

Setting

Act II, Scene 2 (BGL) — Eight years later

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This year, the garden party is celebrating Stephanie's 17th birthday, but all is not well in the Gardener family. Stephanie has been caught driving drunk and her court date is next week. While this is the first time she has been caught, everyone knows it's not the first time she has been off drinking. Barbara is concerned about her behavior.

William has strong connections, and with a little pushing, he could get the case put in front of a lenient judge, and either get her off entirely, or get her off with a slap on the wrist. He has certainly done it for Charles in the past. At the same time, does Barbara really want to turn to him for help when he can barely be a father to his daughter normally? Even if he will help, is it a good idea to get Stephanie off the hook for this? On the other hand, maybe if William would show he cared for her a little more, she wouldn't be acting out like this.

If Stephanie does get convicted, she will lose her license until she's 18. She has an after school job working at a restaurant that she needs the car to get to. Barbara has been very busy with at work, and could not drive her. If Stephanie gets convicted, she would probably have to quit her job. Barbara encouraged her to get a job in the first place to learn some responsibility, and the money has really helped out. If she has to quit over this it might be a good lesson, but it would also leave Barbara and Stephanie on even more tenuous financial footing.

Stephanie Gardener

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Seriously. How is this a big deal? You had a couple of beers, that's all. If your family had money, this would be over already. Your friend Rebecca got caught last month, but it just got handled. This isn't really a big deal.

But you can't lose your license! Your job is the only freedom you have. As long as you still have a job you still have some spending money. If you didn't have money of your own, you couldn't go out with your friends, and you'd be stuck wearing clothing from Goodwill. Plus there are some days you think your job is the only reason your mom lets you out of the house.

Your dad is a big lawyer. He hasn't been around much, except for birthdays and holidays, but he helps out with money and stuff. He could fix this problem, you just need to convince him that he should help you out.