

Stephanie Bloom

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

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You're worried about your parents. You're so grateful that your mother finally reached out, but you still haven't entirely forgiven her. At the same time, no matter how angry you still are, it's painful to see her suffering. Your mother's MS has been getting steadily worse, and she had to quit her job this year. Your father isn't coping well at all. You're almost surprised he's still there.

You and Zach aren't struggling too badly right now. Maybe you could give your father some money to help hire someone to come in and help out a few days a week. It isn't much, but it might make the difference. It would make things tighter for your family, but someone needs to take care of your mother and you really don't have the time. On the other hand, is that really what you want to do? If you want to rebuild a relationship, is buying someone else's time the right way to do it? You feel you should help out more yourself, but you have work, classes, and two young children to care for. You can't spare much time. Besides, are you really ready to spend that much time around your mother after all these years? You saw your mother nearly go crazy trying to take care of you and your grandmother at the same time, and you have two children. On the other hand, you're not sure you can really spare the money.

You just don't know what to do. You want to help out, but you still resent her rejection of you and Zach. You feel so lost.