

# *Barbara Vela*

## **Act I, Scene 4 (BG) — Five and a half years later**

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You had so many dreams at one point. You wish you knew what happened to them. You never imagined that you'd wind up a divorced, single mother, working a dead end job, while also trying to support an ailing mother. Life can be bitterly cruel.

William provides some financial support for Stephanie. If it wasn't for that, you really don't know what you would do. Still, it isn't enough now that Virginia can't help with Stephanie during the time you need to work. You're going to have to ask William to either fork over some more money for day care or spend some of his precious time with his own daughter. His career is so important to him, though, that you can't imagine he'll choose the latter. Probably for the best anyway.

You're neck-deep in forms to help cover some of the costs associated with Virginia's medical care now. She was living with you and Stephanie before the stroke, but since then, everything has just spiraled out of control. As much as you hate to do so, you don't have any choice but to put her in a nursing home. She isn't doing well enough to get by on her own while you're working and you have to spend almost as much time helping her as helping Stephanie while you're home. You have no clue how you'll afford it, but you don't have a choice.

Charles... you wish you knew what to do about Charles. It is clear to you now that he cares for you more than William ever did. Hell, he even cares more for his niece, Stephanie, than does William. He'd love to help out, but you don't trust him and you wouldn't trust yourself around him. The last thing your life needs is more complications, and Charles is one big complication.