

Act I, Scene 3 (BDF) — Two years later

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Your daughter's marriage is falling apart, and William doesn't understand why. You know he loves her, but she needs to know it. You know what it's like to hang on for years in a loveless marriage, and Barbara doesn't even have a child to keep her company. Women need a little more passion, a little more intensity. Women are emotional creatures. William thinks that bringing home a good salary should be enough, but he doesn't understand.

Meanwhile, Barbara is at her wits end. If things don't change, you expect that she will leave him. You have talked with her about ways to bring him out, ways to make things better, but nothing she does seems to help. It's possible that a child is the right answer here. With a child, maybe William's stability would be more important than his distance. A child could provide the love that Barbara is missing, and might even bring William out a little more.

On the other hand you're worried that she'll try to patch things up, have a child, and then wind up leaving him anyway. If she's going to leave him, she should do so now, before there are any children in the picture. She needs to make a decision soon, one way or the other.