

Barbara Vela

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

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You didn't ask for any of this. A loveless marriage, divorce, raising your daughter alone, being abandoned by her for a fellow junkie, and now being trapped inside your own body. Yet, despite all of this, letting go of what little life you have left terrifies you completely. You're not going to let what little you do have slip away without a fight.

It seems like almost every week there is something more you can't do for yourself as the MS continues on its relentless course. The disability and welfare money you have coming in doesn't go very far and the once-a-week visit from a state nurse increasingly just doesn't cut it. Charles comes over somewhat erratically, but it often feels like a pity-fest for him. That's Charles though; he's never been good at the practical things. Still, you take what you can get.

You know that Stephanie and Zach are trying to decide what to do with you. Well, you aren't going to just give up and be shipped off to a nursing home for their convenience. Yes, you did it to your own mother, Virginia, and that decision haunts you today. Yes, you rejected Zach, but he was a drug dealer. You gave birth to Stephanie and raised her; she isn't going to just abandon you when you need her the most.