

# *Charles Gardener*

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

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Even though you and Barbara divorced, you have tried very hard to be a good father to little Stephanie. Despite Barbara having remarried William, you don't want Stephanie to grow up thinking of him as father instead of you. Your schedule is more flexible than William's, and since Barbara has been busy with an ailing mother, you've been taking Stephanie at least one day a week.

You always try to do something fun. You don't have a lot of money, but you want Stephanie to remember her time with you as exciting, something to look forward to. Sometimes you just go to the park or the zoo, but you have also splurged on trips to the state fair and other events. You have been saving up to take her to Disneyland this summer. You're not great with money, but for your little daughter you can save.

Barbara and William seem happy and you try very hard not to begrudge it. You certainly played your part in the breakup of your marriage. You miss Barbara terribly, but the two of you never worked very well. At least Stephanie doesn't see her parents fight every day. You try hard to get along with them, you don't want to hurt Stephanie.

Barbara's mother Virginia has been really going downhill since the stroke. Barbara and William have been debating whether or not to put her into a nursing home. Virginia still resents you for the way your marriage ended, but you want to be there for them. If there's any way you can help, you're willing to try.