

# *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.