

Charles Gardener

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

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You have a daughter now. You can't just run off. But right now, you desperately want to. You and Barbara have been fighting over her mother Virginia. You don't know what the right answer is, you just know things can't go on the way they are. Barbara has been making herself crazy trying to care for both Stephanie and Virginia.

You know money is tight, you don't make much at the college, but there has to be some way to find the money to put Virginia in a nursing home. You understand that Barbara feels bad about it, she thinks that it's her responsibility to care for Virginia personally, but she just can't do it. It's draining her, it's straining your marriage and it's hurting Stephanie.

Plus it's making you crazy. Every time Virginia asks you the same question three times in a row again, you want to scream at her, you want to get away. It's not her fault. You know that, but it's so hard to deal with.

Still, you know Barbara wants to go back to school, and money is tight. Can you really afford to put Virginia in a home? Can you afford not to?