

# *Barbara Vela*

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

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Since William's firm folded, things have been hard for him. He had a good education and has years of experience though, so you don't know why it is taking him so long to get another job. In the meantime, his child support payments have dropped and left your daughter, Stephanie, in a real bind. You don't have any real sympathy for him though given the size of the house he has for just himself, or the fancy car he drives. He doesn't know how to live frugally and so you and Stephanie are suffering for it.

While William's luck has vanished, Charles seems to have picked up tons of it: several recent roles in advertisements and now a minor role in a television show being shot locally. Charles is thriving in a way you never thought possible. While it is likely he'll crash and burn at some point, given his proclivities, he's doing well right now. You're hesitant about letting him share too much of his recent good fortune with you or with his niece, Stephanie. You don't want to risk any kind of dependency on him, or especially having your daughter get too close to him before he flames out.

Maybe you can use Charles' recent success and largesse to shame William into picking up some of the financial slack though. You know it has to gall William to no end that he's now out of a job. If a show of appreciation for a little short-term help from Charles could kick William into cutting back his own spending so he can support you and your daughter, that would be just fine by you.