

Last of the Red Hot Lovers - Character Description

The central character, **Barney Cashman**, is a middle-aged, gentle, and slightly awkward restaurant owner. He's been a loyal husband for more than twenty years, and while he's proud of that, he suddenly feels invisible — like life has become routine and he's missed out on something. So, in a moment of boldness, he decides to have an affair. The catch? He's completely unequipped for it. He's sweet and nervous and overthinks everything — which makes every attempt both hilarious and heartbreaking.

His first encounter is with **Elaine Navazio**, a sharp, street-smart woman who's been around the block. She's confident, cynical, and knows exactly what she wants — and what she doesn't. Elaine represents the kind of excitement Barney thinks he craves, but her brashness and matter-of-fact attitude toward infidelity completely overwhelm him. It's like he's playing at being a “red hot lover,” and she's playing at being human-proof. Their scene is all about the collision between fantasy and reality.

Then comes **Bobbi Michele**, a young, free-spirited actress who's quirky, unpredictable, and a little bit out of touch with reality. She's full of energy and non-sequiturs — a whirlwind of chaos and charm. At first, Barney's drawn to her youth and spontaneity, but as the conversation spirals, he realizes she's unstable, maybe even a little lost. It's a brilliant comic scene that also exposes Barney's naivety — his idea of passion versus the messy truth of human behavior.

Finally, there's **Jeanette Fisher**, who's actually his wife's best friend. Unlike the other two, Jeanette is quiet, moral, and deeply anxious — she's drowning in guilt before anything even happens. What starts as a “safe” attempt at connection becomes an oddly tender, emotional exchange between two people who are both lonely and afraid. It's in this act that Barney finally sees what he's been missing: not excitement, but genuine intimacy and honesty.