

# *Stephanie Bloom*

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

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You're worried about your parents. 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 need to help out more, but you have a full time job and two young children to care for. You just can't spare much time.

You and Zach are doing all right financially. Maybe you could hire someone to come in and help out a few days a week. It isn't much, but it might make the difference. On the other hand, things are only going to get worse. Maybe you should pool your savings and help your parents get into assisted living while your mother can still make the move. Your dad is doing fine healthwise, but he shouldn't have to do everything around the house in addition to caring for your mother.

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. Maybe you could buy a larger house and move them in with you. Would Zach put up with that? What would that do to Jessica and Michael, living around your ailing mother for years, watching her die?

You just don't know what to do. You know you need to help out, but you feel so lost.