

Setting

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

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While William helped to pay for Virginia's care, since Virginia's death, he has not reached out to Barbara. He has always been responsible about paying child support and given Stephanie nice gifts, even if he never spent very much time with her. A few months ago, his firm folded. He has still been helping out when he can, but right now he is struggling to make mortgage payments while looking for a new job.

Barbara's part-time secretarial work does not pay the bills, and with William out of work, she isn't getting much from him. Taking care of a 9-year old has a lot of small expenses, and just keeping up with the rent is hard enough. She's not sure how she can make ends meet.

Charles, on the other hand, had a break recently. He got a few stage parts, and from there has gotten several advertising roles, and even a minor role in a television show being shot locally. For the first time, he actually has a little extra money, although most of it has gone to gambling and a string of short-term girlfriends. He's always been willing to help out with small things, but Barbara doesn't like turning to him. He's still infatuated with her, but she doesn't want him around Stephanie too much. Will Barbara turn to him, and, if so, will he be able and willing to help with something this big?

Charles Gardener

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For the first time, it really seems like things are going your way. You've gotten a few parts in stage shows and commercials, and now you actually have a minor recurring character in a television show called Backlash! You never really expected your acting career to take off, but now it looks like it might.

Over the past year, you have dated a few different women you met through your shows. None of them lasted, but it's been a lot of fun to be out and dating again. Currently, you're dating Margaret, a girl who works in costuming for Backlash. She's pretty and fun and exciting. No one will ever replace Barbara, but, for the first time, things are going well.

Unfortunately, you can't say the same for Barbara. William lost his job when his firm went under, and while he's been looking for work, it's been hard on him. Since his child support payments decreased, Barbara has been having trouble paying her rent. You'd love to help her out, but you're not going to do it with nothing in return. She doesn't need to date you, but she at least needs to let you be part of her Stephanie's lives. You also need to consider what Margaret might think. If this is going anywhere, how will she feel about you paying your ex-girlfriend's rent?