Setting

Act II, Scene 1 (BGI) — Four years later

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While William helped to pay for Virginia's care, since Virginia's death, he has not reached out to Barbara. He has always been responsible about paying child support and given Stephanie nice gifts, even if he never spent very much time with her. A few months ago, his firm folded. He has still been helping out when he can, but right now he is struggling to make mortgage payments while looking for a new job.

Barbara's part-time secretarial work does not pay the bills, and with William out of work, she isn't getting much from him. Taking care of a 9-year old has a lot of small expenses, and just keeping up with the rent is hard enough. She's not sure how she can make ends meet.

Charles, on the other hand, had a break recently. He got a few stage parts, and from there has gotten several advertising roles, and even a minor role in a television show being shot locally. For the first time, he actually has a little extra money, although most of it has gone to gambling and a string of short-term girlfriends. He's always been willing to help out with small things, but Barbara doesn't like turning to him. He's still infatuated with her, but she doesn't want him around Stephanie too much. Will Barbara turn to him, and, if so, will he be able and willing to help with something this big?

Stephanie Gardener

Act II, Scene 1 (BGI) — Four years later

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Money's tight. You know that. Money's always tight. That's just the way things are. Mom tries to protect you from it, but you're old enough to know what's going on. In the past few months, though, things have gotten worse. Dad lost his job, and the money has slowed down to a trickle. Mom never really made enough to pay for things, you know that.

Mom is getting more and more worried. You wish there was something you could do. At least the tea party is still fun! You know uncle Charlie helped pay for the party this year. You hope he brought something fun. Uncle Charlie is always entertaining, and lately he has been giving you even better presents than Dad.

Maybe he can help out.