas. That's fun at least.

Sometimes you think you should stop coming to these parties, but it's almost your only contact with Barbara and William these days. William is too busy with work, Barbara is too busy with Stephanie. Mostly you just try to drink enough to make these parties bearable without making a fool of yourself.

You wish you could at least be part of Stephanie's life. She's your niece. You deserve some connection to her. You brought her a new doll. Maybe you could offer to take her for a day at some point. Not that Barbara let you the last few times you offered.

You just want to feel like you're part of your own family again.