

William Gardener

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

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Since the divorce several years ago, your career has done very well. While it was painful at the time, you threw yourself into work in the aftermath and you've really built something for yourself. Barbara could have been a part of it if she wanted, but she made her decision years ago. Now she has to live with some of the consequences.

You provide more than adequately for your daughter Stephanie, something that Barbara hasn't been able to manage on her own. Still, it galls you that after everything you offered to Barbara, all she wants these days is money. That, and the demands of your career, have kept you more distant from Stephanie than you might have preferred. It is not your daughter's fault that things turned out this way, but money for the things she otherwise wouldn't have will have to do.

Charles has continued to drift in and out of all of your lives. He's got a teaching job, but he's never really made anything of himself. One more person who wasted their chances and potential. It is a shame, but people have to live with the choices they make. You love your brother, but you learned long ago that charity only helps so much and that personal responsibility has to take care of the rest.

You were very sorry to hear about Virginia having a stroke. She was a very nice woman and you always liked her. You don't know exactly how Barbara will be able to take care of both Virginia and Stephanie. You expect that she'll be asking for more money from you to take care of it all. That seems to be your role: a font of money to solve the problems of the people that betrayed you. You'll probably help out for Stephanie's sake, but you need to make it clear that this has to stop somewhere.