

# *Charles Gardener*

**Act I, Scene 3 (ADF) — Two years later**

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You don't know what's happened to Barbara lately. You've been trying so hard, but it seems like everything you do is wrong. You can't handle it. Everything you say leads to a fight; every time you try to make up with her she winds up in tears. You love her so much, but you can't handle this anymore.

You know you shouldn't leave as often as you do, but you can't handle the screaming matches. It's not like you're doing anything wrong when you leave. Maybe you drink a little too much, maybe you put a little too much money on the cards down at the bar, but you've never cheated on her and you always come home eventually. Even if it takes a few weeks sometimes.

You know you're not the easiest person to live with, but this isn't fair. You love Barbara and want to be with her, but you just can't seem to make her happy and every time you fight things get worse. Lately you only see that passion in her eyes when she's yelling at you. It almost makes you glad of the fights. When you aren't fighting, she hardly looks at you at all.

You really don't want to leave Barbara. She's the love of your life, and you want to be with her and raise children together, but you can't take much more of this. If something doesn't change soon, one day you're going to walk out the door and not come back.