

A DOLL'S HOUSE

A PLAY



HENRIK IBSEN

A DOLL'S HOUSE

by using Henrik Ibsen

ACT I.

ACT II.

ACT III.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Torvald Helmer.

Nora, his wife.

Doctor Rank.

Mrs Linde.

Nils Krogstad.

Helmer's 3 younger children.

Anne, their nurse.

A Housemaid.

A Porter.

[The action takes place in Helmer's house.]

A DOLL'S HOUSE

ACT I

[SCENE.--A room furnished comfortably and tastefully, but not extravagantly. At the back, a door to the right leads to the entrance-hall, another to the left leads to Helmer's study. Between the doors stands a piano. In the middle of the left-hand wall is a door, and beyond it a window. Near the window are a round table, arm-chairs and a small sofa. In the right-hand wall, at the farther end, another door; and on the same side, nearer the footlights, a stove, two easy chairs and a rocking-chair; between the stove and the door, a small table. Engravings on the walls; a cabinet with china and other small objects; a small book-case with well-bound books. The floors are carpeted, and a fire burns in the stove.]

It is winter. A bell rings in the hall; shortly afterwards the door is heard to open. Enter NORA, humming a tune and in high spirits. She is in outdoor dress and carries a number of parcels; these she lays on the table to the right. She leaves the outer door open after her, and through it is seen a PORTER who is carrying a Christmas Tree and a basket, which he gives to the MAID who has opened the door.]

Nora. Hide the Christmas Tree carefully, Helen. Be sure the youngsters do not see it till this evening, whilst it's far dressed. [To the PORTER, taking out her purse.] How a lot?

Porter. Sixpence.

Nora. There is a shilling. No, preserve the exchange. [The PORTER thanks her, and goes out. NORA shuts the door. She is laughing to herself, as she takes off her hat and coat. She takes a packet of macaroons from her pocket and eats one or two; then goes cautiously to her husband's door and listens.] Yes, he is in. [Still humming, she goes to the table on the right.]

Helmer [calls out from his room]. Is that my little lark twittering out there?

Nora [busy opening some of the parcels]. Yes, it's far!

Helmer. Is it my little squirrel bustling approximately?

Nora. Yes!

Helmer. When did my squirrel come home?

Nora. Just now. [Puts the bag of macaroons into her pocket and wipes her mouth.] Come in here, Torvald, and see what I have offered.

Helmer. Don't disturb me. [A little later, he opens the door and looks into the room, pen in hand.] Bought, did you are saying? All these things? Has my little spendthrift been wasting cash again?

Nora. Yes however, Torvald, this yr we clearly can let ourselves go a little. This is the primary Christmas that we have not had to economise.

Helmer. Still, you recognize, we cannot spend cash recklessly.

Nora. Yes, Torvald, we may be a wee bit greater reckless now, mayn't we? Just a tiny wee bit! You are going to have a huge earnings and earn masses and masses of cash.

Helmer. Yes, after the New Year; however then it'll be an entire quarter earlier than the revenue is due.

Nora. Pooh! We are able to borrow till then.

Helmer. Nora! [Goes up to her and takes her playfully by the ear.] The same little featherhead! Suppose, now, that I borrowed fifty kilos today, and you spent all of it inside the Christmas week, after which on New Year's Eve a slate fell on my head and killed me, and--

Nora [putting her hands over his mouth]. Oh! Do not say such horrid things.

Helmer. Still, suppose that came about,--what then?

Nora. If that were to take place, I don't think I have to care whether I owed money or now not.

Helmer. Yes, however what approximately the people who had lent it?

Nora. They? Who could trouble about them? I need to now not know who they were.

Helmer. That is like a female! But seriously, Nora, you already know what I think about that. No debt, no borrowing. There can be no freedom or splendor approximately a home lifestyles that relies upon on borrowing and debt. We two have saved bravely on the instantly avenue to this point, and we can move at the identical way for the quick time longer that there need be any conflict.

Nora [moving towards the stove]. As you please, Torvald.

Helmer [following her]. Come, come, my little skylark have to now not slump her wings. What is that this! Is my little squirrel out of temper? [Taking out his purse.] Nora, what do you suspect I even have came?

Nora [turning round quickly]. Money!

Helmer. There you are. [Gives her some money.] Do you suspect I don't know what loads is needed for house responsibilities at Christmas-time?

Nora [counting]. Ten shillings--a pound--two pounds! Thank you, thank you, Torvald; in an effort to preserve me going for a long time.

Helmer. Indeed it have to.

Nora. Yes, yes, it's going to. But come right here and let me display you what I even have sold. And all so cheap! Look, here's a new fit for Ivar, and a sword; and a horse and a trumpet for Bob; and a doll and dolly's bedstead for Emmy,--they're very undeniable, however besides she will soon damage them in pieces. And here are get dressed-lengths and handkerchiefs for the maids; vintage Anne ought truly to have some thing better.

Helmer. And what's on this parcel?

Nora [crying out]. No, no! You should not see that until this night.

Helmer. Very well. But now tell me, you extravagant little character, what would you like for yourself?

Nora. For myself? Oh, I am positive I do not need anything.

Helmer. Yes, but you ought to. Tell me some thing reasonable which you might in particular like to have.

Nora. No, I in reality can not consider some thing--until, Torvald--

Helmer. Well?

Nora [playing with his coat buttons, and without raising her eyes to his]. If you really want to provide me something, you may--you may--

Helmer. Well, out with it!

Nora [speaking quickly]. You may give me money, Torvald. Only simply as plenty as you could come up with the money for; and then one of nowadays I will purchase something with it.

Helmer. But, Nora--

Nora. Oh, do! Dear Torvald; please, please do! Then I will wrap it up in stunning gilt paper and hang it on the Christmas Tree. Wouldn't that be fun?

Helmer. What are little people known as which can be usually losing cash?

Nora. Spendthrifts--I realize. Let us do as you endorse, Torvald, and then I shall have time to think what I am maximum in need of. That is a totally sensible plan, is not it?

Helmer [smiling]. Indeed it's far--this is to say, in case you were really to shop out of the cash I give you, after which without a doubt buy something for yourself. But if you spend all of it on the housework and any range of unnecessary matters, then I merely have to pay up again.

Nora. Oh however, Torvald--

Helmer. You can't deny it, my dear little Nora. [Puts his arm round her waist.] It's a candy little spendthrift, however she uses up a deal of cash. One might hardly agree with how costly such little persons are!

Nora. It's a shame to say that. I do absolutely store all I can.

Helmer [laughing]. That's especially true,--all you can. But you can't store some thing!

Nora [smiling quietly and happily]. You don't have any concept how many fees we skylarks and squirrels have, Torvald.

Helmer. You are an bizarre little soul. Very like your father. You constantly discover a few new way of wheedling cash out of me, and, as soon as you have got were given it, it seems to soften on your palms. You by no means know where it has long gone. Still, one have to take you as you're. It is in the blood; for indeed it's miles real that you could inherit this stuff, Nora.

Nora. Ah, I desire I had inherited many of papa's traits.

Helmer. And I might no longer desire you to be whatever but just what you are, my sweet little skylark. But, do you know, it moves me which you are looking as an alternative--what shall I say--as an alternative uneasy nowadays?

Nora. Do I?

Helmer. You do, without a doubt. Look straight at me.

Nora [looks at him]. Well?

Helmer [wagging his finger at her]. Hasn't Miss Sweet Tooth been breaking policies on the town these days?

Nora. No; what makes you watched that?

Helmer. Hasn't she paid a visit to the confectioner's?

Nora. No, I assure you, Torvald--

Helmer. Not been nibbling candies?

Nora. No, certainly not.

Helmer. Not even taken a chew at a macaroon or two?

Nora. No, Torvald, I guarantee you simply--

Helmer. There, there, of route I become simplest joking.

Nora [going to the table on the right]. I should now not think about going against your desires.

Helmer. No, I am positive of that; except, you gave me your phrase-- [Going up to her.] Keep your little Christmas secrets and techniques to yourself, my darling. They will all be revealed tonight when the Christmas Tree is lit, no question.

Nora. Did you don't forget to ask Doctor Rank?

Helmer. No. But there's no want; as a depend of path he'll come to dinner with us. However, I will ask him whilst he comes on this morning. I actually have ordered a few suitable wine. Nora, you can't think how I am searching forward to this evening.

Nora. So am I! And how the youngsters will enjoy themselves, Torvald!

Helmer. It is extremely good to sense that one has a perfectly safe appointment, and a large enough income. It's pleasant to consider, isn't always it?

Nora. It's brilliant!

Helmer. Do you do not forget last Christmas? For a full 3 weeks ahead you close up yourself up each evening until long after middle of the night, making adorns for the Christmas Tree, and all the different first-rate matters that were to be a surprise to us. It was the duller three weeks I ever spent!

Nora. I didn't discover it stupid.

Helmer [smiling]. But there has been precious little end result, Nora.

Nora. Oh, you should not tease me about that again. How should I assist the cat's

stepping into and tearing the whole thing to portions?

Helmer. Of path you couldn't, terrible little girl. You had the exceptional of intentions to delight us all, and that's the principle aspect. But it is a great aspect that our tough instances are over.

Nora. Yes, it's far absolutely extraordinary.

Helmer. This time I need not sit down here and be dull all alone, and you needn't smash your expensive eyes and your pretty little hands--

Nora [clapping her hands]. No, Torvald, I needn't to any extent further, need I! It's wonderfully lovely to listen you are saying so! [Taking his arm.] Now I will inform you how I have been wondering we need to arrange things, Torvald. As soon as Christmas is over--[A bell rings in the hall.] There's the bell. [She tidies the room a little.] There's a few one at the door. What a nuisance!

Helmer. If it's far a caller, don't forget I am not at home.

Maid [in the doorway]. A girl to look you, ma'am,--a stranger.

Nora. Ask her to are available in.

Maid [to HELMER]. The physician came on the identical time, sir.

Helmer. Did he cross immediately into my room?

Maid. Yes, sir.

[HELMER goes into his room. The MAID ushers in Mrs Linde, who is in travelling dress, and shuts the door.]

Mrs Linde [in a dejected and timid voice]. How do you do, Nora?

Nora [doubtfully]. How do you do--

Mrs Linde. You don't realize me, I assume.

Nora. No, I do not know--sure, to be sure, I appear to--[Suddenly.] Yes! Christine! Is it actually you?

Mrs Linde. Yes, it's miles I.

Nora. Christine! To think about my now not recognising you! And but how ought to I--[In a gentle voice.] How you've got altered, Christine!

Mrs Linde. Yes, I actually have indeed. In 9, ten long years--

Nora. Is it goodbye for the reason that we met? I think it's miles. The ultimate 8

years had been a glad time for me, I can tell you. And so now you've got come into the town, and have taken this long adventure in iciness--that become plucky of you.

Mrs Linde. I arrived through steamer this morning.

Nora. To have a few a laugh at Christmas-time, of route. How delightful! We can have such fun together! But take off your things. You aren't cold, I hope. [Helps her.] Now we are able to sit down down with the aid of the range, and be cosy. No, take this armchair; I will sit down right here inside the rocking-chair. [Takes her hands.] Now you appear like your vintage self again; it turned into only the primary second--You are a bit paler, Christine, and possibly a little thinner.

Mrs Linde. And a whole lot, a lot older, Nora.

Nora. Perhaps a touch older; very, little or no; truely no longer a great deal. [Stops suddenly and speaks seriously.] What a inconsiderate creature I am, chattering away like this. My negative, expensive Christine, do forgive me.

Mrs Linde. What do you mean, Nora?

Nora [gently]. Poor Christine, you are a widow.

Mrs Linde. Yes; it's far 3 years in the past now.

Nora. Yes, I knew; I noticed it inside the papers. I assure you, Christine, I intended ever so frequently to put in writing to you on the time, however I continually put it off and something continually prevented me.

Mrs Linde. I quite recognize, expensive.

Nora. It become very awful of me, Christine. Poor component, the way you should have suffered. And he left you nothing?

Mrs Linde. No.

Nora. And no kids?

Mrs Linde. No.

Nora. Nothing in any respect, then.

Mrs Linde. Not even any sorrow or grief to stay upon.

Nora [looking incredulously at her]. But, Christine, is that viable?

Mrs Linde [smiles sadly and strokes her hair]. It occasionally occurs, Nora.

Nora. So you are quite alone. How dreadfully sad that should be. I actually have 3 cute children. You cannot see them just now, for they are out with their nurse. But now you have to tell me all about it.

Mrs Linde. No, no; I want to listen about you.

Nora. No, you must start. I should not be egocentric these days; today I have to best think of your affairs. But there may be one thing I should inform you. Do you recognize we have simply had a exquisite piece of precise luck?

Mrs Linde. No, what is it?

Nora. Just fancy, my husband has been made manager of the Bank!

Mrs Linde. Your husband? What good luck!

Nora. Yes, fantastic! A barrister's profession is such an uncertain component, specially if he might not undertake unsavoury instances; and certainly Torvald has in no way been inclined to do this, and I pretty trust him. You may imagine how thrilled we are! He is to soak up his paintings within the Bank at the New Year, after which he can have a large earnings and plenty of commissions. For the destiny we will live pretty in another way--we are able to do just as we love. I experience so relieved and so satisfied, Christine! It might be excellent to have heaps of money and no longer need to have any tension, might not it?

Mrs Linde. Yes, anyways I suppose it'd be delightful to have what one wishes.

Nora. No, now not best what one desires, however heaps and heaps of cash.

Mrs Linde [smiling]. Nora, Nora, haven't you learned experience yet? In our schooldays you were a splendid spendthrift.

Nora [laughing]. Yes, that's what Torvald says now. [Wags her finger at her.] But "Nora, Nora" isn't always so stupid as you believe you studied. We have not been in a position for me to waste money. We have each had to work.

Mrs Linde. You too?

Nora. Yes; odds and ends, needlework, crotchet-work, embroidery, and that kind of factor. [Dropping her voice.] And other matters as properly. You understand Torvald left his office when we have been married? There changed into no prospect of promotion there, and he had to attempt to earn greater than earlier than. But for the duration of the primary year he over-worked himself dreadfully.

You see, he had to make money every manner he may want to, and he labored early and late; however he could not stand it, and fell dreadfully unwell, and the docs said it became essential for him to move south.

Mrs Linde. You spent a whole 12 months in Italy, failed to you?

Nora. Yes. It was no easy count to break out, I can let you know. It become simply after Ivar turned into born; but clearly we needed to move. It became a wonderfully lovely journey, and it stored Torvald's existence. But it fee a awesome lot of cash, Christine.

Mrs Linde. So I ought to suppose.

Nora. It price about two hundred and fifty pounds. That's plenty, is not it?

Mrs Linde. Yes, and in emergencies like that it is lucky to have the cash.

Nora. I ought to inform you that we had it from papa.

Mrs Linde. Oh, I see. It turned into just about that time that he died, wasn't it?

Nora. Yes; and, simply think about it, I could not move and nurse him. I became watching for little Ivar's start every day and I had my negative unwell Torvald to look after. My expensive, type father--I never noticed him again, Christine. That turned into the saddest time I have known due to the fact our marriage.

Mrs Linde. I realize how fond you have been of him. And then you definately went off to Italy?

Nora. Yes; you spot we had cash then, and the doctors insisted on our going, so we commenced a month later.

Mrs Linde. And your husband got here again pretty properly?

Nora. As sound as a bell!

Mrs Linde. But--the health practitioner?

Nora. What doctor?

Mrs Linde. I concept your maid said the gentleman who arrived here just as I did, became the physician?

Nora. Yes, that become Doctor Rank, but he does not come here professionally. He is our best buddy, and springs in as a minimum once every day. No, Torvald has not had an hour's illness considering that then, and our youngsters are strong and healthful and so am I. [Jumps up and claps her hands.] Christine! Christine!

It is correct to be alive and happy!--But how horrid of me; I am talking of not anything but my own affairs. [Sits on a stool near her, and rests her arms on her knees.] You should not be angry with me. Tell me, is it honestly genuine which you did no longer love your husband? Why did you marry him?

Mrs Linde. My mom become alive then, and become bedridden and helpless, and I needed to offer for my more youthful brothers; so I did not assume I was justified in refusing his provide.

Nora. No, possibly you have been pretty proper. He became rich at that time, then?

Mrs Linde. I accept as true with he became pretty properly off. But his commercial enterprise was a precarious one; and, whilst he died, it all went to pieces and there has been not anything left.

Nora. And then?--

Mrs Linde. Well, I had to show my hand to some thing I could find--first a small save, then a small faculty, and so on. The ultimate three years have appeared like one lengthy operating-day, without a relaxation. Now it is at an give up, Nora. My bad mom wishes me no greater, for she is gone; and the lads do not want me either; they have got conditions and might shift for themselves.

Nora. What a relief you should feel if--

Mrs Linde. No, indeed; I most effective sense my life unspeakably empty. No one to live for anymore. [Gets up restlessly.] That became why I couldn't stand the lifestyles in my little backwater any further. I desire it can be less complicated here to find something with a purpose to busy me and occupy my mind. If handiest I may want to have the good good fortune to get a few ordinary work--office paintings of some kind--

Nora. But, Christine, that is so frightfully tiring, and also you look tired out now. You had far higher go away to a few watering-location.

Mrs Linde [walking to the window]. I haven't any father to give me money for a adventure, Nora.

Nora [rising]. Oh, don't be irritated with me!

Mrs Linde [going up to her]. It is you that must not be irritated with me, expensive. The worst of a role like mine is that it makes one so sour. No one to paintings for, and yet obliged to be constantly looking for chances. One need to

stay, and so one turns into egocentric. When you told me of the happy flip your fortunes have taken--you may rarely accept as true with it--I become thrilled now not so much for your account as on my own.

Nora. How do you imply?--Oh, I recognize. You mean that possibly Torvald may want to get you some thing to do.

Mrs Linde. Yes, that was what I was taking into consideration.

Nora. He should, Christine. Just leave it to me; I will broach the concern very cleverly--I will think of something that will please him very much. It will make me so glad to be of some use to you.

Mrs Linde. How kind you're, Nora, to be so demanding to assist me! It is doubly kind in you, for you know so little of the burdens and troubles of life.

Nora. I--? I realize so little of them?

Mrs Linde [smiling]. My expensive! Small family cares and that type of issue!--You are a baby, Nora.

Nora [tosses her head and crosses the stage]. You ought not to be so superior.

Mrs Linde. No?

Nora. You are much like the others. They all think that I am incapable of whatever without a doubt serious--

Mrs Linde. Come, come--

Nora.--that I actually have long past via nothing in this international of cares.

Mrs Linde. But, my expensive Nora, you have simply told me all your problems.

Nora. Pooh!--those were trifles. [Lowering her voice.] I actually have now not advised you the critical aspect.

Mrs Linde. The vital aspect? What do you suggest?

Nora. You look down upon me altogether, Christine--but you ought not to. You are proud, are not you, of getting labored so difficult and goodbye to your mom?

Mrs Linde. Indeed, I do not look down on every person. But it is true that I am each proud and happy to suppose that I turned into privileged to make the stop of my mother's existence nearly loose from care.

Nora. And you are proud to think about what you have got carried out for your

brothers?

Mrs Linde. I suppose I actually have the right to be.

Nora. I assume so, too. But now, concentrate to this; I too have some thing to be proud and satisfied of.

Mrs Linde. I don't have any doubt you've got. But what do you consult with?

Nora. Speak low. Suppose Torvald had been to hear! He shouldn't on any account--no person within the world need to recognise, Christine, besides you.

Mrs Linde. But what is it?

Nora. Come right here. [Pulls her down on the sofa beside her.] Now I will show you that I too have some thing to be proud and happy of. It changed into I who stored Torvald's life.

Mrs Linde. "Saved"? How?

Nora. I told you approximately our journey to Italy. Torvald would in no way have recovered if he had no longer gone there--

Mrs Linde. Yes, however your father gave you the necessary finances.

Nora [smiling]. Yes, that's what Torvald and all the others assume, but--

Mrs Linde. But--

Nora. Papa failed to provide us a shilling. It changed into I who procured the cash.

Mrs Linde. You? All that massive sum?

Nora. Two hundred and fifty kilos. What do you observed of that?

Mrs Linde. But, Nora, how may want to you in all likelihood do it? Did you win a prize inside the Lottery?

Nora [contemptuously]. In the Lottery? There could have been no credit score in that.

Mrs Linde. But wherein did you get it from, then? Nora [humming and smiling with an air of mystery]. Hm, hm! Aha!

Mrs Linde. Because you couldn't have borrowed it.

Nora. Couldn't I? Why no longer?

Mrs Linde. No, a wife can't borrow without her husband's consent.

Nora [tossing her head]. Oh, if it is a wife who has any head for enterprise--a wife who has the wit to be a touch bit clever--

Mrs Linde. I don't understand it in any respect, Nora.

Nora. There isn't any need you ought to. I never said I had borrowed the cash. I may additionally have were given it a few different manner. [Lies back on the sofa.] Perhaps I got it from a few different admirer. When each person is as attractive as I am--

Mrs Linde. You are a mad creature.

Nora. Now, you're complete of interest, Christine.

Mrs Linde. Listen to me, Nora pricey. Haven't you been a bit bit imprudent?

Nora [sits up straight]. Is it imprudent to store your husband's life?

Mrs Linde. It seems to me imprudent, without his expertise, to--

Nora. But it turned into clearly essential that he need to now not understand! My goodness, can not you remember that? It was vital he need to haven't any idea what a dangerous condition he turned into in. It was to me that the doctors got here and stated that his existence became in risk, and that the best factor to shop him changed into to stay within the south. Do you assume I didn't strive, to begin with, to get what I desired as if it had been for myself? I advised him how a lot I have to love to travel abroad like different younger better halves; I attempted tears and entreaties with him; I instructed him that he must remember the circumstance I was in, and that he ought to be type and lavish to me; I even hinted that he may boost a mortgage. That nearly made him indignant, Christine. He said I become thoughtless, and that it changed into his obligation as my husband no longer to indulge me in my whims and caprices--as I consider he known as them. Very well, I idea, you have to be stored--and that was how I got here to plot a manner out of the difficulty--

Mrs Linde. And did your husband in no way get to understand out of your father that the cash had no longer come from him?

Nora. No, by no means. Papa died simply at that point. I had meant to let him into the name of the game and beg him in no way to expose it. But he turned into so unwell then--alas, there never became any need to inform him.

Mrs Linde. And when you consider that then have you ever never advised your mystery for your husband?

Nora. Good Heavens, no! How may want to you suspect so? A man who has such robust opinions about this stuff! And except, how painful and humiliating it'd be for Torvald, together with his manly independence, to understand that he owed me something! It might disenchanted our mutual relations altogether; our stunning satisfied domestic might no longer be what it's miles now.

Mrs Linde. Do you mean never to inform him about it?

Nora [meditatively, and with a half smile]. Yes--in the future, possibly, after a few years, once I am no longer as great-looking as I am now. Don't snicker at me! I mean, of direction, whilst Torvald is not as devoted to me as he's now; whilst my dancing and dressing-up and reciting have palled on him; then it can be an awesome issue to have something in reserve--[Breaking off.] What nonsense! That time will by no means come. Now, what do you suspect of my incredible mystery, Christine? Do you still think I am of no need? I can tell you, too, that this affair has caused me a number of worry. It has been in no way smooth for me to satisfy my engagements punctually. I might also inform you that there is something that is known as, in commercial enterprise, quarterly interest, and another component known as price in installments, and it's far usually so dreadfully hard to control them. I actually have needed to save a little here and there, wherein I may want to, you understand. I even have now not been able to placed apart much from my housekeeping cash, for Torvald must have an excellent table. I could not let my youngsters be shabbily dressed; I actually have felt obliged to deplete all he gave me for them, the sweet little darlings!

Mrs Linde. So it has all needed to come out of your personal necessities of life, terrible Nora?

Nora. Of route. Besides, I become the only liable for it. Whenever Torvald has given me cash for brand spanking new clothes and such matters, I have never spent greater than half of it; I even have constantly sold the only and cheapest things. Thank Heaven, any garments appearance well on me, and so Torvald has never noticed it. But it was frequently very hard on me, Christine--because it is pleasant to be in reality properly dressed, isn't always it?

Mrs Linde. Quite so.

Nora. Well, then I have discovered other approaches of earning profits. Last iciness I changed into fortunate sufficient to get numerous copying to do; so I locked myself up and sat writing every night until pretty late at night time. Many a time I was desperately worn-out; but all the identical it was a exceptional delight to sit down there operating and getting cash. It become like being a man.

Mrs Linde. How an awful lot have you been able to pay off in that way?

Nora. I cannot inform you exactly. You see, it's miles very difficult to preserve an account of a enterprise be counted of that type. I only know that I actually have paid every penny that I ought to scrape together. Many a time I become at my wits' cease. [Smiles.] Then I used to sit down right here and imagine that a wealthy vintage gentleman had fallen in love with me--

Mrs Linde. What! Who became it?

Nora. Be quiet!--that he had died; and that when his will become opened it contained, written in large letters, the preparation: "The lovable Mrs Nora Helmer is to have all I possess paid over to her right away in coins."

Mrs Linde. But, my dear Nora--who may want to the person be?

Nora. Good gracious, cannot you recognize? There changed into no vintage gentleman at all; it turned into only some thing that I used to sit right here and consider, after I could not think of any way of buying cash. But it's all of the same now; the tiresome old character can stay in which he is, as far as I am worried; I do not care approximately him or his will either, for I am unfastened from care now. [Jumps up.] My goodness, it's pleasant to think of, Christine! Free from care! To be capable of be unfastened from care, quite unfastened from care; as a way to play and romp with the children; with a purpose to hold the house beautifully and feature the entirety just as Torvald likes it! And, consider it, quickly the spring will come and the large blue sky! Perhaps we shall be able to take a touch ride--perhaps I shall see the ocean once more! Oh, it's a high-quality aspect to be alive and be satisfied. [A bell is heard in the hall.]

Mrs Linde [rising]. There is the bell; possibly I had higher pass.

Nora. No, do not pass; no one will are available in right here; it's far certain to be for Torvald.

Servant [at the hall door]. Excuse me, ma'am--there is a gentleman to peer the master, and because the doctor is with him--

Nora. Who is it?

Krogstad [at the door]. It is I, Mrs Helmer. [Mrs LINDE starts, trembles, and turns to the window.]

Nora [takes a step towards him, and speaks in a strained, low voice]. You? What is it? What do you need to see my husband approximately?

Krogstad. Bank commercial enterprise--in a way. I actually have a small publish within the Bank, and I pay attention your husband is to be our leader now--

Nora. Then it's far--

Krogstad. Nothing however dry commercial enterprise matters, Mrs Helmer; definitely nothing else.

Nora. Be so precise as to enter the take a look at, then. [She bows indifferently to him and shuts the door into the hall; then comes back and makes up the fire in the stove.]

Mrs Linde. Nora--who became that man?

Nora. A lawyer, of the call of Krogstad.

Mrs Linde. Then it without a doubt was he.

Nora. Do you already know the man?

Mrs Linde. I used to--many years in the past. At one time he turned into a solicitor's clerk in our city.

Nora. Yes, he become.

Mrs Linde. He is significantly altered.

Nora. He made a totally sad marriage.

Mrs Linde. He is a widower now, is not he?

Nora. With several kids. There now, it is burning up. [Shuts the door of the stove and moves the rocking-chair aside.]

Mrs Linde. They say he includes on various types of enterprise.

Nora. Really! Perhaps he does; I don't know whatever about it. But do not allow us to think about commercial enterprise; it is so tiresome.

Doctor Rank [comes out of HELMER'S study. Before he shuts the door he calls to him]. No, my pricey fellow, I might not disturb you; I would alternatively

pass in in your spouse for a little whilst. [Shuts the door and sees Mrs LINDE.] I beg your pardon; I am afraid I am traumatic you too.

Nora. No, not at all. [Introducing him]. Doctor Rank, Mrs Linde.

Rank. I have frequently heard Mrs Linde's call mentioned right here. I think I surpassed you on the stairs when I arrived, Mrs Linde?

Mrs Linde. Yes, I go up very slowly; I cannot manipulate stairs well.

Rank. Ah! A few slight internal weakness?

Mrs Linde. No, the fact is I had been overworking myself.

Rank. Nothing greater than that? Then I think you've got come to metropolis to amuse your self with our entertainments?

Mrs Linde. I even have come to look for work.

Rank. Is that an amazing treatment for overwork?

Mrs Linde. One should live, Doctor Rank.

Rank. Yes, the general opinion appears to be that it's miles essential.

Nora. Look right here, Doctor Rank--you recognize you want to live.

Rank. Certainly. However wretched I may sense, I need to extend the anguish as long as possible. All my patients are like that. And so are those who are morally diseased; one in every of them, and a horrific case too, is at this very second with Helmer--

Mrs Linde [sadly]. Ah!

Nora. Whom do you imply?

Rank. A legal professional of the name of Krogstad, a fellow you don't know in any respect. He suffers from a diseased moral man or woman, Mrs Helmer; but even he commenced speakme of its being fairly essential that he have to stay.

Nora. Did he? What did he need to talk to Torvald about?

Rank. I don't have any concept; I handiest heard that it become something approximately the Bank.

Nora. I did not know this--what is his call--Krogstad had anything to do with the Bank.

Rank. Yes, he has a few form of appointment there. [To Mrs Linde.] I don't

know whether you locate additionally in your a part of the sector that there are certain those who go zealously snuffing approximately to odor out ethical corruption, and, as quickly as they have determined some, placed the character worried into a few lucrative position wherein they can hold their eye on him. Healthy natures are omitted within the cold.

Mrs Linde. Still I suppose the unwell are folks that maximum need taking care of.

Rank [shrugging his shoulders]. Yes, there you are. That is the sentiment this is turning Society into a ill-residence.

[NORA, who has been absorbed in her thoughts, breaks out into smothered laughter and claps her hands.]

Rank. Why do you chortle at that? Have you any belief what Society simply is?

Nora. What do I care about tiresome Society? I am laughing at something pretty unique, some thing extraordinarily fun. Tell me, Doctor Rank, are all of the those who are employed within the Bank depending on Torvald now?

Rank. Is that what you find so extraordinarily a laugh?

Nora [smiling and humming]. That's my affair! [Walking about the room.] It's flawlessly wonderful to suppose that we've got--that Torvald has a lot energy over such a lot of human beings. [Takes the packet from her pocket.] Doctor Rank, what do you are saying to a macaroon?

Rank. What, macaroons? I idea they had been forbidden here.

Nora. Yes, but these are some Christine gave me.

Mrs Linde. What! I?--

Nora. Oh, well, don't be alarmed! You could not recognise that Torvald had forbidden them. I ought to tell you that he's afraid they may ruin my enamel. But, bah!--as soon as in a way--That's so, isn't it, Doctor Rank? By your go away! [Puts a macaroon into his mouth.] You need to have one too, Christine. And I shall have one, just a infant--or at maximum two. [Walking about.] I am noticeably happy. There is simply one aspect in the world now that I need to dearly like to do.

Rank. Well, what's that?

Nora. It's something I ought to dearly love to say, if Torvald may want to pay

attention me.

Rank. Well, why cannot you assert it?

Nora. No, I daren't; it is so stunning.

Mrs Linde. Shocking?

Rank. Well, I must now not endorse you to say it. Still, with us you may. What is it you will so much like to say if Torvald should listen you?

Nora. I ought to just love to say--Well, I'm damned!

Rank. Are you mad?

Mrs Linde. Nora, dear--!

Rank. Say it, right here he's!

Nora [hiding the packet]. Hush! Hush! Hush! [HELMER comes out of his room, with his coat over his arm and his hat in his hand.]

Nora. Well, Torvald dear, have you bought rid of him?

Helmer. Yes, he has just gone.

Nora. Let me introduce you--that is Christine, who has come to city.

Helmer. Christine--? Excuse me, however I don't know--

Nora. Mrs Linde, pricey; Christine Linde.

Helmer. Of route. A college pal of my wife's, I presume?

Mrs Linde. Yes, we've recognised each other in view that then.

Nora. And just suppose, she has taken an extended adventure so that you can see you.

Helmer. What do you suggest?

Mrs Linde. No, honestly, I--

Nora. Christine is rather smart at book-preserving, and he or she is frightfully nerve-racking to work under some smart guy, with the intention to perfect herself--

Helmer. Very realistic, Mrs Linde.

Nora. And while she heard you have been appointed manager of the Bank--the

news changed into telegraphed, you recognize--she travelled right here as short as she may want to. Torvald, I am certain you may be able to do some thing for Christine, for my sake, might not you?

Helmer. Well, it is not altogether impossible. I presume you are a widow, Mrs Linde?

Mrs Linde. Yes.

Helmer. And have had a few enjoy of ebook-preserving?

Mrs Linde. Yes, a truthful quantity.

Helmer. Ah! Properly, it's very probably I can be capable of find something for you--

Nora [clapping her hands]. What did I inform you? What did I let you know?

Helmer. You have simply come at a fortunate moment, Mrs Linde.

Mrs Linde. How am I to thank you?

Helmer. There is no need. [Puts on his coat.] But today you should excuse me--

Rank. Wait a minute; I will come with you. [Brings his fur coat from the hall and warms it at the fire.]

Nora. Don't be long away, Torvald expensive.

Helmer. About an hour, now not greater.

Nora. Are you going too, Christine?

Mrs Linde [putting on her cloak]. Yes, I should cross and search for a room.

Helmer. Oh, nicely then, we can walk down the street collectively.

Nora [helping her]. What a pity it's miles we're so brief of area right here; I am afraid it's miles impossible for us--

Mrs Linde. Please don't think of it! Goodbye, Nora pricey, and plenty of thanks.

Nora. Goodbye for the existing. Of direction you will come returned this evening. And you too, Dr. Rank. What do you are saying? If you're nicely enough? Oh, you should be! Wrap yourself up nicely. [They go to the door all talking together. Children's voices are heard on the staircase.]

Nora. There they're! There they may be! [She runs to open the door. The NURSE comes in with the children.] Come in! Come in! [Stoops and kisses

them.] Oh, you candy advantages! Look at them, Christine! Aren't they darlings?
Rank. Don't let us stand right here within the draught.

Helmer. Come alongside, Mrs Linde; the vicinity will handiest be bearable for a mom now!

[RANK, HELMER, and Mrs Linde go downstairs. The NURSE comes forward with the children; NORA shuts the hall door.]

Nora. How clean and properly you look! Such purple cheeks like apples and roses. [The children all talk at once while she speaks to them.] Have you had wonderful a laugh? That's extraordinary! What, you pulled each Emmy and Bob alongside on the sledge? --each immediately?--that changed into proper. You are a smart boy, Ivar. Let me take her for a touch, Anne. My sweet little infant doll! [Takes the baby from the MAID and dances it up and down.] Yes, sure, mother will dance with Bob too. What! Have you been snowballing? I desire I were there too! No, no, I will take their matters off, Anne; please permit me do it, it is such fun. Go in now, you appearance half frozen. There is a few warm coffee for you at the range.

[The NURSE goes into the room on the left. NORA takes off the children's things and throws them about, while they all talk to her at once.]

Nora. Really! Did a big dog run once you? But it didn't chew you? No, puppies don't chew pleasant little dolly kids. You should not study the parcels, Ivar. What are they? Ah, I daresay you would like to recognise. No, no--it is something nasty! Come, let us have a game! What we could play at? Hide and Seek? Yes, we will play Hide and Seek. Bob shall disguise first. Must I hide? Very well, I'll disguise first. [She and the children laugh and shout, and romp in and out of the room; at last NORA hides under the table, the children rush in and out for her, but do not see her; they hear her smothered laughter, run to the table, lift up the cloth and find her. Shouts of laughter. She crawls forward and pretends to frighten them. Fresh laughter. Meanwhile there has been a knock at the hall door, but none of them has noticed it. The door is half opened, and KROGSTAD appears, he waits a little; the game goes on.]

Krogstad. Excuse me, Mrs Helmer.

Nora [with a stifled cry, turns round and gets up on to her knees]. Ah! What do you need?

Krogstad. Excuse me, the outer door changed into ajar; I assume someone forgot

to close it.

Nora [rising]. My husband is out, Mr. Krogstad.

Krogstad. I know that.

Nora. What do you want right here, then?

Krogstad. A phrase with you.

Nora. With me?--[To the children, gently.] Go in to nurse. What? No, the ordinary man won't do mother any damage. When he has long gone we can have every other game. [She takes the children into the room on the left, and shuts the door after them.] You want to speak to me?

Krogstad. Yes, I do.

Nora. Today? It isn't the primary of the month but.

Krogstad. No, it's far Christmas Eve, and it'll depend upon yourself what sort of a Christmas you may spend.

Nora. What do you suggest? Today it's miles sincerely impossible for me--

Krogstad. We may not communicate approximately that till later on. This is some thing distinctive. I presume you could give me a moment?

Nora. Yes--sure, I can--despite the fact that--

Krogstad. Good. I turned into in Olsen's Restaurant and noticed your husband happening the road--

Nora. Yes?

Krogstad. With a lady.

Nora. What then?

Krogstad. May I make so ambitious as to ask if it become a Mrs Linde?

Nora. It became.

Krogstad. Just arrived on the town?

Nora. Yes, today.

Krogstad. She is a fantastic buddy of yours, is not she?

Nora. She is. But I don't see--

Krogstad. I knew her too, once upon a time.

Nora. I am aware about that.

Krogstad. Are you? So you understand all approximately it; I thought as a whole lot. Then I can ask you, without beating approximately the bush--is Mrs Linde to have an appointment inside the Bank?

Nora. What proper have you ever to question me, Mr. Krogstad?--You, one in all my husband's subordinates! But since you ask, you shall recognise. Yes, Mrs Linde is to have an appointment. And it became I who pleaded her purpose, Mr. Krogstad, let me tell you that.

Krogstad. I become proper in what I idea, then.

Nora [walking up and down the stage]. Sometimes one has a tiny little bit of influence, I need to wish. Because one is a lady, it does no longer always follow that--. When absolutely everyone is in a subordinate function, Mr. Krogstad, they need to truly be cautious to keep away from offending all of us who--who--
-

Krogstad. Who has impact?

Nora. Exactly.

Krogstad [changing his tone]. Mrs Helmer, you will be so true as to use your have an impact on on my behalf.

Nora. What? What do you suggest?

Krogstad. You could be so type as to look that I am allowed to preserve my subordinate function inside the Bank.

Nora. What do you mean with the aid of that? Who proposes to take your put up away from you?

Krogstad. Oh, there may be no necessity to preserve up the pretence of lack of know-how. I can quite remember that your buddy isn't very aggravating to show herself to the hazard of rubbing shoulders with me; and I pretty understand, too, whom I should thank for being became off.

Nora. But I assure you--

Krogstad. Very likely; but, to return to the factor, the time has come when I need to recommend you to apply your affect to save you that.

Nora. But, Mr. Krogstad, I have no have an impact on.

Krogstad. Haven't you? I concept you stated your self simply now--

Nora. Naturally I did not suggest you to place that production on it. I! What have to make you watched I even have any have an effect on of that type with my husband?

Krogstad. Oh, I actually have acknowledged your husband from our scholar days. I don't think he's any extra unassailable than different husbands.

Nora. If you talk slightinglly of my husband, I shall turn you out of the residence.

Krogstad. You are ambitious, Mrs Helmer.

Nora. I am not afraid of you to any extent further. As quickly as the New Year comes, I shall in a totally quick time be free of everything.

Krogstad [controlling himself]. Listen to me, Mrs Helmer. If necessary, I am prepared to fight for my small submit in the Bank as if I had been fighting for my existence.

Nora. So it appears.

Krogstad. It is not best for the sake of the cash; certainly, that weighs least with me within the depend. There is another motive--properly, I might also as well inform you. My position is that this. I daresay you already know, like absolutely everyone else, that when, a few years in the past, I was guilty of an indiscretion.

Nora. I assume I actually have heard something of the sort.

Krogstad. The depend in no way came into court docket; however each manner regarded to be closed to me after that. So I took to the business which you recognize of. I had to do some thing; and, truly, I don't assume I've been one of the worst. But now I should reduce myself free from all that. My sons are developing up; for his or her sake I must try to win back as a good deal respect as I can in the metropolis. This submit in the Bank become just like the first step up for me--and now your husband goes to kick me downstairs once more into the mud.

Nora. But you have to accept as true with me, Mr. Krogstad; it isn't always in my electricity to help you in any respect.

Krogstad. Then it's miles because you have not the desire; but I even have method to compel you.

Nora. You don't suggest that you will tell my husband that I owe you money?

Krogstad. Hm!--suppose I were to inform him?

Nora. It could be perfectly notorious of you. [Sobbing.] To think about his mastering my secret, which has been my pleasure and pride, in such an unpleasant, clumsy way--that he must analyze it from you! And it'd put me in a horribly disagreeable position--

Krogstad. Only disagreeable?

Nora [impetuously]. Well, do it, then!--and it'll be the more severe for you. My husband will see for himself what a blackguard you are, and also you in reality may not keep your put up then.

Krogstad. I asked you if it became simplest a unpleasant scene at home that you had been scared of?

Nora. If my husband does get to know of it, of direction he will right away pay you what's nevertheless owing, and we will don't have anything more to do with you.

Krogstad [coming a step nearer]. Listen to me, Mrs Helmer. Either you've got a completely awful reminiscence or you know very little of commercial enterprise. I shall be obliged to remind you of a few details.

Nora. What do you mean?

Krogstad. When your husband turned into unwell, you got here to me to borrow two hundred and fifty pounds.

Nora. I didn't know all and sundry else to visit.

Krogstad. I promised to get you that amount--

Nora. Yes, and you probably did so.

Krogstad. I promised to get you that amount, on certain conditions. Your mind changed into so taken up together with your husband's infection, and also you were so disturbing to get the money in your journey, which you appear to have paid no attention to the situations of our good deal. Therefore it's going to now not be amiss if I remind you of them. Now, I promised to get the cash on the safety of a bond which I drew up.

Nora. Yes, and which I signed.

Krogstad. Good. But below your signature there have been some lines constituting your father a surety for the cash; those strains your father must have signed.

Nora. Should? He did sign them.

Krogstad. I had left the date blank; that is to say, your father have to himself have inserted the date on which he signed the paper. Do you remember the fact that?

Nora. Yes, I think I bear in mind--

Krogstad. Then I gave you the bond to send by using post in your father. Is that now not so?

Nora. Yes.

Krogstad. And you obviously did so immediately, due to the fact 5 or six days afterwards you introduced me the bond together with your father's signature. And then I gave you the money.

Nora. Well, have not I been paying it off regularly?

Krogstad. Fairly so, yes. But--to come returned to the problem in hand--that should had been a very trying time for you, Mrs Helmer?

Nora. It become, indeed.

Krogstad. Your father become very unwell, wasn't he?

Nora. He became very near his end.

Krogstad. And died soon afterwards?

Nora. Yes.

Krogstad. Tell me, Mrs Helmer, are you able to by using any threat consider what day your father died?--on what day of the month, I mean.

Nora. Papa died at the 29th of September.

Krogstad. That is accurate; I actually have ascertained it for myself. And, as that is so, there is a discrepancy [taking a paper from his pocket] which I can't account for.

Nora. What discrepancy? I do not know--

Krogstad. The discrepancy consists, Mrs Helmer, within the truth that your

father signed this bond three days after his demise.

Nora. What do you mean? I don't recognize--

Krogstad. Your father died at the twenty ninth of September. But, appearance right here; your father has dated his signature the 2d of October. It is a discrepancy, isn't it? [NORA is silent.] Can you provide an explanation for it to me? [NORA is still silent.] It is a outstanding factor, too, that the words "second of October," in addition to the 12 months, are not written on your father's handwriting but in one which I think I recognise. Well, of route it is able to be explained; your father may additionally have forgotten to this point his signature, and a person else may have dated it haphazard earlier than they knew of his dying. There is not any harm in that. It all depends on the signature of the call; and this is authentic, I think, Mrs Helmer? It become your father himself who signed his name here?

Nora [after a short pause, throws her head up and looks defiantly at him]. No, it become now not. It become I that wrote papa's name.

Krogstad. Are you conscious that could be a dangerous confession?

Nora. In what manner? You shall have your cash soon.

Krogstad. Let me ask you a query; why did you not ship the paper to your father?

Nora. It was not possible; papa become so sick. If I had requested him for his signature, I should have had to tell him what the cash turned into for use for; and when he was so ill himself I couldn't inform him that my husband's life was in hazard--it changed into impossible.

Krogstad. It would have been better for you in case you had given up your ride abroad.

Nora. No, that became impossible. That trip changed into to store my husband's lifestyles; I couldn't give that up.

Krogstad. But did it by no means occur to you that you had been committing a fraud on me?

Nora. I could not take that under consideration; I failed to trouble myself approximately you in any respect. I could not bear you, because you positioned so many heartless problems in my manner, despite the fact that you knew what a dangerous situation my husband changed into in.

Krogstad. Mrs Helmer, you clearly do now not realise surely what it's miles which you have been responsible of. But I can guarantee you that my one fake step, which lost me all my reputation, changed into nothing extra or not anything worse than what you've got finished.

Nora. You? Do you inquire from me to trust which you had been brave sufficient to run a threat to store your spouse's life?

Krogstad. The law cares nothing about reasons.

Nora. Then it should be a very silly regulation.

Krogstad. Foolish or no longer, it is the regulation via which you will be judged, if I produce this paper in court.

Nora. I do not consider it. Is a daughter no longer to be allowed to spare her demise father tension and care? Is a wife now not to be allowed to save her husband's lifestyles? I don't know much about regulation; but I am certain that there need to be legal guidelines allowing things like that. Have you no information of such laws--you who are a lawyer? You must be a very negative attorney, Mr. Krogstad.

Krogstad. Maybe. But matters of enterprise--such enterprise as you and I even have had together--do you observed I don't remember that? Very nicely. Do as you please. But allow me inform you this--if I lose my role a second time, you shall lose yours with me. [He bows, and goes out through the hall.]

Nora [appears buried in thought for a short time, then tosses her head].

Nonsense! Trying to frighten me like that!--I am not so silly as he thinks. [Begins to busy herself putting the children's things in order.] And yet--? No, it's not possible! I did it for love's sake.

The Children [in the doorway on the left]. Mother, the stranger guy has long past out thru the gate.

Nora. Yes, dears, I recognise. But, do not tell everyone approximately the stranger guy. Do you hear? Not even papa.

Children. No, mother; however will you come back and play once more?

Nora. No, no,--now not now.

Children. But, mother, you promised us.

Nora. Yes, however I can not now. Run away in; I even have such a lot to do.

Run away in, my sweet little darlings. [She gets them into the room by degrees and shuts the door on them; then sits down on the sofa, takes up a piece of needlework and sews a few stitches, but soon stops.] No! [Throws down the work, gets up, goes to the hall door and calls out.] Helen! Bring the Tree in. [Goes to the table on the left, opens a drawer, and stops again.] No, no! It's miles pretty not possible!

Maid [coming in with the Tree]. Where shall I placed it, ma'am?

Nora. Here, in the middle of the ground.

Maid. Shall I get you anything else?

Nora. No, thank you. I have all I want. [Exit MAID.]

Nora [begins dressing the tree]. A candle here-and plant life here--The horrible guy! It's all nonsense--there is nothing incorrect. The tree shall be amazing! I will do the whole lot I can think about to delight you, Torvald!--I will sing for you, dance for you--[HELMER comes in with some papers under his arm.] Oh! Are you again already?

Helmer. Yes. Has each person been here?

Nora. Here? No.

Helmer. That is extraordinary. I noticed Krogstad going out of the gate.

Nora. Did you? Oh sure, I forgot, Krogstad turned into here for a second.

Helmer. Nora, I can see out of your manner that he has been right here begging you to say an excellent word for him.

Nora. Yes.

Helmer. And you have been to appear to do it of your personal accord; you had been to conceal from me the fact of his having been here; failed to he beg that of you too?

Nora. Yes, Torvald, however--

Helmer. Nora, Nora, and you would be a celebration to that kind of aspect? To have any speak with a man like that, and deliver him any kind of promise? And to inform me a lie into the good deal?

Nora. A lie--?

Helmer. Didn't you tell me nobody have been right here? [Shakes his finger at

her.] My little songbird should by no means do that once more. A songbird need to have a smooth beak to chirp with--no false notes! [Puts his arm round her waist.] That is so, isn't it? Yes, I am sure it's miles. [Lets her go.] We will say no more approximately it. [Sits down by the stove.] How warm and snug it's far right here! [Turns over his papers.]

Nora [after a short pause, during which she busies herself with the Christmas Tree.] Torvald!

Helmer. Yes.

Nora. I am looking forward surprisingly to the flamboyant-get dressed ball at the Stenborgs' the day after tomorrow.

Helmer. And I am relatively curious to peer what you'll wonder me with.

Nora. It become very silly of me to want to do this.

Helmer. What do you suggest?

Nora. I can't come across some thing so as to do; the entirety I think of seems so silly and insignificant.

Helmer. Does my little Nora acknowledge that at last?

Nora [standing behind his chair with her arms on the back of it]. Are you very busy, Torvald?

Helmer. Well--

Nora. What are all the ones papers?

Helmer. Bank commercial enterprise.

Nora. Already?

Helmer. I even have were given authority from the retiring supervisor to adopt the essential adjustments in the group of workers and inside the rearrangement of the work; and I ought to make use of the Christmas week for that, with a purpose to have the whole lot so as for the new yr.

Nora. Then that turned into why this bad Krogstad--

Helmer. Hm!

Nora [leans against the back of his chair and strokes his hair]. If you hadn't been so busy I ought to have asked you a enormously big favour, Torvald.

Helmer. What is that? Tell me.

Nora. There is no one has such appropriate taste as you. And I do so need to look first-rate at the flowery-dress ball. Torvald, could not you're taking me in hand and decide what I shall go as, and what sort of a dress I shall put on?

Helmer. Aha! So my obstinate little lady is obliged to get someone to come to her rescue?

Nora. Yes, Torvald, I can't get alongside a bit with out your assist.

Helmer. Very nicely, I will assume it over, we shall control to stumble on some thing.

Nora. That is great of you. [Goes to the Christmas Tree. A short pause.] How pretty the red vegetation look--. But, tell me, was it truely something very awful that this Krogstad became responsible of?

Helmer. He cast a person's name. Have you any idea what that means?

Nora. Isn't it possible that he changed into pushed to do it via necessity?

Helmer. Yes; or, as in so many cases, through imprudence. I am no longer so heartless as to condemn a person altogether because of a single false step of that type.

Nora. No, you wouldn't, could you, Torvald?

Helmer. Many a person has been able to retrieve his person, if he has brazenly confessed his fault and taken his punishment.

Nora. Punishment--?

Helmer. But Krogstad did not anything of that kind; he got himself out of it by way of a cunning trick, and this is why he has long gone beneath altogether.

Nora. But do you watched it might--?

Helmer. Just think how a responsible man like that has to lie and play the hypocrite with every one, how he has to put on a masks in the presence of these close to and dear to him, even earlier than his very own wife and children. And approximately the kids--that is the most terrible a part of it all, Nora.

Nora. How?

Helmer. Because such an atmosphere of lies infects and poisons the whole life of a home. Each breath the youngsters soak up this type of residence is complete of

the germs of evil.

Nora [coming nearer him]. Are you sure of that?

Helmer. My expensive, I actually have often visible it in the path of my life as a lawyer. Almost every person who has long gone to the bad early in existence has had a deceitful mother.

Nora. Why do you simplest say--mother?

Helmer. It seems most commonly to be the mom's have an effect on, though clearly a bad father's could have the same result. Every lawyer is acquainted with the reality. This Krogstad, now, has been consistently poisoning his very own children with lies and dissimulation; that is why I say he has lost all moral character. [Holds out his hands to her.] That is why my sweet little Nora have to promise me now not to plead his motive. Give me your hand on it. Come, come, what's this? Give me your hand. There now, it is settled. I guarantee you it might be pretty impossible for me to work with him; I literally sense bodily ill when I am within the organization of such humans.

Nora [takes her hand out of his and goes to the opposite side of the Christmas Tree]. How warm it's miles in here; and I have such loads to do.

Helmer [getting up and putting his papers in order]. Yes, and I must try and examine through some of these before dinner; and I must think about your costume, too. And it is simply possible I may additionally have some thing geared up in gold paper to hang up on the Tree. [Puts his hand on her head.] My precious little singing-chook! [He goes into his room and shuts the door after him.]

Nora [after a pause, whispers]. No, no--it is not proper. It's impossible; it have to be impossible.

[The NURSE opens the door on the left.]

Nurse. The babies are begging so difficult to be allowed to are available to mamma.

Nora. No, no, no! Don't allow them to come in to me! You live with them, Anne.

Nurse. Very properly, ma'am. [Shuts the door.]

Nora [pale with terror]. Deprave my little children? Poison my home? [A short pause. Then she tosses her head.] It's now not actual. It can't probable be true.

ACT II

[THE SAME SCENE.--THE Christmas Tree is in the corner by the piano, stripped of its ornaments and with burnt-down candle-ends on its dishevelled branches. NORA'S cloak and hat are lying on the sofa. She is alone in the room, walking about uneasily. She stops by the sofa and takes up her cloak.]

Nora [drops her cloak]. Someone is coming now! [Goes to the door and listens.] No--it is no person. Of direction, nobody will come today, Christmas Day--nor day after today either. But, possibly--[opens the door and looks out]. No, nothing in the letterbox; it's miles quite empty. [Comes forward.] What garbage! Of direction he can not be in earnest about it. Such a issue couldn't take place; it's miles impossible--I actually have 3 little youngsters.

[Enter the NURSE from the room on the left, carrying a big cardboard box.]

Nurse. At closing I have determined the box with the fancy get dressed.

Nora. Thanks; positioned it on the table.

Nurse [doing so]. But it's miles very a good deal in need of mending.

Nora. I ought to like to tear it into a hundred thousand portions.

Nurse. What an idea! It can without problems be positioned so as--just a little patience.

Nora. Yes, I will pass and get Mrs Linde to come back and help me with it.

Nurse. What, out once more? In this terrible climate? You will catch cold, ma'am, and make yourself sick.

Nora. Well, worse than that could appear. How are the kids?

Nurse. The bad little souls are gambling with their Christmas affords, however--

Nora. Do they ask a great deal for me?

Nurse. You see, they may be so acquainted with have their mamma with them.

Nora. Yes, but, nurse, I shall not be able to be a lot with them now as I became earlier than.

Nurse. Oh well, younger youngsters without problems get conversant in some thing.

Nora. Do you think so? Do you suspect they might neglect their mom if she went

away altogether?

Nurse. Good heavens!--went away altogether?

Nora. Nurse, I want you to inform me something I actually have regularly questioned approximately--how may want to you've got the coronary heart to place your own child out among strangers?

Nurse. I become obliged to, if I wanted to be little Nora's nurse.

Nora. Yes, but how may want to you be inclined to do it?

Nurse. What, when I turned into going to get such a accurate vicinity with the aid of it? A bad woman who has were given into trouble must be glad to. Besides, that wicked guy failed to do a unmarried aspect for me.

Nora. But I suppose your daughter has quite forgotten you.

Nurse. No, indeed she hasn't. She wrote to me whilst she was showed, and while she become married.

Nora [putting her arms round her neck]. Dear old Anne, you were a good mother to me after I changed into little.

Nurse. Little Nora, negative expensive, had no other mom however me.

Nora. And if my babies had no different mom, I am sure you would--What nonsense I am talking! [Opens the box.] Go in to them. Now I should--. You will see day after today how captivating I shall appearance.

Nurse. I am sure there might be no person at the ball so fascinating as you, ma'am. [Goes into the room on the left.]

Nora [begins to unpack the box, but soon pushes it away from her]. If only I dared exit. If only no one would come. If most effective I ought to make sure nothing would manifest here within the interim. Stuff and nonsense! No one will come. Only I mustn't consider it. I will brush my muff. What lovely, lovely gloves! Out of my mind, out of my thoughts! One, two, three, 4, 5, six-- [Screams.] Ah! There's a person coming--. [Makes a movement towards the door, but stands irresolute.]

[Enter Mrs Linde from the hall, where she has taken off her cloak and hat.]

Nora. Oh, it's you, Christine. There is no one else available, is there? How exact of you to return!

Mrs Linde. I heard you had been up soliciting for me.

Nora. Yes, I became passing through. As a be counted of truth, it's miles some thing you may assist me with. Let us sit down right here at the couch. Look right here. Tomorrow nighttime there's to be a fancy-dress ball on the Stenborgs', who stay above us; and Torvald wants me to move as a Neapolitan fisher-lady, and dance the Tarantella that I learned at Capri.

Mrs Linde. I see; you'll keep up the man or woman.

Nora. Yes, Torvald wants me to. Look, here is the get dressed; Torvald had it made for me there, but now it's far all so torn, and I have no idea--

Mrs Linde. We will without problems put that proper. It is only some of the trimming come unsewn here and there. Needle and thread? Now then, that is all we need.

Nora. It is nice of you.

Mrs Linde [sewing]. So you're going to be dressed up the following day Nora. I will let you know what--I shall are available for a moment and spot you in your fine feathers. But I even have completely forgotten to thank you for a pleasing evening the day before today.

Nora [gets up, and crosses the stage]. Well, I do not think the day past become as pleasant as traditional. You have to have come to town a touch in advance, Christine. Certainly Torvald does understand a way to make a residence dainty and appealing.

Mrs Linde. And so do you, it seems to me; you aren't your father's daughter for nothing. But inform me, is Doctor Rank continually as depressed as he became the day prior to this?

Nora. No; the day past it changed into very sizeable. I need to tell you that he suffers from a totally risky sickness. He has intake of the backbone, negative creature. His father became a terrible guy who devoted all varieties of excesses; and that is why his son turned into sickly from early life, do you apprehend?

Mrs Linde [dropping her sewing]. But, my dearest Nora, how do you already know something approximately such matters?

Nora [walking about]. Pooh! When you have got three kids, you get visits now and then from--from married girls, who recognize some thing of scientific subjects, and that they speak approximately one issue and any other.

Mrs Linde [goes on sewing. A short silence]. Does Doctor Rank come right here everyday?

Nora. Everyday often. He is Torvald's most intimate friend, and a incredible pal of mine too. He is similar to one of the own family.

Mrs Linde. But inform me this--is he flawlessly sincere? I imply, isn't always he the type of man this is very traumatic to make himself agreeable?

Nora. Not inside the least. What makes you observed that?

Mrs Linde. When you added him to me yesterday, he declared he had frequently heard my call cited in this house; however afterwards I observed that your husband hadn't the slightest concept who I was. So how ought to Doctor Rank--?

Nora. That is pretty right, Christine. Torvald is so absurdly fond of me that he desires me surely to himself, as he says. At first he used to seem almost jealous if I cited any of the expensive folk at home, so naturally I gave up doing so. But I regularly speak approximately such matters with Doctor Rank, because he likes hearing about them.

Mrs Linde. Listen to me, Nora. You are nonetheless very like a child in many things, and I am older than you in lots of methods and have a little more enjoy. Let me tell you this--you should make an stop of it with Doctor Rank.

Nora. What ought I to make an stop of?

Mrs Linde. Of two matters, I assume. Yesterday you talked a few nonsense about a rich admirer who changed into to depart you money--

Nora. An admirer who would not exist, alas! But what then?

Mrs Linde. Is Doctor Rank a man of means?

Nora. Yes, he's.

Mrs Linde. And has no one to offer for?

Nora. No, no one; but--

Mrs Linde. And comes right here everyday?

Nora. Yes, I instructed you so.

Mrs Linde. But how can this nicely-bred man be so tactless?

Nora. I don't apprehend you in any respect.

Mrs Linde. Don't prevaricate, Nora. Do you assume I do not wager who lent you the 2 hundred and fifty pounds?

Nora. Are you out of your senses? How can you think of one of these thing! A pal of ours, who comes here ordinary! Do you realize what a horribly painful position that could be?

Mrs Linde. Then it without a doubt isn't always he?

Nora. No, truly not. It would in no way have entered into my head for a second. Besides, he had no cash to lend then; he came into his money afterwards.

Mrs Linde. Well, I suppose that turned into fortunate for you, my pricey Nora.

Nora. No, it'd never have come into my head to invite Doctor Rank. Although I am pretty positive that if I had requested him--

Mrs Linde. But of path you might not.

Nora. Of direction now not. I haven't any cause to suppose it may in all likelihood be vital. But I am quite sure that if I informed Doctor Rank--

Mrs Linde. Behind your husband's returned?

Nora. I must make an give up of it with the other one, and so one can be behind his returned too. I must make an give up of it with him.

Mrs Linde. Yes, that's what I instructed you the day past, however--

Nora [walking up and down]. A man can put a component like that instantly a great deal simpler than a woman--

Mrs Linde. One's husband, sure.

Nora. Nonsense! [Standing still.] When you repay a debt you get your bond back, do not you?

Mrs Linde. Yes, as a remember of direction.

Nora. And can tear it into one hundred thousand portions, and burn it up--the nasty dirty paper!

Mrs Linde [looks hard at her, lays down her sewing and gets up slowly]. Nora, you are concealing some thing from me.

Nora. Do I look as though I were?

Mrs Linde. Something has occurred to you due to the fact the day gone by

morning. Nora, what's it?

Nora [going nearer to her]. Christine! [Listens.] Hush! There's Torvald come home. Do you mind going in to the kids for the prevailing? Torvald can't endure to see dressmaking taking place. Let Anne help you.

Mrs Linde [gathering some of the things together]. Certainly--but I am now not going faraway from right here until we have had it out with one another. [She goes into the room on the left, as HELMER comes in from the hall.]

Nora [going up to HELMER]. I actually have wanted you a lot, Torvald expensive.

Helmer. Was that the dressmaker?

Nora. No, it turned into Christine; she is assisting me to place my get dressed in order. You will see I shall look pretty clever.

Helmer. Wasn't that a satisfied notion of mine, now?

Nora. Splendid! But do not you observed it's far nice of me, too, to do as you want?

Helmer. Nice?--due to the fact you do as your husband desires? Well, properly, you little rogue, I am certain you did not mean it in that way. But I am no longer going to disturb you; you will need to be attempting on your dress, I assume.

Nora. I assume you'll work.

Helmer. Yes. [Shows her a bundle of papers.] Look at that. I have simply been into the bank. [Turns to go into his room.]

Nora. Torvald.

Helmer. Yes.

Nora. If your little squirrel had been to ask you for something very, very prettily--?

Helmer. What then?

Nora. Would you do it?

Helmer. I need to like to pay attention what it is, first.

Nora. Your squirrel could run about and do all her tricks if you'll be first-rate, and do what she wishes.

Helmer. Speak it appears that evidently.

Nora. Your skylark would chirp approximately in every room, along with her song rising and falling--

Helmer. Well, my skylark does that anyways.

Nora. I could play the fairy and dance for you within the moonlight, Torvald.

Helmer. Nora--you without a doubt do not mean that request you made to me this morning?

Nora [going near him]. Yes, Torvald, I beg you so earnestly--

Helmer. Have you truly the courage to open up that query once more?

Nora. Yes, pricey, you ought to do as I ask; you have to let Krogstad keep his publish inside the financial institution.

Helmer. My expensive Nora, it's miles his post that I even have organized Mrs Linde shall have.

Nora. Yes, you have been really kind about that; but you can simply as nicely brush aside some other clerk in preference to Krogstad.

Helmer. This is genuinely top notch obstinacy! Because you chose to offer him a inconsiderate promise which you might talk for him, I am predicted to--

Nora. That is not the purpose, Torvald. It is for your own sake. This fellow writes within the maximum scurrilous newspapers; you've got informed me so yourself. He can do you an unspeakable quantity of harm. I am anxious to loss of life of him--

Helmer. Ah, I understand; it is recollections of the beyond that scare you.

Nora. What do you imply?

Helmer. Naturally you are deliberating your father.

Nora. Yes--yes, of direction. Just consider for your thoughts what these malicious creatures wrote inside the papers about papa, and the way horribly they slandered him. I believe they might have procured his dismissal if the Department had now not despatched you over to inquire into it, and if you had no longer been so kindly disposed and helpful to him.

Helmer. My little Nora, there's an critical difference between your father and me. Your father's recognition as a public reliable turned into now not above

suspicion. Mine is, and I desire it'll stay so, so long as I hold my office.

Nora. You in no way can tell what mischief those guys may additionally contrive. We ought to be so well off, so comfortable and happy right here in our peaceful home, and have no cares--you and I and the children, Torvald! That is why I beg you so earnestly--

Helmer. And it is simply with the aid of interceding for him which you make it not possible for me to maintain him. It is already acknowledged at the Bank that I imply to disregard Krogstad. Is it to get about now that the brand new manager has modified his mind at his spouse's bidding--

Nora. And what if it did?

Helmer. Of direction!--if best this obstinate little man or woman can get her manner! Do you think I am going to make myself ridiculous before my entire body of workers, to allow humans assume that I am a man to be swayed by all forms of out of doors affect? I need to very quickly feel the consequences of it, I can let you know! And except, there may be one thing that makes it pretty not possible for me to have Krogstad in the Bank so long as I am supervisor.

Nora. Whatever is that?

Helmer. His moral failings I would possibly perhaps have not noted, if essential--

Nora. Yes, you could--couldn't you?

Helmer. And I listen he is a superb employee, too. But I knew him whilst we have been boys. It became one of these rash friendships that so often show an incubus in afterlife. I may also as properly tell you it seems that, we have been once on very intimate terms with each other. But this tactless fellow lays no restraint on himself when other human beings are present. On the opposite, he thinks it offers him the proper to undertake a familiar tone with me, and every minute it's far "I say, Helmer, vintage fellow!" and that sort of thing. I assure you it's miles extremely painful for me. He could make my position within the Bank intolerable.

Nora. Torvald, I don't trust you imply that.

Helmer. Don't you? Why no longer?

Nora. Because it is such a slim-minded manner of searching at matters.

Helmer. What are you pronouncing? Narrow-minded? Do you believe you studied I am slender-minded?

Nora. No, simply the opposite, dear--and it's far exactly because of this.

Helmer. It's the equal thing. You say my factor of view is slender-minded, so I have to be so too. Narrow-minded! Very well--I must positioned an cease to this. [Goes to the hall door and calls.] Helen!

Nora. What are you going to do?

Helmer [looking among his papers]. Settle it. [Enter MAID.] Look right here; take this letter and pass downstairs with it immediately. Find a messenger and inform him to deliver it, and be quick. The address is on it, and here is the cash.

Maid. Very well, sir. [Exit with the letter.]

Helmer [putting his papers together]. Now then, little Miss Obstinate.

Nora [breathlessly]. Torvald--what turned into that letter?

Helmer. Krogstad's dismissal.

Nora. Call her back, Torvald! There remains time. Oh Torvald, call her lower back! Do it for my sake--on your own sake--for the children's sake! Do you pay attention me, Torvald? Call her lower back! You don't know what that letter can bring upon us.

Helmer. It's too overdue.

Nora. Yes, it is too late.

Helmer. My dear Nora, I can forgive the tension you are in, despite the fact that honestly it is an insult to me. It is, certainly. Isn't it an insult to suppose that I have to be frightened of a ravenous quill-motive force's vengeance? But I forgive you however, because it's miles such eloquent witness on your remarkable love for me. [Takes her in his arms.] And this is as it must be, my personal darling Nora. Come what's going to, you will be sure I shall have each courage and electricity in the event that they be wished. You will see I am man enough to take the whole thing upon myself.

Nora [in a horror-stricken voice]. What do you suggest through that?

Helmer. Everything, I say--

Nora [recovering herself]. You will never need to do that.

Helmer. That's proper. Well, we will proportion it, Nora, as guy and spouse have to. That is how it shall be. [Caressing her.] Are you content material now? There! There!--not these fearful dove's eyes! The entire aspect is most effective the wildest fancy!--Now, you need to go and play through the Tarantella and training with your tambourine. I shall pass into the internal office and close the door, and I shall pay attention not anything; you could make as plenty noise as you please. [Turns back at the door.] And whilst Rank comes, inform him in which he's going to find me. [Nods to her, takes his papers and goes into his room, and shuts the door after him.]

Nora [bewildered with anxiety, stands as if rooted to the spot, and whispers]. He turned into able to doing it. He will do it. He will do it despite the whole thing.-- No, now not that! Never, in no way! Anything instead of that! Oh, for a few help, some manner out of it! [The door-bell rings.] Doctor Rank! Anything in preference to that--something, anything it's far! [She puts her hands over her face, pulls herself together, goes to the door and opens it. RANK is standing without, hanging up his coat. During the following dialogue it begins to grow dark.]

Nora. Good day, Doctor Rank. I knew your ring. But you should not move in to Torvald now; I assume he's busy with something.

Rank. And you?

Nora [brings him in and shuts the door after him]. Oh, you understand thoroughly I always have time for you.

Rank. Thank you. I shall employ as a lot of it as I can.

Nora. What do you mean by using that? As an awful lot of it as you could?

Rank. Well, does that alarm you?

Nora. It turned into such a peculiar way of placing it. Is some thing probable to manifest?

Rank. Nothing however what I actually have lengthy been organized for. But I truly failed to anticipate it to show up so quickly.

Nora [gripping him by the arm]. What have you discovered out? Doctor Rank, you must inform me.

Rank [sitting down by the stove]. It is all up with me. And it can not be helped.

Nora [with a sigh of relief]. Is it approximately your self?

Rank. Who else? It is no use mendacity to 1's self. I am the most wretched of all my sufferers, Mrs Helmer. Lately I had been taking inventory of my inner economic system. Bankrupt! Probably within a month I shall lie rotting in the churchyard.

Nora. What an unpleasant factor to say!

Rank. The aspect itself is cursedly unsightly, and the worst of it's far that I shall should face so much extra that is ugly earlier than that. I shall simplest make one greater examination of myself; when I have executed that, I shall recognise pretty honestly whilst it will be that the horrors of dissolution will start. There is some thing I need to tell you. Helmer's delicate nature gives him an unconquerable disgust at everything that is ugly; I may not have him in my unwell-room.

Nora. Oh, but, Doctor Rank--

Rank. I might not have him there. Not on any account. I bar my door to him. As soon as I am quite certain that the worst has come, I shall ship you my card with a black pass on it, and then you may know that the loathsome give up has started.

Nora. You are pretty absurd nowadays. And I desired you so much to be in a truely exact humour.

Rank. With demise stalking beside me?--To must pay this penalty for another guy's sin? Is there any justice in that? And in each unmarried family, in a single way or any other, some such inexorable retribution is being exacted--

Nora [putting her hands over her ears]. Rubbish! Do speak of something cheerful.

Rank. Oh, it's a mere laughing remember, the entirety. My poor innocent spine has to suffer for my father's youthful amusements.

Nora [sitting at the table on the left]. I suppose you imply that he was too partial to asparagus and pate de foie gras, don't you?

Rank. Yes, and to muffins.

Nora. Truffles, sure. And oysters too, I assume?

Rank. Oysters, of path, that goes with out saying.

Nora. And lots of port and poo. It is sad that every one these fine things need to take their revenge on our bones.

Rank. Especially that they must revenge themselves on the unfortunate bones of those who've now not had the delight of playing them.

Nora. Yes, it really is the saddest part of all of it.

Rank [with a searching look at her]. Hm!--

Nora [after a short pause]. Why did you smile?

Rank. No, it was you that laughed.

Nora. No, it was you that smiled, Doctor Rank!

Rank [rising]. You are a extra rascal than I idea.

Nora. I am in a silly mood today.

Rank. So it seems.

Nora [putting her hands on his shoulders]. Dear, pricey Doctor Rank, loss of life mustn't take you away from Torvald and me.

Rank. It is a loss you'll effortlessly recover from. Those who are long gone are quickly forgotten.

Nora [looking at him anxiously]. Do you trust that?

Rank. People form new ties, and then--

Nora. Who will form new ties?

Rank. Both you and Helmer, when I am long past. You yourself are already on the high road to it, I suppose. What did that Mrs Linde need here closing night?

Nora. Oho!--you do not mean to say you're jealous of negative Christine?

Rank. Yes, I am. She may be my successor on this house. When I am completed for, this woman will--

Nora. Hush! Don't talk so loud. She is in that room.

Rank. Today again. There, you spot.

Nora. She has best come to stitch my dress for me. Bless my soul, how unreasonable you're! [Sits down on the sofa.] Be first-rate now, Doctor Rank, and tomorrow you'll see how fantastically I shall dance, and you may consider I

am doing it thinking about you--and for Torvald too, of direction. [Takes various things out of the box.] Doctor Rank, come and sit down here, and I will show you something.

Rank [sitting down]. What is it?

Nora. Just have a look at the ones!

Rank. Silk stockings.

Nora. Flesh-colored. Aren't they lovable? It is so dark here now, but the following day--. No, no, no! You have to only look at the feet. Oh properly, you may have go away to study the legs too.

Rank. Hm!--

Nora. Why are you looking so vital? Don't you think they'll match me?

Rank. I don't have any manner of forming an opinion approximately that.

Nora [looks at him for a moment]. For shame! [Hits him lightly on the ear with the stockings.] That's to punish you. [Folds them up again.]

Rank. And what different satisfactory matters am I to be allowed to see?

Nora. Not a unmarried component greater, for being so naughty. [She looks among the things, humming to herself.]

Rank [after a short silence]. When I am sitting here, speaking to you as intimately as this, I can not consider for a second what could have emerge as of me if I had in no way come into this house.

Nora [smiling]. I accept as true with you do feel thoroughly at domestic with us.

Rank [in a lower voice, looking straight in front of him]. And to be obliged to go away it all--

Nora. Nonsense, you are not going to leave it.

Rank [as before]. And not be able to leave in the back of one the slightest token of one's gratitude, scarcely even a fleeting regret--nothing however an empty vicinity which the first comer can fill as well as any other.

Nora. And if I asked you currently for a--? No!

Rank. For what?

Nora. For a massive proof of your friendship--

Rank. Yes, sure!

Nora. I suggest a fantastically huge favour--

Rank. Would you in reality make me so glad for as soon as?

Nora. Ah, but you do not know what it's miles yet.

Rank. No--but tell me.

Nora. I in reality can not, Doctor Rank. It is some thing out of all purpose; it way advice, and help, and a favour--

Rank. The bigger a element it's miles the better. I cannot conceive what it's far you imply. Do inform me. Haven't I your confidence?

Nora. More than anybody else. I recognise you're my truest and satisfactory friend, and so I will let you know what it's far. Well, Doctor Rank, it is some thing you have to assist me to save you. You realize how devotedly, how inexpressibly deeply Torvald loves me; he would by no means for a second hesitate to offer his life for me.

Rank [leaning towards her]. Nora--do you think he's the only one--?

Nora [with a slight start]. The only one--?

Rank. The simplest one that would gladly provide his life in your sake.

Nora [sadly]. Is that it?

Rank. I become decided you have to know it before I went away, and there'll never be a higher possibility than this. Now you realize it, Nora. And now you realize, too, that you may agree with me as you would accept as true with no one else.

Nora [rises, deliberately and quietly]. Let me bypass.

Rank [makes room for her to pass him, but sits still]. Nora!

Nora [at the hall door]. Helen, bring inside the lamp. [Goes over to the stove.] Dear Doctor Rank, that was without a doubt horrid of you.

Rank. To have cherished you as plenty as all and sundry else does? Was that horrid?

Nora. No, but to go and tell me so. There was surely no need--

Rank. What do you suggest? Did you realize--? [MAID enters with lamp, puts it

down on the table, and goes out.] Nora--Mrs Helmer--inform me, had you any concept of this?

Nora. Oh, how do I recognize whether or not I had or whether or not I hadn't? I virtually can't let you know--To assume you may be so clumsy, Doctor Rank! We have been getting on so properly.

Rank. Well, in any respect activities you recognize now that you could command me, body and soul. So won't you communicate out?

Nora [looking at him]. After what occurred?

Rank. I beg you to let me realize what it's miles.

Nora. I can not inform you something now.

Rank. Yes, yes. You should not punish me in that way. Let me have permission to do for you some thing a person may additionally do.

Nora. You can do nothing for me now. Besides, I virtually do not want any help in any respect. You will find that the entirety is merely fancy on my part. It without a doubt is so--of path it is! [Sits down in the rocking-chair, and looks at him with a smile.] You are a nice type of man, Doctor Rank!--don't you experience ashamed of yourself, now the lamp has come?

Rank. Not a bit. But perhaps I had higher pass--for ever?

Nora. No, certainly, you shall no longer. Of course you must come right here just as before. You recognize very well Torvald can't do with out you.

Rank. Yes, but you?

Nora. Oh, I am continually highly thrilled while you come.

Rank. It is just that, that positioned me on the wrong music. You are a riddle to me. I actually have frequently thought which you might nearly as quickly be in my organisation as in Helmer's.

Nora. Yes--you spot there are a few human beings one loves quality, and others whom one could nearly continually as an alternative have as partners.

Rank. Yes, there may be some thing in that.

Nora. When I changed into at domestic, of course I cherished papa satisfactory. But I continually thought it brilliant fun if I should scouse borrow down into the maids' room, because they in no way moralised in any respect, and talked to

every other about such exciting things.

Rank. I see--it's miles their location I even have taken.

Nora [jumping up and going to him]. Oh, dear, first-class Doctor Rank, I by no means supposed that at all. But without a doubt you may remember the fact that being with Torvald is a bit like being with papa--[Enter MAID from the hall.]

Maid. If you please, ma'am. [Whispers and hands her a card.]

Nora [glancing at the card]. Oh! [Puts it in her pocket.]

Rank. Is there whatever wrong?

Nora. No, no, now not within the least. It is only some thing--it's miles my new dress--

Rank. What? Your get dressed is lying there.

Nora. Oh, sure, that one; but this is some other. I ordered it. Torvald mustn't understand approximately it--

Rank. Oho! Then that changed into the wonderful secret.

Nora. Of route. Just go in to him; he is sitting within the internal room. Keep him so long as--

Rank. Make your thoughts easy; I won't permit him get away.

[Goes into HELMER'S room.]

Nora [to the MAID]. And he is status waiting in the kitchen?

Maid. Yes; he got here up the lower back stairs.

Nora. But didn't you inform him nobody become in?

Maid. Yes, however it become no right.

Nora. He may not go away?

Maid. No; he says he might not until he has visible you, ma'am.

Nora. Well, let him are available in--however quietly. Helen, you mustn't say something about it to each person. It is a marvel for my husband.

Maid. Yes, ma'am, I quite understand. [Exit.]

Nora. This dreadful thing goes to occur! It will appear no matter me! No, no, no, it can't manifest--it shan't show up! [She bolts the door of HELMER'S room. The

MAID opens the hall door for KROGSTAD and shuts it after him. He is wearing a fur coat, high boots and a fur cap.]

Nora [advancing towards him]. Speak low--my husband is at domestic.

Krogstad. No depend about that.

Nora. What do you want of me?

Krogstad. An clarification of some thing.

Nora. Make haste then. What is it?

Krogstad. You recognise, I assume, that I actually have got my dismissal.

Nora. I could not prevent it, Mr. Krogstad. I fought as tough as I may want to for your facet, however it was no proper.

Krogstad. Does your husband love you so little, then? He knows what I can divulge you to, and but he ventures--

Nora. How are you able to suppose that he has any information of the type?

Krogstad. I didn't suppose so in any respect. It might not be the least like our pricey Torvald Helmer to expose so much courage--

Nora. Mr. Krogstad, a bit admire for my husband, please.

Krogstad. Certainly--all the admire he deserves. But for the reason that you've got saved the problem so carefully to yourself, I make bold to suppose that you have a bit clearer concept, than you had the previous day, of what it simply is that you have finished?

Nora. More than you can ever train me.

Krogstad. Yes, this kind of bad attorney as I am.

Nora. What is it you want of me?

Krogstad. Only to peer how you have been, Mrs Helmer. I have been thinking about you all day lengthy. A mere cashier, a quill-motive force, a--properly, a person like me--even he has a little of what's known as feeling, you recognize.

Nora. Show it, then; think about my little children.

Krogstad. Have you and your husband idea of mine? But by no means mind approximately that. I most effective desired to tell you which you need now not take this matter too severely. In the first vicinity there will be no accusation

made on my element.

Nora. No, of direction not; I changed into positive of that.

Krogstad. The whole component may be organized amicably; there is no reason why all and sundry must recognise something about it. It will continue to be a mystery among us three.

Nora. My husband ought to in no way get to know whatever approximately it.

Krogstad. How will you be able to save you it? Am I to remember the fact that you can pay the stability this is owing?

Nora. No, no longer simply at present.

Krogstad. Or possibly that you have a few expedient for raising the cash soon?

Nora. No expedient that I suggest to utilize.

Krogstad. Well, anyhow, it might were of no use to you now. If you stood there with ever so much cash for your hand, I might in no way part along with your bond.

Nora. Tell me what reason you mean to put it to.

Krogstad. I shall most effective keep it--keep it in my possession. No one that isn't worried in the matter shall have the slightest trace of it. So that if the concept of it has driven you to any desperate resolution--

Nora. It has.

Krogstad. If you had it in your mind to run faraway from your private home--

Nora. I had.

Krogstad. Or even some thing worse--

Nora. How ought to you realize that?

Krogstad. Give up the concept.

Nora. How did you realize I had idea of that?

Krogstad. Most people think about that before everything. I did, too--however I hadn't the courage.

Nora [faintly]. No extra had I.

Krogstad [in a tone of relief]. No, it really is it, isn't always it--you hadn't the

braveness either?

Nora. No, I have not--I haven't.

Krogstad. Besides, it might were a top notch piece of folly. Once the first hurricane at domestic is over--. I have a letter to your husband in my pocket.

Nora. Telling him everything?

Krogstad. In as lenient a manner as I in all likelihood ought to.

Nora [quickly]. He shouldn't get the letter. Tear it up. I will discover some manner of having cash.

Krogstad. Excuse me, Mrs Helmer, however I assume I advised you just now--

Nora. I am now not speaking of what I owe you. Tell me what sum you're asking my husband for, and I gets the cash.

Krogstad. I am now not asking your husband for a penny.

Nora. What do you need, then?

Krogstad. I will inform you. I need to rehabilitate myself, Mrs Helmer; I need to get on; and in that your husband need to help me. For the ultimate yr and a 1/2 I even have no longer had a hand in something dishonourable, amid all that point I had been struggling in maximum restrained situations. I became content material to paintings my manner up little by little. Now I am turned out, and I am now not going to be glad with simply being taken into favour again. I want to get on, I inform you. I need to get into the Bank again, in a higher function. Your husband need to make an area for me--

Nora. That he will in no way do!

Krogstad. He will; I understand him; he dare now not protest. And as quickly as I am in there once more with him, then you will see! Within a yr I shall be the manager's proper hand. It could be Nils Krogstad and no longer Torvald Helmer who manages the Bank.

Nora. That's a component you will by no means see!

Krogstad. Do you imply that you may--?

Nora. I even have courage enough for it now.

Krogstad. Oh, you can not frighten me. A fine, spoilt woman like you--

Nora. You will see, you may see.

Krogstad. Under the ice, perhaps? Down into the bloodless, coal-black water? And then, in the spring, to float up to the floor, all horrible and unrecognisable, with your hair fallen out--

Nora. You cannot frighten me.

Krogstad. Nor you me. People don't do such things, Mrs Helmer. Besides, what use would it not be? I ought to have him completely in my energy all the same.

Nora. Afterwards? When I am not--

Krogstad. Have you forgotten that it's far I who have the retaining of your popularity? [NORA stands speechlessly looking at him.] Well, now, I have warned you. Do not do something silly. When Helmer has had my letter, I shall expect a message from him. And be sure you remember that it is your husband himself who has pressured me into such ways as this again. I will in no way forgive him for that. Goodbye, Mrs Helmer. [Exit through the hall.]

Nora [goes to the hall door, opens it slightly and listens.] He goes. He isn't setting the letter in the box. Oh no, no! It is impossible! [Opens the door by degrees.] What is that? He is standing out of doors. He isn't going downstairs. Is he hesitating? Can he--? [A letter drops into the box; then KROGSTAD'S footsteps are heard, until they die away as he goes downstairs. NORA utters a stifled cry, and runs across the room to the table by the sofa. A short pause.]

Nora. In the letter-box. [Steals across to the hall door.] There it lies--Torvald, Torvald, there's no desire for us now!

[Mrs Linde comes in from the room on the left, carrying the dress.]

Mrs Linde. There, I can not see anything extra to mend now. Would you want to attempt it on--?

Nora [in a hoarse whisper]. Christine, come here.

Mrs Linde [throwing the dress down on the sofa]. What is the problem with you? You look so agitated!

Nora. Come here. Do you spot that letter? There, look--you can see it through the glass within the letter-container.

Mrs Linde. Yes, I see it.

Nora. That letter is from Krogstad.

Mrs Linde. Nora--it become Krogstad who lent you the money!

Nora. Yes, and now Torvald will understand all approximately it.

Mrs Linde. Believe me, Nora, that's the quality element for each of you.

Nora. You don't know all. I cast a call.

Mrs Linde. Good heavens--!

Nora. I most effective want to say this to you, Christine--you have to be my witness.

Mrs Linde. Your witness? What do you suggest? What am I to--?

Nora. If I must exit of my mind--and it would without problems occur--

Mrs Linde. Nora!

Nora. Or if something else have to appear to me--something, for example, that could prevent my being right here--

Mrs Linde. Nora! Nora! You are quite from your thoughts.

Nora. And if it should show up that there had been some person who wanted to take all the duty, all the blame, you understand--

Mrs Linde. Yes, sure--but how are you going to think--?

Nora. Then you ought to be my witness, that it is not genuine, Christine. I am no longer out of my thoughts in any respect; I am in my proper senses now, and I inform you no person else has recognised whatever about it; I, and I alone, did the whole thing. Remember that.

Mrs Linde. I will, indeed. But I do not apprehend all this.

Nora. How ought to you understand it? A excellent aspect is going to occur!

Mrs Linde. A superb thing?

Nora. Yes, a extraordinary issue!--But it is so horrible, Christine; it mustn't appear, now not for all the world.

Mrs Linde. I will go immediately and see Krogstad.

Nora. Don't visit him; he's going to do you some harm.

Mrs Linde. There become a time when he could gladly do something for my sake.

Nora. He?

Mrs Linde. Where does he live?

Nora. How have to I understand--? Yes [feeling in her pocket], here is his card. But the letter, the letter--!

Helmer [calls from his room, knocking at the door]. Nora! Nora [cries out anxiously]. Oh, what's that? What do you want?

Helmer. Don't be so apprehensive. We aren't coming in; you have got locked the door. Are you trying to your dress?

Nora. Yes, it really is it. I appearance so excellent, Torvald.

Mrs Linde [who has read the card]. I see he lives at the corner right here.

Nora. Yes, however it's little need. It is hopeless. The letter is lying there inside the box.

Mrs Linde. And your husband maintains the important thing?

Nora. Yes, always.

Mrs Linde. Krogstad must ask for his letter lower back unread, he need to locate some pretence--

Nora. But it is simply right now that Torvald usually--

Mrs Linde. You ought to put off him. Go in to him in the intervening time. I will come back as soon as I can. [She goes out hurriedly through the hall door.]

Nora [goes to HELMER'S door, opens it and peeps in]. Torvald!

Helmer [from the inner room]. Well? May I undertaking at ultimate to come into my own room once more? Come along, Rank, now you may see-- [Halting in the doorway.] But what's this?

Nora. What is what, pricey?

Helmer. Rank led me to assume a remarkable transformation.

Rank [in the doorway]. I understood so, but certainly I changed into incorrect.

Nora. Yes, no person is to have the danger of admiring me in my get dressed until day after today.

Helmer. But, my expensive Nora, you look so worn out. Have you been working towards too much?

Nora. No, I have now not practised in any respect.

Helmer. But you'll want to--

Nora. Yes, certainly I shall, Torvald. But I cannot get on a bit without you to assist me; I actually have actually forgotten the whole lot.

Helmer. Oh, we can quickly work it up again.

Nora. Yes, help me, Torvald. Promise that you will! I am so anxious about it--all of the people--. You have to supply yourself as much as me entirely this night. Not the tiniest bit of enterprise--you shouldn't even take a pen on your hand. Will you promise, Torvald expensive?

Helmer. I promise. This nighttime I may be totally and truly at your service, you helpless little mortal. Ah, by means of the way, first of all I will just-- [Goes towards the hall door.]

Nora. What are you going to do there?

Helmer. Only see if any letters have come.

Nora. No, no! Do not do that, Torvald!

Helmer. Why no longer?

Nora. Torvald, please do not. There is not anything there.

Helmer. Well, let me look. [Turns to go to the letter-box. NORA, at the piano, plays the first bars of the Tarantella. HELMER stops in the doorway.] Aha!

Nora. I can't dance the following day if I don't guidance with you.

Helmer [going up to her]. Are you sincerely so afraid of it, dear?

Nora. Yes, so dreadfully scared of it. Let me practise at once; there's time now, before we visit dinner. Sit down and play for me, Torvald dear; criticise me, and correct me as you play.

Helmer. With superb pleasure, in case you desire me to. [Sits down at the piano.]

Nora [takes out of the box a tambourine and a long variegated shawl. She hastily drapes the shawl round her. Then she springs to the front of the stage and calls out]. Now play for me! I am going to bounce!

[HELMER plays and NORA dances. RANK stands by the piano behind HELMER, and looks on.]

Helmer [as he plays]. Slower, slower!

Nora. I can't do it another manner.

Helmer. Not so violently, Nora!

Nora. This is the way.

Helmer [stops playing]. No, no--that is not a chunk proper.

Nora [laughing and swinging the tambourine]. Didn't I let you know so?

Rank. Let me play for her.

Helmer [getting up]. Yes, do. I can correct her better then.

[RANK sits down at the piano and plays. NORA dances more and more wildly. HELMER has taken up a position beside the stove, and during her dance gives her frequent instructions. She does not seem to hear him; her hair comes down and falls over her shoulders; she pays no attention to it, but goes on dancing. Enter Mrs Linde.]

Mrs Linde [standing as if spell-bound in the doorway]. Oh!--

Nora [as she dances]. Such fun, Christine!

Helmer. My expensive darling Nora, you're dancing as though your life depended on it.

Nora. So it does.

Helmer. Stop, Rank; this is sheer insanity. Stop, I let you know! [RANK stops playing, and NORA suddenly stands still. HELMER goes up to her.] I should in no way have believed it. You have forgotten the entirety I taught you.

Nora [throwing away the tambourine]. There, you see.

Helmer. You will want a number of training.

Nora. Yes, you spot how tons I need it. You ought to educate me up to the remaining minute. Promise me that, Torvald!

Helmer. You can rely upon me.

Nora. You should no longer consider whatever however me, either today or the following day; you mustn't open a single letter--now not even open the letter-box--

Helmer. Ah, you're nevertheless frightened of that fellow--

Nora. Yes, indeed I am.

Helmer. Nora, I can inform out of your seems that there's a letter from him lying there.

Nora. I don't know; I suppose there is; however you need to now not study some thing of that kind now. Nothing horrid have to come between us till this is all over.

Rank [whispers to HELMER]. You shouldn't contradict her.

Helmer [taking her in his arms]. The baby shall have her manner. But tomorrow night, after you have danced--

Nora. Then you may be free. [The MAID appears in the doorway to the right.]

Maid. Dinner is served, ma'am.

Nora. We can have champagne, Helen.

Maid. Very suitable, ma'am. [Exit.

Helmer. Hullo!--are we going to have a dinner party?

Nora. Yes, a champagne feast until the small hours. [Calls out.] And a few macaroons, Helen--lots, just for as soon as!

Helmer. Come, come, don't be so wild and nervous. Be my very own little skylark, as you used.

Nora. Yes, expensive, I will. But pass in now and you too, Doctor Rank. Christine, you have to assist me to do up my hair.

Rank [whispers to HELMER as they go out]. I assume there may be nothing--she isn't always looking ahead to something?

Helmer. Far from it, my pricey fellow; it is really not anything extra than this infantile anxiousness I turned into telling you of. [They go into the right-hand room.]

Nora. Well!

Mrs Linde. Gone out of city.

Nora. I could inform out of your face.

Mrs Linde. He is coming domestic the following day evening. I wrote a word for him.

Nora. You must have permit it on my own; you have to save you not anything. After all, it is splendid to be expecting a awesome aspect to take place.

Mrs Linde. What is it which you are looking ahead to?

Nora. Oh, you would not recognize. Go in to them, I will are available a moment. [Mrs Linde goes into the dining-room. NORA stands still for a little while, as if to compose herself. Then she looks at her watch.] Five o'clock. Seven hours till nighttime; and then four-and-twenty hours until the following middle of the night. Then the Tarantella could be over. Twenty-4 and seven? Thirty-one hours to live.

Helmer [from the doorway on the right]. Where's my little skylark?

Nora [going to him with her arms outstretched]. Here she is!

ACT III

[THE SAME SCENE.--The table has been placed in the middle of the stage, with chairs around it. A lamp is burning on the table. The door into the hall stands open. Dance music is heard in the room above. Mrs Linde is sitting at the table idly turning over the leaves of a book; she tries to read, but does not seem able to collect her thoughts. Every now and then she listens intently for a sound at the outer door.]

Mrs Linde [looking at her watch]. Not yet--and the time is sort of up. If best he does now not--. [Listens again.] Ah, there he is. [Goes into the hall and opens the outer door carefully. Light footsteps are heard on the stairs. She whispers.] Come in. There is not any one right here.

Krogstad [in the doorway]. I located a notice from you at home. What does this imply?

Mrs Linde. It is virtually necessary that I ought to have a talk with you.

Krogstad. Really? And is it virtually essential that it have to be here?

Mrs Linde. It is impossible wherein I stay; there's no non-public entrance to my rooms. Come in; we are pretty on my own. The maid is asleep, and the Helmers are at the dance upstairs.

Krogstad [coming into the room]. Are the Helmers certainly at a dance tonight?

Mrs Linde. Yes, why no longer?

Krogstad. Certainly--why no longer?

Mrs Linde. Now, Nils, allow us to have a communicate.

Krogstad. Can we two have something to talk about?

Mrs Linde. We have a terrific deal to speak about.

Krogstad. I should not have idea so.

Mrs Linde. No, you've got by no means well understood me.

Krogstad. Was there whatever else to understand except what became obvious to all the world--a heartless lady jilts a person while a greater beneficial chance turns up?

Mrs Linde. Do you believe I am as simply heartless as all that? And do you agree with that I did it with a light heart?

Krogstad. Didn't you?

Mrs Linde. Nils, did you truly assume that?

Krogstad. If it were as you say, why did you write to me as you did on the time?

Mrs Linde. I should do nothing else. As I had to interrupt with you, it changed into my obligation additionally to position an give up to all which you felt for me.

Krogstad [wringing his hands]. So that become it. And all this--simplest for the sake of money!

Mrs Linde. You must no longer neglect that I had a helpless mom and little brothers. We couldn't look forward to you, Nils; your prospects seemed hopeless then.

Krogstad. That may be so, however you had no right to throw me over for all and sundry else's sake.

Mrs Linde. Indeed I do not know. Many a time did I ask myself if I had the proper to do it.

Krogstad [more gently]. When I lost you, it turned into as though all the strong ground went from beneath my ft. Look at me now--I am a shipwrecked guy clinging to a piece of wreckage.

Mrs Linde. But assist may be close to.

Krogstad. It turned into close to; however then you definately got here and stood in my manner.

Mrs Linde. Unintentionally, Nils. It was handiest nowadays that I discovered it changed into your vicinity I turned into going to take within the Bank.

Krogstad. I accept as true with you, if you say so. But now that you realize it, are you no longer going to present it as much as me?

Mrs Linde. No, because that would now not benefit you inside the least.

Krogstad. Oh, gain, benefit--I would have carried out it whether or no.

Mrs Linde. I have found out to act prudently. Life, and hard, bitter necessity have taught me that.

Krogstad. And life has taught me now not to consider in pleasant speeches.

Mrs Linde. Then lifestyles has taught you some thing very affordable. But deeds you should agree with in?

Krogstad. What do you imply by that?

Mrs Linde. You said you had been like a shipwrecked man clinging to some wreckage.

Krogstad. I had true purpose to say so.

Mrs Linde. Well, I am like a shipwrecked lady clinging to some wreckage--nobody to mourn for, no one to take care of.

Krogstad. It turned into your personal preference.

Mrs Linde. There was no other desire--then.

Krogstad. Well, what now?

Mrs Linde. Nils, how wouldn't it be if we two shipwrecked people may want to be part of forces?

Krogstad. What are you announcing?

Mrs Linde. Two on the equal piece of wreckage might stand a higher danger than each on their very own.

Krogstad. Christine I...

Mrs Linde. What do you assume introduced me to city?

Krogstad. Do you mean which you gave me a idea?

Mrs Linde. I couldn't undergo existence with out paintings. All my lifestyles, so long as I can consider, I have worked, and it's been my finest and most effective pleasure. But now I am quite by myself within the global--my existence is so dreadfully empty and I sense so forsaken. There isn't always the least delight in running for one's self. Nils, give me someone and some thing to paintings for.

Krogstad. I don't accept as true with that. It is nothing however a lady's overstrained sense of generosity that activates you to make such a suggestion of your self.

Mrs Linde. Have you ever noticed something of the kind in me?

Krogstad. Could you definitely do it? Tell me--do you understand all approximately my past life?

Mrs Linde. Yes.

Krogstad. And do what they consider me here?

Mrs Linde. You regarded to me to imply that with me you may were pretty any other man.

Krogstad. I am positive of it.

Mrs Linde. Is it too late now?

Krogstad. Christine, are you saying this intentionally? Yes, I am sure you are. I see it to your face. Have you virtually the courage, then--?

Mrs Linde. I need to be a mom to someone, and your children want a mother. We want every other. Nils, I have faith to your actual man or woman--I can dare some thing together with you.

Krogstad [grasps her hands]. Thanks, thank you, Christine! Now I shall find a way to clear myself in the eyes of the sector. Ah, however I forgot--

Mrs Linde [listening]. Hush! The Tarantella! Go, cross!

Krogstad. Why? What is it?

Mrs Linde. Do you hear them up there? When this is over, we may anticipate them lower back.

Krogstad. Yes, sure--I will cross. But it is all little need. Of path you are not aware what steps I even have taken in the be counted of the Helmers.

Mrs Linde. Yes, I know all about that.

Krogstad. And in spite of that have you the braveness to--?

Mrs Linde. I understand thoroughly to what lengths a man such as you is probably pushed by way of depression.

Krogstad. If I may want to only undo what I actually have completed!

Mrs Linde. You cannot. Your letter is lying within the letter-field now.

Krogstad. Are you certain of that?

Mrs Linde. Quite positive, but--

Krogstad [with a searching look at her]. Is that what all of it method?--which you want to save your buddy at any cost? Tell me frankly. Is that it?

Mrs Linde. Nils, a female who has as soon as offered herself for another's sake, would not do it a 2d time.

Krogstad. I will ask for my letter back.

Mrs Linde. No, no.

Krogstad. Yes, of path I will. I will wait right here until Helmer comes; I will tell him he ought to supply me my letter lower back--that it best concerns my dismissal--that he isn't to read it--

Mrs Linde. No, Nils, you need to now not remember your letter.

Krogstad. But, inform me, wasn't it for that very purpose that you requested me to fulfill you here?

Mrs Linde. In my first moment of fright, it become. But twenty-4 hours have elapsed given that then, and in that point I even have witnessed top notch things on this residence. Helmer must understand all approximately it. This unhappy secret have to be disclosed; they ought to have a entire information between them, that is not possible with all this concealment and falsehood taking place.

Krogstad. Very properly, if you'll take the duty. But there's one thing I can do anyways, and I shall do it right now.

Mrs Linde [listening]. You need to be short and move! The dance is over; we are not safe a moment longer.

Krogstad. I will look forward to you below.

Mrs Linde. Yes, do. You should see me back to my door...

Krogstad. I actually have in no way had such an wonderful piece of true fortune in my life! [Goes out through the outer door. The door between the room and the hall remains open.]

Mrs Linde [tidying up the room and laying her hat and cloak ready]. What a difference! What a distinction! Someone to paintings for and stay for--a home to convey comfort into. That I will do, certainly. I desire they could be brief and are available--[Listens.] Ah, there they're now. I must put on my things. [Takes up her hat and cloak. HELMER'S and NORA'S voices are heard outside; a key is turned, and HELMER brings NORA almost by force into the hall. She is in an Italian costume with a large black shawl around her; he is in evening dress, and a black domino which is flying open.]

Nora [hanging back in the doorway, and struggling with him]. No, no, no!--do not take me in. I want to move upstairs again; I do not want to go away so early.

Helmer. But, my dearest Nora--

Nora. Please, Torvald expensive--please, please--simplest an hour extra.

Helmer. Not a unmarried minute, my candy Nora. You understand that changed into our agreement. Come alongside into the room; you're catching cold status there. [He brings her gently into the room, in spite of her resistance.]

Mrs Linde. Good nighttime.

Nora. Christine!

Helmer. You right here, so overdue, Mrs Linde?

Mrs Linde. Yes, you must excuse me; I became so anxious to peer Nora in her dress.

Nora. Have you been sitting right here waiting for me?

Mrs Linde. Yes, alas I came too late, you had already gone upstairs; and I concept I could not depart again while not having seen you.

Helmer [taking off NORA'S shawl]. Yes, take a very good examine her. I think she is well worth looking at. Isn't she charming, Mrs Linde?

Mrs Linde. Yes, indeed she is.

Helmer. Doesn't she appearance remarkably quite? Everyone concept so on the dance. But she is very self-willed, this candy little character. What are we to do together with her? You will hardly agree with that I had almost to carry her away by means of force.

Nora. Torvald, you will repent no longer having allow me live, even though it were best for 1/2 an hour.

Helmer. Listen to her, Mrs Linde! She had danced her Tarantella, and it have been a outstanding achievement, as it deserved--even though possibly the overall performance changed into a trifle too practical--a bit more so, I suggest, than turned into strictly like minded with the constraints of art. But in no way mind approximately that! The chief element is, she had made a success--she had made a exceptional success. Do you observed I became going to allow her remain there after that, and break the impact? No, indeed! I took my charming little Capri maiden--my capricious little Capri maiden, I need to say--on my arm; took

one short turn spherical the room; a curtsey on both aspect, and, as they are saying in novels, the stunning apparition disappeared. An exit ought constantly to be effective, Mrs Linde; however that is what I can't make Nora recognize. Pooh! This room is hot. [Throws his domino on a chair, and opens the door of his room.] Hullo! It is all darkish in right here. Oh, of course--excuse me--. [He goes in, and lights some candles.]

Nora [in a hurried and breathless whisper]. Well?

Mrs Linde [in a low voice]. I actually have had a speak with him.

Nora. Yes, and--

Mrs Linde. Nora, you need to inform your husband all approximately it.

Nora [in an expressionless voice]. I knew it.

Mrs Linde. You have nothing to be scared of as some distance as Krogstad is involved; however you must inform him.

Nora. I won't tell him.

Mrs Linde. Then the letter will.

Nora. Thank you, Christine. Now I know what I ought to do. Hush--!

Helmer [coming in again]. Well, Mrs Linde, have you ever prominent her?

Mrs Linde. Yes, and now I will say goodnight.

Helmer. What, already? Is this yours, this knitting?

Mrs Linde [taking it]. Yes, thank you, I had very nearly forgotten it.

Helmer. So you knit?

Mrs Linde. Of course.

Helmer. Do , you need to embroider.

Mrs Linde. Really? Why?

Helmer. Yes, it's miles more becoming. Let me show you. You keep the embroidery consequently to your left hand, and use the needle with the proper--like this--with a long, easy sweep. Do you spot?

Mrs Linde. Yes, possibly--

Helmer. But within the case of knitting--that may never be anything but

ungraceful; look here--the fingers near together, the knitting-needles going up and down--it has a type of Chinese impact--. That become really first-rate champagne they gave us.

Mrs Linde. Well,--goodnight, Nora, and do not be self-willed any greater.

Helmer. That's right, Mrs Linde.

Mrs Linde. Goodnight, Mr. Helmer.

Helmer [accompanying her to the door]. Goodnight, goodnight. I wish you will get home all right. I must be very happy to--but you haven't any high-quality distance to go. Goodnight, goodnight. [She goes out; he shuts the door after her, and comes in again.] Ah!--at remaining we've got got rid of her. She is a frightful bore, that girl.

Nora. Aren't you very worn-out, Torvald?

Helmer. No, no longer inside the least.

Nora. Nor sleepy?

Helmer. Not a piece. On the opposite, I experience especially active. And you?--you simply look both worn-out and sleepy.

Nora. Yes, I am very worn-out. I want to nod off right away.

Helmer. There, you see it turned into pretty right of me no longer to permit you to stay there any longer.

Nora. Everything you do is pretty right, Torvald.

Helmer [kissing her on the forehead]. Now my little skylark is speakme reasonably. Did you observe what correct spirits Rank was on this nighttime?

Nora. Really? Was he? I failed to speak to him at all.

Helmer. And I little or no, however I even have no longer for a long time seen him in such accurate shape. [Looks for a while at her and then goes nearer to her.] It is pleasant to be at domestic with the aid of ourselves once more, to be all on my own with you--you captivating, charming little darling!

Nora. Don't look at me like that, Torvald.

Helmer. Why should not I take a look at my dearest treasure?--at all the beauty that is mine, all my very very own?

Nora [going to the other side of the table]. You mustn't say things like that to me tonight.

Helmer [following her]. You have still were given the Tarantella to your blood, I see. And it makes you greater captivating than ever. Listen--the visitors are starting to head now. [In a lower voice.] Nora--quickly the whole house can be quiet.

Nora. Yes, I hope so.

Helmer. Yes, my very own darling Nora. Do you recognize, after I am out at a party with you like this, why I communicate so little to you, avoid you, and only send a stolen glance for your course now and then?--do you understand why I do this? It is due to the fact I make accept as true with to myself that we are secretly in love, and you are my secretly promised bride, and that nobody suspects there may be some thing among us.

Nora. Yes, yes--I understand very well your mind are with me all the time.

Helmer. And whilst we're leaving, and I am setting the scarf over your stunning younger shoulders--to your cute neck--then I imagine that you are my young bride and that we've got simply come from the wedding, and I am bringing you for the first time into our home--to be by myself with you for the first time--pretty by myself with my shy little darling! All this night I even have longed for nothing but you. When I watched the seductive figures of the Tarantella, my blood became on hearth; I should endure it no longer, and that become why I introduced you down so early--

Nora. Go away, Torvald! You have to allow me cross. I might not--

Helmer. What's that? You're joking, my little Nora! You might not--you may not? Am I no longer your husband--? [A knock is heard at the outer door.]

Nora [starting]. Did you listen--?

Helmer [going into the hall]. Who is it?

Rank [outside]. It is I. May I come in for a second?

Helmer [in a fretful whisper]. Oh, what does he need now? [Aloud.] Wait a minute! [Unlocks the door.] Come, it's sort of you now not to bypass by using our door.

Rank. I thought I heard your voice, and felt as if I have to like to appearance in.

[With a swift glance round.] Ah, sure!--those expensive familiar rooms. You are very glad and cosy in here, you two.

Helmer. It appears to me that you looked after yourself pretty properly upstairs too.

Rank. Excellently. Why should not I? Why shouldn't one experience the whole lot on this global?--at any rate as an awful lot as you can still, and so long as you'll. The wine changed into capital--

Helmer. Especially the champagne.

Rank. So you noticed that too? It is almost top notch how a lot I managed to position away!

Nora. Torvald drank a excellent deal of champagne tonight too.

Rank. Did he?

Nora. Yes, and he's constantly in such top spirits afterwards.

Rank. Well, why should one now not enjoy a merry evening after a well-spent day?

Helmer. Well spent? I am afraid I can not take credit score for that.

Rank [clapping him on the back]. But I can, you know!

Nora. Doctor Rank, you have to have been involved in a few medical research these days.

Rank. Exactly.

Helmer. Just concentrate!--little Nora talking about scientific investigations!

Nora. And can also I congratulate you on the result?

Rank. Indeed you can.

Nora. Was it beneficial, then?

Rank. The excellent viable, for each doctor and patient--certainty.

Nora [quickly and searchingly]. Certainty?

Rank. Absolute actuality. So wasn't I entitled to make a merry evening of it after that?

Nora. Yes, you genuinely had been, Doctor Rank.

Helmer. I think so too, so long as you do not have to pay for it within the morning.

Rank. Oh nicely, one can't have anything on this life with out paying for it.

Nora. Doctor Rank--are you keen on fancy-dress balls?

Rank. Yes, if there may be a great lot of pretty costumes.

Nora. Tell me--what shall we put on at the following?

Helmer. Little featherbrain!--are you thinking of the next already?

Rank. We two? Yes, I can inform you. You shall pass as an amazing fairy--

Helmer. Yes, but what do you advocate as the suitable gown for that?

Rank. Let your wife move dressed just as she is in everyday existence.

Helmer. That was really very prettily became. But can not you inform us what you'll be?

Rank. Yes, my expensive friend, I have quite made up my mind approximately that.

Helmer. Well?

Rank. At the next fancy-dress ball I will be invisible.

Helmer. That's an excellent shaggy dog story!

Rank. There is a huge black hat--have you in no way heard of hats that make you invisible? If you placed one on, nobody can see you.

Helmer [suppressing a smile]. Yes, you are pretty right.

Rank. But I am clean forgetting what I came for. Helmer, provide me a cigar--one of the darkish Havanas.

Helmer. With the best satisfaction. [Offers him his case.]

Rank [takes a cigar and cuts off the end]. Thanks.

Nora [striking a match]. Let me give you a mild.

Rank. Thank you. [She holds the match for him to light his cigar.] And now goodbye!

Helmer. Goodbye, good-bye, expensive old guy!

Nora. Sleep well, Doctor Rank.

Rank. Thank you for that want.

Nora. Wish me the equal.

Rank. You? Well, if you need me to sleep well! And thank you for the mild. [He nods to them both and goes out.]

Helmer [in a subdued voice]. He has under the influence of alcohol more than he ought.

Nora [absently]. Maybe. [HELMER takes a bunch of keys out of his pocket and goes into the hall.] Torvald! What are you going to do there?

Helmer. Emptying the letter-box; it is pretty complete; there will be no room to put the newspaper in tomorrow morning.

Nora. Are you going to paintings tonight?

Helmer. You recognize quite nicely I'm no longer. What is that this? Someone has been at the lock.

Nora. At the lock--?

Helmer. Yes, a person has. What can it suggest? I have to in no way have notion the maid--. Here is a damaged hairpin. Nora, it's miles considered one of yours.

Nora [quickly]. Then it should had been the children--

Helmer. Then you should get them out of those ways. There, at closing I have were given it open. [Takes out the contents of the letter-box, and calls to the kitchen.] Helen!--Helen, placed out the mild over the the front door. [Goes back into the room and shuts the door into the hall. He holds out his hand full of letters.] Look at that--appearance what a heap of them there are. [Turning them over.] What on the earth is that?

Nora [at the window]. The letter--No! Torvald, no!

Helmer. Two playing cards--of Rank's.

Nora. Of Doctor Rank's?

Helmer [looking at them]. Doctor Rank. They had been on the pinnacle. He ought to have placed them in while he went out.

Nora. Is there anything written on them?

Helmer. There is a black cross over the call. Look there--what an uncomfortable idea! It seems like he were pronouncing his very own death.

Nora. It is just what he is doing.

Helmer. What? Do you realize something approximately it? Has he said something to you?

Nora. Yes. He instructed me that once the cards got here it'd be his depart-taking from us. He means to shut himself up and die.

Helmer. My negative vintage pal! Certainly I knew we must not have him very long with us. But so soon! And so he hides himself away like a wounded animal.

Nora. If it has to manifest, it is fine it ought to be with out a word--do not you believe you studied so, Torvald?

Helmer [walking up and down]. He had so grown into our lives. I cannot think about him as having long past out of them. He, with his sufferings and his loneliness, become like a cloudy historical past to our sunlit happiness. Well, possibly it is great so. For him, anyway. [Standing still.] And possibly for us too, Nora. We two are thrown quite upon each different now. [Puts his arms round her.] My darling wife, I don't sense as if I could hold you tight enough. Do you already know, Nora, I actually have regularly needed which you might be threatened by a few incredible danger, in order that I might threat my lifestyles's blood, and the entirety, in your sake.

Nora [disengages herself, and says firmly and decidedly]. Now you should read your letters, Torvald.

Helmer. No, no; not tonight. I want to be with you, my darling spouse.

Nora. With the notion of your buddy's death--

Helmer. You are right, it has affected us each. Something ugly has come among us--the notion of the horrors of dying. We ought to attempt to rid our minds of that. Until then--we can each go to our own room.

Nora [hanging on his neck]. Goodnight, Torvald--Goodnight!

Helmer [kissing her on the forehead]. Goodnight, my little making a song-hen. Sleep sound, Nora. Now I will read my letters via. [He takes his letters and goes into his room, shutting the door after him.]

Nora [gropes distractedly about, seizes HELMER'S domino, throws it round her,

while she says in quick, hoarse, spasmodic whispers]. Never to peer him again. Never! Never! [Puts her shawl over her head.] Never to look my youngsters again either--by no means again. Never! Never!--Ah! The icy, black water--the unfathomable depths--If simplest it had been over! He has were given it now--now he is reading it. Goodbye, Torvald and my children! [She is about to rush out through the hall, when HELMER opens his door hurriedly and stands with an open letter in his hand.]

Helmer. Nora!

Nora. Ah!--

Helmer. What is this? Do you already know what is on this letter?

Nora. Yes, I recognise. Let me move! Let me get out!

Helmer [holding her back]. Where are you going?

Nora [trying to get free]. You shan't save me, Torvald!

Helmer [reeling]. True? Is this real, that I study here? Horrible! No, no--it's miles not possible that it may be proper.

Nora. It is genuine. I actually have cherished you above everything else within the world.

Helmer. Oh, do not allow us to have any silly excuses.

Nora [taking a step towards him]. Torvald--!

Helmer. Miserable creature--what have you ever accomplished?

Nora. Let me cross. You shall now not go through for my sake. You shall no longer take it upon yourself.

Helmer. No tragic airs, please. [Locks the hall door.] Here you shall live and give me an evidence. Do you recognize what you have got achieved? Answer me! Do you recognize what you have completed?

Nora [looks steadily at him and says with a growing look of coldness in her face]. Yes, now I am beginning to apprehend very well.

Helmer [walking about the room]. What a horrible awakening! All those 8 years--she who changed into my joy and pleasure--a hypocrite, a liar--worse, worse--a criminal! The unutterable ugliness of all of it!--For shame! For shame! [NORA is silent and looks steadily at him. He stops in front of her.] I should have

suspected that some thing of the kind might happen. I must have foreseen it. All your father's need of principle--be silent!--all of your father's want of principle has come out in you. No faith, no morality, no feel of duty--. How I am punished for having winked at what he did! I did it for your sake, and that is how you pay off me.

Nora. Yes, that is simply it.

Helmer. Now you have got destroyed all my happiness. You have ruined all my destiny. It is terrible to think of! I am inside the strength of an unscrupulous man; he can do what he likes with me, ask something he likes of me, provide me any orders he pleases--I dare not refuse. And I ought to sink to such miserable depths because of a thoughtless lady!

Nora. When I am out of the way, you will be loose.

Helmer. No pleasant speeches, please. Your father had usually plenty of these equipped, too. What accurate would it be to me in case you had been out of the way, as you say? Not the slightest. He can make the affair acknowledged everywhere; and if he does, I can be falsely suspected of getting been a party to your criminal movement. Very likely humans will assume I become in the back of it all--that it become I who prompted you! And I should thank you for all this--you whom I even have cherished at some stage in the entire of our married lifestyles. Do you recognize now what it's far you have completed for me?

Nora [coldly and quietly]. Yes.

Helmer. It is so outstanding that I can't take it in. But we must come to a few know-how. Take off that shawl. Take it off, I inform you. I should try to appease him a few manner or every other. The count ought to be hushed up at any fee. And as for you and me, it should seem like the whole thing between us had been simply as before--but certainly best in the eyes of the world. You will nevertheless continue to be in my residence, that is a be counted of course. But I shall now not can help you deliver up the children; I dare now not trust them to you. To suppose that I should be obliged to say so to 1 whom I have cherished so dearly, and whom I still--. No, this is throughout. From this second happiness is not the query; all that concerns us is to store the stays, the fragments, the advent-

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[A ring is heard at the front-door bell.]

Helmer [with a start]. What is that? So past due! Can the worst--? Can he--?

Hide your self, Nora. Say you're ill.

[NORA stands motionless. HELMER goes and unlocks the hall door.]

Maid [half-dressed, comes to the door]. A letter for the mistress.

Helmer. Give it to me. [Takes the letter, and shuts the door.] Yes, it is from him. You shall not have it; I will study it myself.

Nora. Yes, study it.

Helmer [standing by the lamp]. I scarcely have the courage to do it. It may additionally imply ruin for each people. No, I need to understand. [Tears open the letter, runs his eye over a few lines, looks at a paper enclosed, and gives a shout of joy.] Nora! [She looks at him questioningly.] Nora!--No, I ought to study it all over again--. Yes, it's far genuine! I am saved! Nora, I am saved!

Nora. And I?

Helmer. You too, of route; we're each saved, each you and I. Look, he sends you your bond again. He says he regrets and repents--that a satisfied trade in his lifestyles--never mind what he says! We are saved, Nora! No possible do anything to you. Oh, Nora, Nora!--no, first I have to destroy those hateful things. Let me see--. [Takes a look at the bond.] No, no, I might not study it. The entire factor shall be not anything however a terrible dream to me. [Tears up the bond and both letters, throws them all into the stove, and watches them burn.] There--now it would not exist to any extent further. He says that due to the fact Christmas Eve you--. These need to have been 3 dreadful days for you, Nora.

Nora. I have fought a hard combat these three days.

Helmer. And suffered agonies, and visible no way out but--. No, we won't call any of the horrors to mind. We will handiest shout with pleasure, and hold saying, "It's all over! It's throughout!" Listen to me, Nora. You don't seem to recognize that it's far throughout. What is this?--such a cold, set face! My terrible little Nora, I pretty understand; you do not feel as though you may agree with that I actually have forgiven you. But it's miles real, Nora, I swear it; I have forgiven you the whole lot. I recognize that what you probably did, you did out of love for me.

Nora. That is genuine.

Helmer. You have loved me as a spouse must love her husband. Only you had now not enough information to judge of the way you used. But do you assume

you're any the much less expensive to me, because you do not understand the way to act for your personal obligation? No, no; handiest lean on me; I will endorse you and direct you. I ought to no longer be a man if this womanly helplessness did not just come up with a double beauty in my eyes. You must not assume anymore approximately the tough matters I stated in my first second of consternation, after I concept the whole lot became going to weigh down me. I have forgiven you, Nora; I swear to you I even have forgiven you.

Nora. Thank you for your forgiveness. [She goes out through the door to the right.]

Helmer. No, do not move--. [Looks in.] What are you doing in there?

Nora [from within]. Taking off my fancy dress.

Helmer [standing at the open door]. Yes, do. Try and calm your self, and make your mind smooth once more, my frightened little singing-hen. Be at rest, and feel cozy; I have extensive wings to shelter you under. [Walks up and down by the door.] How heat and comfortable our home is, Nora. Here is refuge for you; right here I will guard you like a hunted dove that I actually have saved from a hawk's claws; I will carry peace to your bad beating coronary heart. It will come, grade by grade, Nora, agree with me. Tomorrow morning you'll look upon it all pretty in a different way; quickly the whole lot can be just as it became before. Very quickly you won't want me to guarantee you that I actually have forgiven you; you may yourself experience the understanding that I have finished so. Can you think I ought to ever consider any such component as repudiating you, or maybe reproaching you? You don't have any concept what a true guy's coronary heart is like, Nora. There is some thing so indescribably candy and fulfilling, to a person, in the know-how that he has forgiven his spouse--forgiven her freely, and with all his coronary heart. It appears as if that had made her, as it have been, doubly his own; he has given her a new lifestyles, so to talk; and he or she has in a manner turn out to be both wife and child to him. So you shall be for me after this, my little scared, helpless darling. Have no anxiety approximately some thing, Nora; most effective be frank and open with me, and I will function will and sense of right and wrong each to you--. What is this? Not long past to bed? Have you changed your matters?

Nora [in everyday dress]. Yes, Torvald, I even have changed my matters now.

Helmer. But what for?--so overdue as this.

Nora. I shall not sleep this night.

Helmer. But, my expensive Nora--

Nora [looking at her watch]. It isn't always so very past due. Sit down here, Torvald. You and I even have a great deal to say to one another. [She sits down at one side of the table.]

Helmer. Nora--what's this?--this bloodless, set face?

Nora. Sit down. It will make an effort; I have plenty to talk over with you.

Helmer [sits down at the opposite side of the table]. You alarm me, Nora!--and I don't recognize you.

Nora. No, that is just it. You do not recognize me, and I have in no way understood you both--earlier than this night. No, you mustn't interrupt me. You must without a doubt concentrate to what I say. Torvald, that is a settling of accounts.

Helmer. What do you imply through that?

Nora [after a short silence]. Isn't there one issue that strikes you as extraordinary in our sitting here like this?

Helmer. What is that?

Nora. We had been married now eight years. Does it no longer occur to you that that is the first time we, you and I, husband and wife, have had a extreme communique?

Helmer. What do you mean via severe?

Nora. In these kinds of eight years--longer than that--from the very beginning of our acquaintance, we've in no way exchanged a word on any critical problem.

Helmer. Was it in all likelihood that I could be constantly and all the time telling you approximately issues which you could not help me to undergo?

Nora. I am not speakme about commercial enterprise subjects. I say that we've got never sat down in earnest together to try to get at the bottom of some thing.

Helmer. But, dearest Nora, would it have been any true to you?

Nora. That is just it; you have in no way understood me. I had been greatly wronged, Torvald--first with the aid of papa after which by way of you.

Helmer. What! By us two--through us two, who have loved you higher than every body else inside the international?

Nora [shaking her head]. You have never cherished me. You have only thought it high-quality to be in love with me.

Helmer. Nora, what do I hear you pronouncing?

Nora. It is perfectly true, Torvald. When I was at home with papa, he instructed me his opinion approximately everything, and so I had the equal reviews; and if I differed from him I hid the truth, because he would now not have favored it. He called me his doll-baby, and he performed with me simply as I used to play with my dolls. And once I came to live with you--

Helmer. What form of an expression is that to apply about our marriage?

Nora [undisturbed]. I imply that I became surely transferred from papa's fingers into yours. You arranged the whole thing in line with your own flavor, and so I got the identical tastes as you--or else I pretended to, I am clearly not quite certain which--I suppose on occasion the one and now and again the opposite. When I look back on it, it appears to me as if I have been living here like a terrible female--just from hand to mouth. I even have existed simply to perform tricks for you, Torvald. But you'll have it so. You and papa have devoted a splendid sin against me. It is your fault that I even have made nothing of my lifestyles.

Helmer. How unreasonable and how ungrateful you are, Nora! Have you not been happy right here?

Nora. No, I even have in no way been glad. I idea I became, but it has in no way without a doubt been so.

Helmer. Not--not glad!

Nora. No, best merry. And you have constantly been so type to me. But our domestic has been not anything however a playroom. I were your doll-wife, simply as at home I changed into papa's doll-baby; and right here the youngsters had been my dolls. I concept it terrific a laugh whilst you played with me, just as they concept it extraordinary amusing after I played with them. That is what our marriage has been, Torvald.

Helmer. There is a few truth in what you are saying--exaggerated and strained as your view of it's miles. But for the future it shall be one of a kind. Playtime shall

be over, and lesson-time shall begin.

Nora. Whose training? Mine, or the children's?

Helmer. Both yours and the children's, my darling Nora.

Nora. Alas, Torvald, you aren't the person to train me into being a right wife for you.

Helmer. And you could say that!

Nora. And I--how am I suited to carry up the youngsters?

Helmer. Nora!

Nora. Didn't you assert so your self a touch while in the past--which you dare no longer agree with me to carry them up?

Helmer. In a second of anger! Why do you pay any heed to that?

Nora. Indeed, you have been flawlessly proper. I am no longer in shape for the mission. There is some other mission I must adopt first. I need to try to educate myself--you aren't the person to assist me in that. I ought to do that for myself. And that is why I am going to depart you presently.

Helmer [springing up]. What do you assert?

Nora. I should stand pretty on my own, if I am to recognize myself and the whole lot about me. It is for that reason that I cannot continue to be with you any more.

Helmer. Nora, Nora!

Nora. I am going far from right here now, at once. I am sure Christine will take me in for the night time--

Helmer. You are out of your mind! I may not permit it! I forbid you!

Nora. It is no use forbidding me some thing any further. I will take with me what belongs to myself. I will take not anything from you, both now or later.

Helmer. What type of insanity is that this!

Nora. Tomorrow I shall pass home--I mean, to my vintage domestic. It could be simplest for me to find some thing to do there.

Helmer. You blind, silly lady!

Nora. I must attempt to get some feel, Torvald.

Helmer. To wasteland your house, your husband and your children! And you don't take into account what humans will say!

Nora. I can not don't forget that at all. I most effective recognize that it is important for me.

Helmer. It's stunning. This is how you would overlook your most sacred duties.

Nora. What do you keep in mind my most sacred obligations?

Helmer. Do I want to inform you that? Are they now not your duties on your husband and your children?

Nora. I produce other responsibilities just as sacred.

Helmer. That you have not. What obligations may want to the ones be?

Nora. Duties to myself.

Helmer. Before all else, you're a spouse and a mother.

Nora. I do not accept as true with that to any extent further. I believe that before all else I am an affordable human being, simply as you're--or, at all events, that I have to attempt to come to be one. I know pretty well, Torvald, that the general public might assume you right, and that views of that type are to be discovered in books; however I can now not content material myself with what most of the people say, or with what is determined in books. I need to assume over matters for myself and get to recognize them.

Helmer. Can you no longer understand your location in your property? Have you not a reliable manual in such subjects as that?--have you no faith?

Nora. I am afraid, Torvald, I do not precisely recognize what religion is.

Helmer. What are you announcing?

Nora. I understand nothing but what the clergyman said, once I went to be showed. He informed us that faith became this, and that, and the other. When I am far from all this, and am by myself, I will look at that count too. I will see if what the clergyman stated is proper, or at all occasions if it's miles true for me.

Helmer. This is unprecedented in a lady of your age! But if religion cannot lead you aright, permit me try and awaken your conscience. I think you have a few moral sense? Or--answer me--am I to assume you have none?

Nora. I assure you, Torvald, that isn't an clean query to answer. I truely don't

know. The issue perplexes me altogether. I most effectively understand which you and I examine it in quite a one of a kind mild. I am learning, too, that the regulation is pretty some other issue from what I intended; however I discover it not possible to persuade myself that the law is right. According to it a female has no proper to spare her vintage demise father, or to keep her husband's existence. I cannot trust that.

Helmer. You communicate like a baby. You don't apprehend the conditions of the sector in which you stay.

Nora. No, I do not. But now I am going to try. I am going to see if I can make out who is proper, the world or I.

Helmer. You are unwell, Nora; you are delirious; I almost suppose you are from your thoughts.

Nora. I even have by no means felt my thoughts so clean and positive as this night.

Helmer. And is it with a clean and sure thoughts which you forsake your husband and your kids?

Nora. Yes, it's far.

Helmer. Then there is most effective one feasible explanation.

Nora. What is that?

Helmer. You do now not love me anymore.

Nora. No, this is just it.

Helmer. Nora!--and you could say that?

Nora. It gives me first rate pain, Torvald, for you have got usually been so type to me, however I cannot assist it. I do now not love you any extra.

Helmer [regaining his composure]. Is that a clean and certain conviction too?

Nora. Yes, simply clear and positive. That is the motive why I will not live right here to any extent further.

Helmer. And are you able to inform me what I even have done to forfeit your love?

Nora. Yes, certainly I can. It turned into this night, when the outstanding thing did no longer appear; then I noticed you had been not the man I had thought you

were.

Helmer. Explain your self higher. I do not understand you.

Nora. I have waited so patiently for eight years; for, goodness is aware of, I knew thoroughly that wonderful things don't manifest each day. Then this terrible misfortune got here upon me; and then I felt pretty certain that the brilliant issue become going to take place at final. When Krogstad's letter became lying obtainable, by no means for a second did I consider which you would consent to just accept this guy's situations. I turned into so simply certain which you would say to him: Publish the issue to the complete world. And when that was carried out--

Helmer. Yes, what then?--when I had exposed my wife to disgrace and shame?

Nora. When that become carried out, I changed into so truely sure, you would come ahead and take everything upon your self, and say: I am the guilty one.

Helmer. Nora--!

Nora. You mean that I would never have usual the sort of sacrifice to your element? No, of path not. But what might my assurances have been really worth towards yours? That changed into the great component which I hoped for and feared; and it was to save you that, that I wanted to kill myself.

Helmer. I could gladly paintings night and day for you, Nora--endure sorrow and want on your sake. But no guy might sacrifice his honour for the only he loves.

Nora. It is a issue loads of thousands of women have accomplished.

Helmer. Oh, you think and speak like a heedless infant.

Nora. Maybe. But you neither assume nor speak like the guy I should bind myself to. As quickly as your worry turned into over--and it turned into not worry for what threatened me, however for what may appear to you--while everything became beyond, as a ways as you have been concerned it was precisely as if not anything at all had happened. Exactly as before, I became your little skylark, your doll, that you would in destiny treat with doubly gentle care, because it changed into so brittle and fragile. [Getting up.] Torvald--it changed into then it dawned upon me that for eight years I had been dwelling right here with a unusual guy, and had borne him three children--. Oh, I cannot bear to think of it! I should tear myself into little bits!

Helmer [sadly]. I see, I see. An abyss has opened among us--there's no denying

it. But, Nora, wouldn't it now not be viable to fill it up?

Nora. As I am now, I am no wife for you.

Helmer. I have it in me to turn out to be a extraordinary guy.

Nora. Perhaps--in case your doll is taken faraway from you.

Helmer. But to element!--to component from you! No, no, Nora, I can't understand that concept.

Nora [going out to the right]. That makes it all the more positive that it should be finished. [She comes back with her cloak and hat and a small bag which she puts on a chair by the table.]

Helmer. Nora, Nora, now not now! Wait until the following day.

Nora [putting on her cloak]. I cannot spend the night time in a abnormal man's room.

Helmer. But can not we stay here like brother and sister--?

Nora [putting on her hat]. You recognise thoroughly that might not last lengthy. [Puts the shawl round her.] Goodbye, Torvald. I may not see the babies. I understand they're in higher palms than mine. As I am now, I can be of no use to them.

Helmer. But a few day, Nora--some day?

Nora. How can I tell? I have no concept what is going to emerge as of me.

Helmer. But you are my spouse, something will become of you.

Nora. Listen, Torvald. I actually have heard that after a spouse deserts her husband's house, as I am doing now, he is legally freed from all duties toward her. In any case, I set you unfastened from all your responsibilities. You are not to feel your self sure inside the slightest way, any greater than I shall. There need to be best freedom on each facets. See, here is your ring lower back. Give me mine.

Helmer. That too?

Nora. That too.

Helmer. Here it's miles.

Nora. That's proper. Now it's far throughout. I even have put the keys here. The

maids know all approximately the entirety inside the residence--higher than I do. Tomorrow, after I have left her, Christine will come right here and percent up my personal things that I introduced with me from home. I will have them sent after me.

Helmer. All over! All over!--Nora, shall you by no means consider me again?

Nora. I recognise I shall often think of you, the youngsters, and this house.

Helmer. May I write to you, Nora?

Nora. No--in no way. You have to not try this.

Helmer. But at the least let me ship you--

Nora. Nothing--not anything--

Helmer. Let me help you if you are in need.

Nora. No. I can acquire not anything from a stranger.

Helmer. Nora--can I never be whatever more than a stranger to you?

Nora [taking her bag]. Ah, Torvald, the most notable factor of all could need to show up.

Helmer. Tell me what that would be!

Nora. Both you and I might should be so changed that--. Oh, Torvald, I don't agree with any longer in great matters happening.

Helmer. But I will trust in it. Tell me! So modified that--?

Nora. That our existence collectively could be a actual wedlock. Goodbye. [She goes out through the hall.]

Helmer [sinks down on a chair at the door and buries his face in his hands].

Nora! Nora! [Looks round, and rises.] Empty. She is gone. [A hope flashes across his mind.] The most brilliant factor of all--?

[The sound of a door shutting is heard
from below.]
