

# *Stephanie Bloom*

Act II, Scene 4 (AHJMO) — Fifteen years later

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You're worried about your parents. Your mother's MS has been getting steadily worse, and she had to quit her job this year. Your father isn't coping well at all. You're almost surprised he's still there. You need to help out more, but you have work, classes and two young children to care for. You can't spare much time. You need to do well in your classes so you can get out of these dead-end jobs and have enough money for your children.

You and Zach aren't struggling too badly right now. Maybe you could give your father some money to help hire someone to come in and help out a few days a week. It isn't much, but it might make the difference. It would make things tighter for your family, but someone needs to take care of your mother and you really don't have the time. You saw your mother nearly go crazy trying to take care of you and your grandmother at the same time, and you have two children. On the other hand, you're not sure you can really spare the money either. Maybe you would be better off just coming over to assist a few hours a week.

You just don't know what to do. You know you need to help out, but you feel so lost.