

Setting

Act II, Scene 2 (AHK) — Eight years later

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This year, the garden party is celebrating Stephanie's 17th birthday, but all is not well in the Gardener family. Stephanie has been caught driving drunk and her court date is next week. While this is the first time she has been caught, everyone knows it's not the first time she has been off drinking. Barbara and Charles are concerned about her behavior.

William has strong connections, and with a little pushing, he could get the case put in front of a lenient judge, and either get her off entirely, or get her off with a slap on the wrist. He has certainly done it for Charles in the past. At the same time, after all the help he has given the couple, can they really turn to him again? Even if they can, is it a good idea to get Stephanie off the hook for this?

If she does get convicted, she will lose her license until she's 18. She has an after school job working at a restaurant that she needs the car to get to. Barbara has been very busy with her new teaching job, and could not drive her. If Stephanie gets convicted, she would probably have to quit her job. Barbara encouraged her to get a job in the first place to learn some responsibility. If she has to quit over this it might be a good lesson, but it would also leave her with no money of her own and take away that learning opportunity.

Charles Gardener

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It's your fault. Stephanie got this from you and you know it. You were 17 the first time you got caught driving drunk, too. Of course the penalties weren't as bad then. Kids make mistakes. She shouldn't have to suffer too badly for making a stupid teenage mistake.

Of course, maybe if someone had really hit you hard, taught you a lesson when you were a teenager, you would have learned something. Your brother always protected you since your father died. People make a lot of allowances for struggling teens. Does that help them or hurt them?

Your brother always helped you out when you got in a jam, and you know he cares about his niece. He might help her out of trouble as well if you asked. But do you want him to?