

Stephanie Bloom

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

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You're worried about your parents. You're so grateful that your mother finally reached out, but you still haven't entirely forgiven her. At the same time, no matter how angry you still are, it's painful to see her suffering. 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 and Zach are doing alright financially. You've thought about helping out. Maybe you could hire someone to come in and provide care a few days a week. It isn't much, but it might make the difference. On the other hand, is that really what you want to do? If you want to rebuild a relationship, is buying someone else's time the right way to do it? You feel you should help out more yourself, but you have a full time job and two young children to care for. You can't spare much time. Besides, are you really ready to spend that much time around your mother after all these years?

On yet another side, you remember what it was like watching your grandmother dying in a nursing home. She was so angry, being cared for by strangers. No matter how often you and your mother visited, she always felt alone. That sort of care should really be provided by someone the patient knows and loves. You just don't know what to do. You want to help out, but you still resent her rejection of you and Zach. You feel so lost.