

# *Stephanie Gardener*

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

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This party is very important to you. Zack just proposed, and this is your opportunity to tell your parents. You know they're worried about him, and you understand why, but Zack is clean these days, and his determination has helped you stay clean as well. If your parents can't look beyond his past, how can they look beyond yours? It's not like your father has a sterling history himself.

Sure, you met him in high school when you were both struggling, but seeing his progress has made you aware of what is possible. If he was able to pull himself out of serious addictions and very lucrative dealing, surely you could deal with your own problems. When you met him at the supermarket, you were amazed at how different he had become.

You are going to marry Zack regardless of what they say. You love him and you are happy together. Being with Zack is the first time your life has actually felt stable or made sense. You both have jobs; you're paying rent; you're getting by. You've even started talking about having kids together.

Your parents have a very simple choice: either they accept Zack and you, or they reject you both and you go on with your life without them.