

# *Barbara Gardener*

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

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How did it come to this? You feel like you barely know Charles anymore. He's hardly ever home. He's always out drinking or, worse, gambling away money you need to pay the rent. He's always been irresponsible, but this crosses all boundaries. At first you thought he was having an affair, maybe with Karen, but you have searched and searched, and never found any evidence. In some ways, you almost wish he was having an affair. That would be easier to deal with than knowing that he just doesn't care enough to come home.

You have a horrible feeling about tonight. You know that you need to confront Charles about his instability - the drinking, the disappearances, the fights - and find out if he is still committed to this marriage. He deserves to know about the child you are carrying, but you need to know first whether or not there is a marriage worth trying to save.

If Charles isn't going to, or can't focus on your marriage, you need out now. You aren't sure what you are going to do if it comes to that, but you won't raise your child in a situation like this. You just can't, no matter what comes of it.