

Charles Gardener

Act II, Scene 3 (AHN) — Six years later

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You're really worried about Stephanie's new boyfriend, Zack. He reminds you too much of yourself as a young man, and not in good ways. He was in and out of juvie up until he turned 18. He seems to have straightened out, but it's hard to tell whether he really has or whether he's just gotten better at hiding it. Even if he has cleaned up, he might just go back to his old ways the first time things get difficult. You've heard rumors that he used to deal drugs. Will he start again when money gets tight?

Stephanie is going to graduate college this winter and you're so proud of her. You worry, though, that her newfound stability might be more fragile than she thinks, and Zack could pull things off kilter. Of course, she has been dating Zack while in college, and still done well. Maybe he really is getting his act together. If so, he might even be a good influence on her. They could either help each other out or start a cycle and drag each other back down. That is, assuming he isn't still using, and you're not sure about that.

You know that Zack is important to Stephanie, and you would never be one to look down on the demands of the heart. If they truly love each other, that's enough of an answer for you, but you need to make sure Stephanie is sure about this, and that she knows what she's getting into.

You don't want your future grandchildren being raised by a drug dealer, or worse, being abandoned by a useless addict.