

# *Charles Gardener*

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

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Since Barbara accepted William's proposal, you have tried very hard to move on. You briefly dated Karen, a secretary at the high school where you worked. She was in a play with you and it was exciting for a little while, but she could never measure up to Barbara. When you got a job teaching theatre at the college, you and Karen parted ways.

But as time went on, it became harder and harder to keep away from Barbara. You couldn't stand watching Barbara wither away like this. William loves her, you know that, but he never shows it. He doesn't give her any of the love, passion and attention that you give her. After you got your new job, you showed up on her doorstep, and she took you in.

The affair only lasted a few months before Barbara decided she couldn't betray William like that. You understand, and feel guilty about it yourself, but she can't keep going like this. Barbara needs to get out of that marriage before she's trapped by a child. She's wasting away.

It's not just for you. Sure, you would take her back if she came to you. Of course you would; you still love her. She's still the only woman in the world to you. Really, though, you would want her to leave William even if you knew she would never come back to you. She's dying in that relationship.