

# *Charles Gardener*

**Act II, Scene 1 (ADEHJ) — Four years later**

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You've really done it this time. Everything was hard to begin with. After Virginia died, you didn't really have enough money to deal with the funeral and Stephanie's expenses. You were struggling, and when you're struggling, you and Barbara fight.

You've gotten better at dealing with it, but this time it was too much. So you did what you usually do when that happens: you went out to drink and play cards with your friends. This time, however, you had too much too drink, stayed out too long, and lost too much money on the cards. You barely have enough to pay rent this month, let alone Stephanie's expenses.

You've worked so hard since Stephanie was born. Now you don't know what to do. You could probably turn to William for help, but he's never completely forgiven you for hurting Barbara because of the affair you had several years ago. You can't stand to humiliate yourself in front of him, yet again. He might well help, but can you stomach asking?