

Charles Gardener

Act II, Scene 2 (AHL) — Eight years later

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It's your fault. Since you've been struggling so hard for money, you've been working long hours doing extra tutoring at the college to make ends meet. You haven't been around to take care of Stephanie and help her through the hard times.

And blood matters too. Stephanie got this from you and you know it. You were 17 the first time you got caught driving drunk, too. Of course the penalties weren't as bad then. Kids make mistakes. She shouldn't have to suffer too badly for making a stupid teenage mistake.

Of course, maybe if someone had really hit you hard, taught you a lesson when you were a teenager, you would have learned something. Your brother always protected you since your father died. People make a lot of allowances for struggling teens. Does that help them or hurt them? You didn't really start taking account of your own behaviors until you had to figure out how to pay rent and feed your child in hard times. That made you grow up.

Your brother may still have issues with you, but you know he cares about his niece. He might help her out of trouble if you asked. But do you want him to?