

Act I, Scene 2 (A) — Two years later

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You have been very concerned lately about Barbara and Charles. They've been fighting too often, and you're afraid of where it's headed. This summer, Barbara ended up at your house in tears after Charles disappeared. He didn't come back for almost a week. She's afraid there's another woman, although she doesn't know who.

What's really important here is their marriage. You know that Barbara and Charles still love each other. There must be a solution here. Marriage is sacred, and the marriage vows are not to be broken lightly. It is still possible for them to reconcile. They have their problems, but they still have the basis of a good marriage.

Maybe what they really need is a child. Barbara has been worried about having children because money is tight and things are unstable, but Charles really wants kids. Maybe if they had a child, that would be enough to hold him there and keep things stable. You've seen it work for some of your friends.

On the other hand, you remember what happened to your marriage after Barbara was born. Things were going well before, but while you were so focused on your daughter, your relationship with Frederick fell apart. If Charles has been seeing someone else, this could drive him further into her arms. You don't believe in divorce, but if this marriage is not going to survive, it would be better if it ends before children are involved.

If there are issues, they need to be resolved. If Charles is seeing someone else, it doesn't have to be the end. Forgiveness is important in a marriage, and both Charles and Barbara need to remember that. However, if there is someone else, Barbara needs to know, and it needs to end, so their relationship can heal.