

## **ABSENT FRIENDS - QUICK SUMMARY**

### **PLOT**

3 married couples decide to invite round for afternoon tea an old friend, Colin, whose fiancée has recently drowned, with the intention of cheering him up. One of the men, Gordon, Marge's husband is unable to come as he is ill. Before Colin arrives, it is obvious that none of the marriages is very happy and Colin's cheerful insistence on raking up the past makes them worse.

### **CHARACTERS**

Paul and Diana - he has affairs, she has given up her needs in life for him.  
Marge spends her entire life looking after a husband who is a hypochondriac and consoles herself by shopping.

John and Evelyn - he is mean and restless, she is resentful and miserable.

Colin means well but is embarrassing and sentimental.

### **THEMES**

Problems in marriage.

Unfulfilled lives - especially women's lives.

Different views about death.

### **STRUCTURE**

Simple. 2 acts of continuous time with minute by minute detail of what happens.

### **STYLE**

Naturalistic speech - sentences left unfinished etc.

Variety of comic techniques.