

# *William Gardener*

## **Act I, Scene 2 (B) — Two years later**

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You are worried about your marriage. You're doing everything you can to provide for Barbara, but she doesn't seem to understand that. You hope that perhaps a nice dinner party with family will help her through.

The early years of a marriage are supposed to be the hardest. You read that somewhere and it is clear that it is true. Part of it is that you've been so busy trying to get your career off the ground. Law school was exhausting and now that you've got a position at a law firm, you find that you just don't have enough energy when you get home. You're doing all of it for the two of you, though. How else will you be able to support your family and give Barbara the excellent life she deserves?

You know that she wants more time with you and you wish that you had it to give to her. In a few years, you might have more time, but not right now. One of the things that you think might help Barbara through this would be a child. The two of you have talked about it only a little bit, but you think it would be the perfect time. It would help Barbara to have someone there that needed her, and your salary is certainly enough to really get started on a family.

Your brother Charles has been struggling over the past two years and you're worried about him. He managed to get a job as an English teacher at the local high school, but he's now talking about leaving it to focus on theater. You suspect that he may actually be close to being fired for some reason or another and is just trying to make it look like he is in control of his life. He isn't, and you wish there was some way you could help him. He's an adult now, though, and has to learn to stand on his own two feet.

Hopefully tonight will just be the quiet family dinner that Barbara needs.