

Charles Gardener

Act I, Scene 2 (B) — Two years later

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It's been two years since Barbara turned you down and decided to marry your brother, and you still can't get her out of your head. It hasn't been easy, staying close to them all this time, especially watching Barbara suffer. Women need attention, passion, love. All William can offer is a perfectly planned life. He does love her, but you wouldn't know it from the way he acts. She's bored out of her mind with him.

It would have been different if she had married you. You know it wouldn't have been a fairy tale, there would have been some problems, of course, but she wouldn't be wasting away like this. Maybe there's still time to change things. Maybe it's not too late.

You couldn't really stand to do that to your brother. He's done so much for you over the years. At the same time, Barbara has been turning to you more and more often. Just for little things: help with something while he's at work, going for a walk with her, picking up something at the store. But you still see the way she looks at you. The passion in her eyes has never changed. Every time you see her when William isn't there, you dream about carrying her away. Maybe not forever, maybe you can't have that at this point, but just a few hours with her. Your brother would never need to know.

You know she's been thinking about it too. The way she'll let her fingers brush yours. The way she looks at you when she thinks no one's looking. You miss her touch, and you can't stand to see her so lonely. Who knows, you might really be helping your brother. Surely she'll leave him if it goes on like this. Maybe seeing you on the side would keep her from leaving him.

Oh, that's just silly and you know it. You just can't stand seeing her all the time and having to be so careful. You miss her so much.