

Barbara Gardener

Act I, Scene 3 (BDF) — Two years later

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How did it come to this? A dull and empty marriage, and now you with a child on the way.

You have a horrible feeling about tonight. You know that you need to tell William about your pregnancy, but somehow that will make everything all too real. You will find yourself trapped for the rest of your life this way. A big house, nice things, a child, but a passionless and rarely-home husband.

It isn't that William doesn't provide for you, or that he is off being irresponsible like his brother Charles would have done. No, he's out working hard at the law firm because he wants to give you all the material comforts you could ever need. Somehow that makes it all that much worse. After the past few years, any hope of real passion in this marriage has dried up.

You know that you're keeping the child. Despite everything, you couldn't imagine not having it. This little child will need and care for you in a way that no one else has. The question is whether or not the stability and financial support that William provides is enough. Can you stick it out purely for these things, or do you need to get out now, however hard it will be for you and your child alone?

There aren't any easy answers, but you and your child are going to have to live with whatever you choose, for the rest of your lives.