```
A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen DRAMATIS PERSONAE Torvald Helmer. Nora, his wife. Doctor Rank. Mrs. Linde. Nil
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                s Krogstad. Helmer's three young 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 th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e back, a door to the right leads to the entrance-hall, another to the left leads to Helmer's study. Between the doors sta
nds a piano. In the middle of the left-hand wall is a door, and beyond it a window. Near the window are a round t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          able, arm-chairs and a small sofa. In the right-hand wall, at the farther end, another door; and on the same side, ne
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             the door is heard to open. Enter NORA, humming a tune and in high spirits. She is in outdoor dress and carries through it is seen a PORTER who is carrying a Christmas Tree and a basket, which he gives to the MAID who til this evening, when it is dressed. (To the PORTER, taking out her purse.) How much? Porter. Sixpence. Nor
arer the footlights, a stove, two easy chairs and a rocking-chair; between the stove and the door, a small table
s. The floors are carpeted, and a fire burns in the stove. It is winter. A bell rings in the hall; shortly afterwards
a number of parcels; these she lays on the table to the right. She leaves the outer door open after her, and
has opened the door.) Nora. Hide the Christmas Tree carefully, Helen. Be sure the children do not see it un a. There is a shilling. No, keep the change. (The PORTER thanks her, and goes out. NORA shuts the door ket and eats one or two; then goes cautiously to her husband's door and listens.) Yes, he is in. (Still hum
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   She is laughing to herself, as she takes off her hat and coat. She takes a packet of macaroons from her poc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ming, she goes to the table on the right.) Helmer (calls out from his room). Is that my little lark twittering out Nora. Yes! Helmer. When did my squirrel come home? Nora. Just now. (Puts the bag of macaroons into he
there? Nora (busy opening some of the parcéls). Yes, it is! Helmer. Is it my little squirrel bustling about?
r pocket and wipes her mouth.) Come in here, Torvald, and see what I have bought. Helmer. Don't distu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     rb me. (A little later, he opens the door and looks into the room, pen in hand.) Bought, did you say? All the
se things? Has my little spendthrift been wasting money again? Nora. Yes but, Torvald, this year we re
Still, you know, we can't spend money recklessly. Nora. Yes, Torvald, we may be a wee bit more reck
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ally can let ourselves go a little. This is the first Christmas that we have not needed to economise. Helmer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      less now, mayn't we? Just a tiny wee bit! You are going to have a big salary and earn lots and lots of mo . Pooh! we can borrow until then. Helmer. Nora! (Goes up to her and takes her playfully by the ear.) The
ney. Helmer. Yes, after the New Year; but then it will be a whole quarter before the salary is due. Nora
ame little featherhead! Suppose, now, that I borrowed fifty pounds today, and you spent it all in the C hands over his mouth). Oh! don't say such horrid things. Helmer. Still, suppose that happened,--wha. Yes, but what about the people who had lent it? Nora. They? Who would bother about them? I sho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hristmas week, and then on New Year's Eve a slate fell on my head and killed me, and --Nora (putting her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        t then? Nora. If that were to happen, I don't suppose I should care whether I owed money or not. Helmer uld not know who they were. Helmer. That is like a woman! But seriously, Nora, you know what I think a
bout that. No debt, no borrowing. There can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depend
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s on borrowing and debt. We two have kept bravely on the straight road so far, and we will go on the sa
me way for the short time longer that there need be any struggle. Nora (moving towards the stove).
s. What is this! Is my little squirrel out of temper? (Taking out his purse.) Nora, what do you think I
Do you think I don't know what a lot is wanted for housekeeping at Christmas-time? Nora (countin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          As you please, Torvald. Helmer (following her). Come, come, my little skylark must not droop her wing have got here? Nora (turning round quickly). Money! Helmer. There you are. (Gives her some money.) g). Ten shillings--a pound--two pounds! Thank you, thank you, Torvald; that will keep me going for a lo
ng time. Helmer. Indeed it must. Nora. Yes, yes, it will. But come here and let me show you what I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           have bought. And all so cheap! Look, here is a new suit for Ivar, and a sword; and a horse and a trump
et for Bob; and a doll and dolly's bedstead for Émmy,--they are very plain, but anyway she will soo
eally to have something better. Helmer. And what is in this parcel? Nora (crying out). No, no! you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          n break them in pieces. And here are dress-lengths and handkerchiefs for the maids; old Anne ought'r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          mustn't see that until this evening. Helmer. Very well. But now tell me, you extravagant little person, we so but you must. Tell me something reasonable that you would particularly like to have. Nora. No, I read without raising her eyes to his). If you really want to give me something, you might--you might-- Hel uch as you can afford; and then one of these days I will buy something with it. Helmer. But, Nora-- No er and ha to the Christmas Tree. Wouldn't that be fun? Helmer. What are little people
hat would you like for yourself? Nora. For myself? Oh, I am sure I don't want anything. Helmer. Ye
lly can't think of anything--unless, Torvald-- Helmer. Well? Nora (playing with his coat buttons, an
mer. Well, out with it! Nora (speaking quickly). You might give me money, Torvald. Only just as m ra. Oh, do! dear Torvald; please, please do! Then I will wrap it up in beautifu I gilt pap called that are always wasting money? Nora. Spendthrifts--I know. Let us do want of. That is a very sensible plan, isn't it? Helmer (smiling). Indeed it is--t ly buy something for yourself. But if you spend it all on the housekeeping and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        as you suggest, Torvald, and then I shall have time to think what I am most in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      hat is to say, if you were really to save out of the money I give you, and then rea
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     any number of unnecessary things, then I merely have to pay up again. Nora. Oh
but, Torvald-- Helmer. You can't deny it, my dear little Nora. (Puts his arm round d hardly believe how expensive such little persons are! Nora. It's a shame to say th an't save anything! Nora (smiling quietly and happily). You haven't any idea how many ry like your father. You always find some new way of wheedling money out of me, and, as s I, one must take you as you are. It is in the blood; for indeed it is true that you can inherit thes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               her waist.) It's a sweet little spendthrift, but she uses up a deal of money. One woul at. I do really save all I can. Helmer (laughing). That's very true,--all you can. But you c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            expenses we skylarks and squirrels have, Torvald. Helmer. You are an odd little soul. Ve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     oon as you have got it, it seems to melt in your hands. You never know where it has gone. Stil
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e things, Nora. Nora. Ah, I wish I had inherited many of papa's qualities. Helmer. And I would not wi
es me that you are looking rather--what shall I say--rather uneasy today? Nora. Do I? Helmer. You
Hasn't Miss Sweet Tooth been breaking rules in town today? Nora. No; what makes you think that
sh you to be anything but just what you are, my sweet little skylark. But, do you know, it strik
do, really. Look straight at me. Nora (looks at him). Well? Helmer (wagging his finger at her).
? Helmer. Hasn't she paid a visit to the confectioner's? Nora. No, I assure you, Torvald-- Helm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                er. Not been nibbling sweets? Nora. No, certainly not. Helmer. Not even taken a bite at a macaroo
n or two? Nora. No, Torvald, I assure you really-- Helmer. There, there, of course I was only jok
. No, I am sure of that; besides, you gave me your word-- (Going up to her.) Keep your little Chr
s lit, no doubt. Nora. Did you remember to invite Doctor Rank? Helmer. No. But there is no need
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ing. Nora (going to the table on the right). I should not think of going against your wishes. Helmer istmas secrets to yourself, my darling. They will all be revealed tonight when the Christmas Tree is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ; as a matter of course he will come to dinner with us. However, I will ask him when he comes in thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              s evening. Nora. So am I! And how the children will enjoy themselves, Torvald! Helmer. It is splendi
s morning. I have ordered some good wine. Nora, you can't think how I am looking forward to thi
d to feel that one has a perfectly safe appointment, and a big enough income. It's delightful to thi beforehand you shut yourself up every evening until long after midnight, making ornaments for th weeks I ever spent! Nora. I didn't find it dull. Helmer (smiling). But there was precious little result,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             nk of, isn't it? Nora. It's wonderful! Helmer. Do you remember last Christmas? For a full three weeks
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e Christmas Tree, and all the other fine things that were to be a surprise to us. It was the dullest three
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Nora. Nora. Oh, you shouldn't tease me about that again. How could I help the cat's going in and teations to please us all, and that's the main thing. But it is a good thing that our hard times are over. Nor
ing everything to pieces? Helmer. Of course you couldn't, poor little girl. You had the best of intent
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        n't ruin your dear eyes and your pretty little hands-- Nora (clapping her hands). No, Torvald, I needn't a I have been thinking we ought to arrange things, Torvald. As soon as Christmas is over--(A bell rings in
a. Yes, it is really wonderful. Helmer. This time I needn't sit here and be dull all alone, and you need
ny longer, need I! It's wonderfully lovely to hear you say so! (Taking his arm.) Now I will tell you how
the hall.) There's the bell. (She tidies the room a little.) There's some one at the door. What a nuisance!
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Helmer. If it is a caller, remember I am not at home. Maid (in the doorway). A lady to see you, ma'am,—a s ight into my room? Maid. Yes, sir. (HELMER goes into his room. The MAID ushers in Mrs. LINDE, who is in t
tranger. Nora. Ask her to come in. Maid (to HELMER). The doctor came at the same time, sir. Helmer. Did
ravelling dress, and shuts the door.) Mrs. Linde (in a dejected and timid voice). How do you do, Nora? Nora eem to--(Suddenly.) Yes! Christine! Is it really you? Mrs. Linde. Yes, it is I. Nora. Christine! To think of my no e, ten long years-- Nora. Is it so long since we met? I suppose it is. The last eight years have been a happy ti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ly). How do you do--Mrs. Linde. You don't recognise me, I suppose. Nora. No, I don't know--yes, to be sure, I s
And yet how could I--(In a gentle voice.) How you have altered, Christine! Mrs. Linde. Yes, I have indeed. In nin
                                                                                                                                                                          (dou
                                                                                                                                                                                              cognising y
                                                                                                                                                                                         r me, I can tell you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                so now you have come into the town, and have taken this long journey in winter--that was plucky of you. Mrs.
e, ten long years—Nora. Is it so long since we met? I suppose it is. The last eight years have been a happy to Linde. I arrived by steamer this morning. Nora. To have some fun at Christmas-time, of course. How delightfu take this armchair; I will sit here in the rocking-chair. (Takes her hands.) Now you look like your old self again Perhaps a little older; very, very little; certainly not much. (Stops suddenly and speaks seriously.) What a thou mean, Nora? Nora (gently). Poor Christine, you are a widow. Mrs. Linde. Yes; it is three years ago now. Nora. You ways put it off and something always prevented me. Mrs. Linde. I quite understand, dear. Nora. It was very bad which and the linde. Not always prevented me. Mrs. Linde. It was not some lines.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            t take off your things. You are not cold, I hope. (Helps her.) Now we will sit down by the stove, and be cosy. No. nt--You are a little paler, Christine, and perhaps a little thinner. Mrs. Linde. And much, much older, Nora. Nora. ghtless creature I am, chattering away like this. My poor, dear Christine, do forgive me. Mrs. Linde. What do you es, I knew; I saw it in the papers. I assure you, Christine, I meant ever so often to write to you at the time, but I al
                                                                                                                                                                           I! We will have suc h fun together! Bu
                                                                                                                                                                                 it was only th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           of me, Christine. Poor thing, how you must have suffered. And he left you nothing? Mrs. Linde. No. Nora. And no
children? Mrs. Linde. No. Nora. Nothing at all, then. Mrs. Linde. Not even any sorrow or grief to live upon. Nora (I
etimes happens, Nora. Nora. So you are quite alone. How dreadfully sad that must be. I have three lovely children
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ooking incredulously at her). But, Christine, is that possible? Mrs. Linde (smiles sadly and strokes her hair). It son
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          You can't see them just now, for they are out with their nurse. But now you must tell me all about it. Mrs. Linde. No.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ffairs. But there is one thing I must tell you. Do you know we have just had a great piece of good luck? Mrs. Linde. No d luck! Nora. Yes, tremendous! A barrister's profession is such an uncertain thing, especially if he won't undertake uns
no; I want to hear about you. Nora. No, you must begin. I mustn't be selfish today; today I must only think of your a
what is it? Nora. Just fancy, my husband has been made manager of the Bank! Mrs. Linde. Your husband? What goo
avoury cases; and naturally Torvald has never been willing to do that, and I quite agree with him. You may imagine h commissions. For the future we can live quite differently--we can do just as we like. I feel so relieved and so happy, ow I think it would be delightful to have what one needs. Nora. No, not only what one needs, but heaps and heaps o rift. Nora (laughing). Yes, that is what Torvald says now. (Wags her finger at her.) But "Nora, Nora" is not so s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ow pleased we are! He is to take up his work in the Bank at the New Year, and then he will have a big salary and lots of Christine! It will be splendid to have heaps of money and not need to have any anxiety, won't it? Mrs. Linde. Yes, anyh f money. Mrs. Linde (smiling). Nora, Nora, haven't you learned sense yet? In our schooldays you were a great spendt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            illy as you think. We have not been in a position for me to waste money. We have both had to work. Mrs. Linde. Y
ou too? Nora. Yes; odds and ends, needlework, crotchet-work, embroidery, and that kind of thing. (Droppin ospect of promotion there, and he had to try and earn more than before. But during the first year he over
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              g her voice.) And other things as well. You know Torvald left his office when we were married? There was no pr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 worked himself dreadfully. You see, he had to make money every way he could, and he worked early and late th. Mrs. Linde. You spent a whole year in Italy, didn't you? Nora. Yes. It was no easy matter to get away, I c
; but he couldn't stand it, and fell dreadfully ill, and the doctors said it was necessary for him to go sou an tell you. It was just after Ivar was born; but naturally we had to go. It was a wonderfully beautiful jo think. Nora. It cost about two hundred and fifty pounds. That's a lot, isn't it? Mrs. Linde. Yes, and in rs. Linde. Oh, I see. It was just about that time that he died, wasn't it? Nora. Yes; and, just think o rvald to look after. My dear, kind father--I never saw him again, Christine. That was the saddes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     urney, and it saved Torvald's life. But it cost a tremendous lot of money, Christine. Mrs. Linde. So I should emergencies like that it is lucky to have the money. Nora. I ought to tell you that we had it from papa. M f it, I couldn't go and nurse him. I was expecting little Ivar's birth every day and I had my poor sick To t time I have known since our marriage. Mrs. Linde. I know how fond you were of him. And then yo going, so we started a month later. Mrs. Linde. And your husband came back quite well? Nora. A
u went off to Italy? Nora. Yes; you see we had money then, and the doctors insisted on our
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     your maid said the gentleman who arrived here just as I did, was the doctor? Nora. Yes, that and comes in at least once everyday. No, Torvald has not had an hour's illness since then
s sound as a bell! Mrs. Linde. But--the doctor? Nora. What doctor? Mrs. Linde. I thought
was Doctor Rank, but he doesn't come here professionally. He is our greatest friend,
and our children are strong and healthy and so am I. (Jumps up and claps her halking of nothing but my own affairs. (Sits on a stool near her, and rests her arm love your husband? Why did you marry him? Mrs. Linde. My mother was aliv others; so I did not think I was justified in refusing his offer. Nora. No, p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            nds.) Christine! Christine! it's good to be alive and happy!--But how horrid of me; I am ta
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              s on her knees.) You mustn't be angry with me. Tell me, is it really true that you did not e then, and was bedridden and helpless, and I had to provide for my two younger br
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         erhaps you were quite right. He was rich at that time, then? Mrs. Linde. I believ
e he was quite well off. But his business was a precarious one; an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d, when he died, it all went to pieces and there was nothing left. Nora. An
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      could find--first a small shop, then a small school, and so on. The la
th no rest. Now it is at an end, Nora. My poor mother needs me
have got situations and can shift for themselves. Nora. W
d then?-- Mrs. Linde. Well, I had to turn my hand to anything I
st three years have seemed like one long working-day, wi
no more, for she is gone; and the boys do not need
                                                                                                                                                     me either; they
hat a relief you must feel if-- Mrs. Linde. No, inde
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          life unspeakably empty. No one to live for anymore.
                                                                                                                                                    ed; I only feel my
Gets up restlessly.) That was why I could not s
                                                                                                                                                   and the life in my li
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ttle backwater any longer. I hope it may be easier h
ere to find something which will busy me and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ghts. If only I could have the good luck to get som
                                                                                                                                                   occupy my thou
e regular work--office work of some kind--
                                                                                                                                                     lora. But, Chr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 istine, that is so frightfully tiring, and you look ti
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 -place. Mrs. Linde (walking to the window). I having). Oh, don't be angry with me! Mrs. Linde (go bitter. No one to work for, and yet obliged to be
red out now. You had far better go away to
e no father to give me money for a journe
ing up to her). It is you that must not be
                                                                                                                                                            me, dear. The worst of a position like mine
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  r fortunes have taken--you will hardly believe it
t perhaps Torvald could get you something to
always on the lookout for chances. On
                                                                                                                                                           and so one b ecomes selfish.
                                                                                                                                                                                                       When you told me of the hap py turn you
--I was delighted not so much on your
                                                                                                                                       account as
                                                                                                                                                           on my own.
                                                                                                                                                                              Nora. How do yo u mean?--Oh, I understand. Y
do. Mrs. Linde. Yes, that was what I w
                                                                                                                                                                             ust, Christine. Ju st leave it to me ; I will broach
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    very cleverly--I will think of something that will
                                                                                                                                     as thinking
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      the subject
                                                                                                                                                                              ppy to be of som e use to you. Mr s. Linde. How
please him very much. It will make m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    , Nora, to be so anxious to help me! It is doubl
                                                                                                                                    e so ha
y kind in you, for you know so little
miling). My dear! Small household c
u ought not to be so superior. Mrs.
--that I have gone through nothing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ora. I--? I know so little of them? Mrs. Linde (s
                                                                                                                                 of the bur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    a (tosses her head and crosses the stage). Yo ally serious-- Mrs. Linde. Come, come-- Nora.
                                                                                                                                                             of thing!--Yo u are a ch ild, Nora. N
                                                                                                                                                            ou are just li ke the oth ers. They a II think that am inc apable of any thing re
                                                                                                                                                             s. Mrs. Lind e. But, my dear Nora, you have just told me all your tr oub
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Nora. Pooh!--those were trifles. (Lowering he
r voice.) I have not told you the im
                                                                                                                          portant thin g. Mrs. Li nde. The im portant th ing? What d o you mea n? Nora. Y ou look down
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e altogether, Christine--but you ought not to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ook down on anyone. But it is true that I am
. You are proud, aren't you, of hav
                                                                                                                                                             ing worked so hard and so long for your m other? Mrs . Linde. Indee d, I don't I
both proud and glad to think that I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     to mak
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       her's life almost free from care. Nora. And y
                                                                                                                       was
                                                                                                                                privileged
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         et he end of my
                                                                                                                   have done for yo ur brothers? Mrs. Linde. I think I ha ve the right to be. Nora. I lad of. Mrs. Linde. I have no dou bt you have. But what do you refer to? Nora. Speak low. Su ppose Torval dwe stine, except you. Mrs. Linde. But what is it? Nora. Come here. (Pull sher down on the sofa beside her.) Now I
ou are proud to think of what you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       think so, too. But now, listen to this; I too h
ave something to be proud and g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       re to hear! He mustn't on any account--no
one in the world must know, Chr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        will show you that I too have something to
                                                                                                                 istine,
be proud and glad of. It was I wh
                                                                                                                          d Torvald's li fe. Mrs. Lind e. "Saved"? How? Nora. I told you a bout our trip to Italy. Tor vald would ne ver h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ave recovered if he had not gone there-- M
                                                                                                                                                       ave you the nece ssary funds . Nora (smili ng). Yes, tha t is what Tor vald and all t he oth
rs. Linde. Yes, but your father g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ers think, but-- Mrs. Linde. But-- Nora. Pap
a didn't give us a shilling. It was
                                                                                                             I who procure d th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e money.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Mrs. Linde. You? All that large sum? Nora
                                                                                                         . What do you think of that? Mirs. Linde. But, Nora, how could you possibly do it? Did you win a prize in the Lottery? Notat. Mrs. Linde. But where did you get it from, then? No ra (hummin giand smilling with an air of mystery). Hm , hm! Aha
. Two hundred and fifty pounds
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ora (contemptuously). In the Lottery? The
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          s. Linde. Because you couldn't have borr
re would have been no credit in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          mystery). Hm , hm! Aha! Mr
owed it. Nora. Couldn't I? Why
                                                                                                      not? Mrs. Linde. No, a wife cann of borrow with out her husba nd's consent. Nora (tossing her head).
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ife who has an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          y head for business--a wife who has the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Oh. if it is a w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e got it some other way. (Lies back on th
wit to be a little bit clever-- Mrs
                                                                                                      . Linde. I don't u nderstand it at all, Nora. Nor a. There is no need you sh ould. I never sai d I had born owed the mo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ney. I may hav
e sofa.) Perhaps I got it from s
                                                                                                                                                                           me other ad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    anyone is as a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ttractive as I am-- Mrs. Linde. You are a
                                                                                                                                       osity, Christine . Mrs. Linde. Listen to me,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ar. Haven't you been a little bit imprude
mad creature. Nora. Now, you
                                                                                                  know yo u're full of curi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Nora de
                                                                                               it imprud ent to save you r husband's life ? Mrs. Linde.
                                                                                                                                                                                   It seems to me imprudent, w ithout his kno wledge, to-- No ra. But it was absolut
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ely necessary that he should not know!
nt? Nora (sits up straight). Is
My goodness, can't you und
                                                                                                                                                              ld have no id
                                                                                                                                                                                   ea what a dang erous condition he was in. It was to me that the doctors came and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              said that his life was in danger, and th
                                                                                              erstand t hat? It was nec essary he shou
                                                                                                                                    Do you suppos e I didn't try, f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ould love to travel abroad like other yo
at the only thing to save him
                                                                                           was to liv
                                                                                                                                                                                   irst of all, to ge t what I wante d as if it were for myself? I t old him how m uch I sh
                                                                                                            e in the south.
ung wives; I tried tears and e
                                                                                           ntreaties
                                                                                                                                                              im; I told him
                                                                                                                                                                                   that he ought to remember the e condition I was in, and that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he ought to be kind an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              d indulgent to me; I even hinted that h
e might raise a loan. That ne
s, and that it was his duty as
                                                                                                                                             arly made him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ry, Christine. He said I was thoughtles
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                came to devise a way out of the diff
                                                                                       my husband not t o indulge me in
                                                                                                                                            my whims and c
                                                                                                                                                                     aprices--as I b
                                                                                                                                                                                            elieve he called
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       them. Very wel I, I thought, you must be saved--a nd that was how
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               let him into the secret and beg him n
s, no! How could you think so? A ma
iculty-- Mrs. Linde. And did
                                                                                     your husband neve
                                                                                                                  r get to know fr om your father that the money had not come from
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       him? Nora. No
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             , never. Papa die d just at that tim e. I had meant to
ever to reveal it. But he was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              your secret to yo ur husband? No ra. Good Heaven
                                                                                                                 re never was an y need to tell him. Mrs. Linde. And since then have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       you never told
                                                                                     so ill then--alas, the
                                                                                                                ngs! And besid es, how painful and humiliating it would be for Torv ald, with his ma 'nly independenc' e, to know that he owed me anythi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ng! It would upset our mutual relatio
n who has such strong opin
                                                                                  ions about these thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 If smile). Yes--someday, perhaps, af
                                                                                                                                          Id no longer be what it is now. Mrs. Linde. Do you mean never to tell him about it? Nora (meditatively, and with a hard
ns altogether; our beautiful
                                                                                                              happy home wou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                n my dancing and dressing-up and r
think of my great secret, Christine?
                                                                                                         no longer as nice-look ing as I am now. Don't laugh at me! I mean, o
ter many years, when I am
                                                                                                                                                                                                      f course, when Torvald is no longer as devoted to me as he is now; whe
eciting have palled on him;
                                                                                                                    may be a good thing to ha ve something in reserve--(Brea
                                                                                                                                                                                                      king off.) What nonsense! That time will never come. Now, what do you
                                                                                                                                                                                                      worry. It has been by no means easy for me to meet my engageme
nt in installments, and it is always so dreadfully difficult to manage them
Do you still think I am of n
                                                                                                                           tell you, too, that the is affair has caused me a lot of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nts punctually. I may tell you that t
here is something that is c
                                                                                                       alled, in business, quarterly inter est, and another thing called payme
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   . I have had to save a little here an
d there, where I could, you
                                                                                                                                        en able to put aside much from my housekee
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ping money, for Torvald must have a good table. I couldn't let my childr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  en be shabbily dressed; I have felt
                                                                                                       understand. I have not
                                                                                                                                                                                                       o come out of your own necessaries of li fe, poor Nora? Nora. Of c
                                                                                                                                            ttle darlings! Mrs. Linde. So it has all had t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ourse. Besides, I was the one resp
obliged to use up all he ga
                                                                                                       ve me for them, the
onsible for it. Whenever To
                                                                                                                                                              for new dresses and such t
                                                                                                                                                                                                       hings, I have never spent more tha n h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   s bought the simplest and cheape
                                                                                                                       has give
                                                                                                                                            noney
st things. Thank Heaven,
                                                                                                               othes look we
                                                                                                                                            ne, and
                                                                                                                                                                     so Torvald has never
                                                                                                                                                                                                       noticed it. But it was often ve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ry hard
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    use it is delightful to be really wel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   o n me, Christine--beca
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ng money. Last winter I w as lucky eno ugh to get a lot of co tely tired; but all the s ame it was a tr em endous pleasure to sit way? Nora. I can't tel I you exactly. Y ou see, it is very difficult ether. Many a time I was at my wits' end. (Smiles.) Then I used to
                                                                                                      de. Quite so. N ora. Wel
                                                                                                                                           then I have f
I dressed, isn't it? Mrs. Lin
                                                                                                                                                                ound other ways of earni
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    pying to do; so I locked myself u
p and sat writing every ev
                                                                                                       ening until quite la
                                                                                                                                              te a t night. Many a time I was despera
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      there working and earning mone
y. It was like being a man.
                                                                                                       Mrs. Linde. How m
                                                                                                                                             uch have you been able to pay off in that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     to keep an account of a busines
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ou see, it is very difficult
s matter of that kind. I onl
                                                                                                                                              paid every penny that I could scrape tog
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               end. (Smiles.) Then I used to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      sit here and imagine that a rich
                                                                                                      y know that I have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      his will was opened i
                                                                                                                                                 rs. Linde. What! Who was it? Nora. B
                                                                                                                                                                                                       e quiet!--that he ha d died; and that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      t contained, written in big letter
old gentleman had fallen
                                                                                                        in love with me
s, the instruction: "The lo
                                                                                                      vely Mrs. Nora H
                                                                                                                                                elmer is to have all I possess paid over
                                                                                                                                                                                                        to her at once in cash." Mrs. Lind
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e. But, my dear Nora--
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      who could the man be? Nora. G
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           when I couldn't thin
ood gracious, can't you u
                                                                                                      nderstand? There was no old gentleman at all; it was only something t
                                                                                                                                                                                                       hat I used to sit h ere and imagine
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      k of any way of procuring mon
ey. But it's all the same n
                                                                                                                                                  Id person can stay where he is, as fa
                                                                                                                                                                                                       r as I am concern ed; I don't care
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ill either, for I am free from car
                                                                                                       ow: the tiresome
                                                                                                                                         0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        about him or his w
e now. (Jumps up.) My go
                                                                                                                                                      elightful to think of, Christine! Fre
                                                                                                                                                                                                       e from care! To b e able to be fre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        from care; to be able to play a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e from care, quite free
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ve everything just as Torvald like
nd romp with the childre
                                                                                                                                                          ep the house beautifully and ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          it! And, think of it, so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        on the spring will come and th
                                                                                                      n; to be able to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        be happy. (A bell is heard in t ervant (at the hall door). Excu
e big blue sky! Perhaps w
                                                                                                       e shall be ab le to tak e a
                                                                                                                                                       ittle trip--perhaps I shall see the
                                                                                                                                                                                                       sea again! Oh, it's a wonderful thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ng to be alive and
                                                                                                                              th e bell; perhaps I had better go. Nora. No, don't g
he hall.) Mrs. Linde (risin
                                                                                                                                                                                                       o; no one will come in here; it is s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ure to be for Torvald. S
                                                                                                        g). There is
                                                                                                                                                                see the master, and as the
                                                                                                                                                                                                        doctor is with him-- Nora. Who is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         it? Krogstad (at the d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         oor). It is I, Mrs. Helmer. (Mrs.
se me, ma'am--there is a
                                                                                                        gentleman to
LINDÉ starts, trembles,
                                                                                                                                                             o the window.) Nora (takes a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        strained, low voic
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e). You? What is it? What do
                                                                                                       and turn
                                                                                                                                                                                                       step towards him, and speaks in a
                                                                                                                                                                                                      a way. I have a small post in the Ban
                                                                                                                                                            Krogstad. Bank business--in
you want to see my hus
                                                                                                        band ab o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        k, and I hear your hus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          band is to be our chief now--
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          to the study, then. (She bow
s that man? Nora. A lawyer,
Nora. Then it is-- Krogst
                                                                                                      ad. Nothing but d r
                                                                                                                                                     us iness matters, Mrs. Helmer; a
                                                                                                                                                                                                       bsolutely nothing else. Nora.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Be so good as to go in
s indifferently to him an
                                                                                                      d shuts the
                                                                                                                          door int o t he hall;
                                                                                                                                                             then comes back and makes
                                                                                                                                                                                                       up the fire in the stove.) Mrs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Linde. Nora--who wa
of the name of Krogstad
                                                                                                                              s. Linde. Then it
                                                                                                                                                                 really was he. Nora. Do yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                      u know the man? Mrs. Linde. I u sed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   to--many years ago. At on
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e time he was a solicitor's cl
                                                                                                                                                                         Linde. He is greatly
erk in our town. Nora. Y
                                                                                                                                                                                                        altered. Nora. He made a very unha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ppy marriage. Mrs. Linde.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            He is a widower now, isn't
                                                                                                      es, he
he? Nora. With several c
                                                                                                                                                                      ere now, it is burning
                                                                                                                                                                                                       up. (Shuts the door of the stove and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      moves the rocking-chai
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           r aside.) Mrs. Linde. They s
                                                                                                      hildre
                                                                                                                                            n. Th
ay he carries on various
                                                                                                                                                              ds of business. Nora. Reall
                                                                                                                                                                                                       y! Perhaps he does; I don't know
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      anything ab out it. But
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            don't let us think of busine
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Is to him). No, my de on; I am afraid
                                                                                                                                                                     out of HELMER'S stu
                                                                                                                                                                                                       dy. Before he shuts the door he cal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ar fellow, I won't disturb yo
ss; it is so tiresome. Do
                                                                                                      ctor
                                                                                                                                                    k (comes
                                                                                                                                         li ttle while . (
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            I am disturbing you too. N ed here. I think I passed yo
u; Í would rather go in t
                                                                                                                  r wife for a
                                                                                                                                                                                                      d sees Mrs. LINDE.) I beg your pard
                                                                                                      o you
                                                                                                                                                                           Shuts the door an
                                                                                                                        cing him). Doctor R
ora. No, not at all. (Intro
                                                                                                                                                                         ank, Mrs. Linde. Ra
                                                                                                                                                                                                       nk. I have often heard Mrs. Linde's
                                                                                                        du
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             name mention
                                                                                                                                                                                nde? Mrs. Lin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             II. Rank. Ah! some slight i
u on the stairs when I a
                                                                                                      rrived
                                                                                                                                                                                                       de. Yes, I go up very slowly; I can't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              manage stairs we
nternal weakness? Mrs
                                                                                                       . Linde. No, the f
                                                                                                                                             ac t is I have be
                                                                                                                                                                                 en overworki
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ng myself. Rank. Nothing more than
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  that? Then I s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             uppose you have come to
                                                                                                                  ith our entert ainments ? Mrs. Lin d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              r overwork? Mrs. Linde. O
town to amuse yoursel
                                                                                                                                                                                  . I have com
                                                                                                                                                                                                       e to look for work. Ra nk. Is that a g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ood cure fo
                                                                                                                                                                                                       e ems t o be that it is n l m ay feel, I want to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              . Nora. Look here, Doctor
ne must live, Doctor Ra
                                                                                                                                                                                      opinion s
Rank--you know you w
                                                                                                                                               ertainly . Howe
                                                                                                                                                                                       wretched
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          prolon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         g the ag
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ony as long as possible.
All my patients are like
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ne of them, and a
                                                                                                                  nd so are tho se who are mo
                                                                                                                                                                                       y diseas
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ed; o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        bad case too , is at
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               this very moment with He
                                                                                                                                                                                       ńk. A law
lmer-- Mrs. Linde (sadl
                                                                                                                                             m do yo u mean
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 f the name of Kro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    gstad, a fellow you don't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               know at all. He suffers fr
                                                                                                                                                                                                      yer o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 g highly important t about the Bank. Nor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                hat he should live. Nora. Did
om a diseased moral c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                he? What did he want to
                                                                                                                   Mr s. Helmer; but
                                                                                                                                             even he began
                                                                                                                                                                                       king of it
                                                                                                                                                                                                       s bein
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 a. I didn't know this--what's
speak to Torvald abou
                                                                                                                  I h ave no idea; I o nly hea rd that
                                                                                                                                                                                      as somet
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                his name--Krogstad had
anything to do with th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              (To Mrs. LINDE.) I don't know wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ether you find also in yo
                                                                                                                                                                                       pointmen
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ell out moral corruption, and, as soon a s they have found some, put t
ur part of the world tha
                                                                                                       t there are c ertain people w ho go ze alously snuffing ab out to sm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               he person concerned int
o some lucrative posit
                                                                                                      ion where they can keep their eye on him. Healthy natures are left out i
                                                                                                                                                                                                       n the cold. Mrs. Linde. Still I think the sick are those who most need taki
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ng care of. Rank (shrug
ging his shoulders). Y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               es, there you are. That is
the sentiment that is t
                                                                                                                                                                                                        g Societ y into a sick-hou se. (NOR A, who ha s been ab sorbed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 in her thoughts, breaks
out into smothered la is? Nora. What do I ca
                                                                                                                                                                                                       and claps her hands.) Rank. Why do you laugh at that? Have you any no
                                                                                                     ughte
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                tion what Society really
                                                                                                                                                                                                        e Society ? I am laughing at so mething quite differ ent, som ething
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 extremely amusing. Tel
                                                                                                                                                             bout ti
                                                                                                      re a
I me, Doctor Rank, are
                                                                                                                                      e people who are employe
                                                                                                                                                                                                       nk dependent on Torvald
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          now? Rank. Is that what you f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nd so extremely amusi
                                                                                                                                                       lking about th e room.) It's pe
ng? Nora (smiling and
                                                                                                      humming). That's my affair! (Wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     think that we have--that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Torvald has so much p
                                                                                                                                                                                                       rfectly glorious to
ower over so many pe
                                                                                                                                              acket from her pocket.) Doctor Rank, w
                                                                                                                                                                                                       hat do you s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ay to a macaroon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ? Rank. What, macaroo
ns? I thought they we
                                                                                                                                     re forbidden here. Nora. Yes, but these are som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    stine gave me. Mrs. Linde. What! I?-- Nora. Oh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 n't be alarmed! You co
                                                                                                                                                                                                      e Chri
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        well, do
                                                                                                                            d forbidden them. I must tell you that he is afraid they
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    oil my teeth. But, bah!--once in a way--That's s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  , Doctor Rank? By you
uldn't know that Torv
                                                                                                                                                                                                       will sp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       o, isn't it
r leave! (Puts a macar
                                                                                                                   to his mouth.) You must have one too, Christine. And I shall
                                                                                                                                                                                                       have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e one--or
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   most two. (Walking ab
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    one
                                                                                                     ly happy. There is just one thing in the world now that I should dearly lo
to say, if Torvald could hear me. Rank. Well, why can't you say it?
out.) I am tremendous
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       I, what is th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  at? Nora. It's somethin
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ve to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    do.
g I should dearly love
                                                                                                                                                                                                        Nora
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    . N
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     o, I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           dar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            en't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ; it's so sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ocking. Mrs. Linde. Sh
                                                                                                     should not advise you to say it. Still, with us you might. What is it you w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             like
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   y if Torvald could hear
ocking? Rank. Well,
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ould
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       to sa
                                                                                                    ust love to say--Well, I'm damned! Rank. Are you mad? Mrs. Linde. Nora,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ! Nora (hiding the pac
you? Nora. I should j
                                                                                                                                                                                                        dear
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    --! R
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ay it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       , here he is
ket). Hush! Hush! Hu
                                                                                                     sh! (HE LMER comes out of his room, with his coat over his arm an
                                                                                                                                                                                                      d his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    hat in his hand.) Nora. Well, Torvald dear, have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       you got rid
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    of him? Helmer. Yes,
                                                                                                             ra. Let me introduce you--this is Christine, who has come to town
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    er. Christine--? Excuse me, but I don't know-- N
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ora. Mrs. Li
he has just gone. No
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   nde, dear; Christine L
                                                                                                                                                                                                        . Helm
inde. Helmer. Of cour
                                                                                                      se. A school friend of my wife's, I presume? Mrs. Linde. Yes, we have k
                                                                                                                                                                                                       nown
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    each
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      r since
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    then. Nora. And just
                                                                                                     a long journey in order to see you. Helmer. What do you mean? Mrs. Li
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    istine is tremendousl
think, she has taken
                                                                                                                                                                                                       nde. N
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ally, I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       -- Nora. Chr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    o, re
                                                                                                      ing, and she i s frightfully anxious to work under some clever man,
y clever at book-keep
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           rfect
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      herself-- He
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Imer. Very sensible,
                                                                                                                                                                                                       so as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    to pe
                                                                                                            d when she heard you had been app ointed manager of the
Mrs. Linde. Nora. An
                                                                                                                                                                                                       Bank--
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    the n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ews
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      was telegra
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    phed, you know--she
                                                                                                      ck as she could. Torvald, I am sure y
                                                                                                                                                                     ou will be able to d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ne, for my sake, won
travelled here as qui
                                                                                                                                                                                                      o som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ethin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Christi
t you? Helmer. Well,
                                                                                                     it is not altoget her impos sible. I pre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    e. Yes. Helmer. And
                                                                                                                                                                            sume you are a w
                                                                                                                                                                                                       idow,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Mrs.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ? Mrs. Lind
have had some expe
                                                                                                     rience of boo k-kee pi ng? Mrs. Linde
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ell, it's very
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     likely I may be able t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   mer
                                                                                                                                                                       What did I tell you?
                                                                                                      you-- Nora ( cla pping he r han ds).
o find something for
                                                                                                                                                                                                      What d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    id I t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ell yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      u? Helmer.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     You have just come
at a fortunate mome
                                                                                                       nt, Mrs. Li`nde. Mrs. Lin de. How a m I to thank you? Helmer. Th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ed. (P
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     uts on his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    coat.) But today you
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ere is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    no ne
must excuse me-- Ra
                                                                                                                                           Il come with you. (Brings his fur coat from
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e fire.) Nora. Don't b
                                                                                                     nk. Wait a mi nute; I wi
                                                                                                                                                                                                        the h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    all an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ms it at th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          d war
                                                                                                                                            out an hour, not more. Nora. Are you goin
e long away, Torvald
                                                                                                                                                                                                      g too,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Chris
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Mrs. Linde
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     (putting on her cloa
                                                                                                                                om . Helmer. Oh, well then, we can walk down the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      g her). What a pity it
k). Yes, I must go an
                                                                                                                                                                                                       street
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ther.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Nora (helpin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     toge
is we are so short of
                                                                                                             space he re; I am afraid it is impossible for us-- Mrs. Linde. Plea
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    't thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     it! Goo
                                                                                                                                                                                                       se don
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      dbye, Nora dear, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Rank. What
d many thanks. Nora
                                                                                                       Goodbye for the present. Of course you will come back this evening.
                                                                                                                                                                                                       And y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ou to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         o, Dr.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      do you say? If you
                                                                                                       you must be! Wrap yourself up well. (They go to the door all talking
are well enough? Of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     n's voices a
case.) Nora. There th
                                                                                                      ey are! There they are! (She runs to open the door. The NURSE
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    e children.)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Come in! Come in! (St
                                                                                                                                                                                                       comes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     in w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ith th
                                                                                                           m.) Oh, you sweet blessings! Look at them, Christine!
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    gs? Ra
oops and kisses the
                                                                                                                                                                                                       Aren't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    they
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          darlin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nk. Don't let us stand h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    w! (RANK,
ere in the draught. He
                                                                                                     Imer. Come along, Mrs. Linde; the pl ace will only be be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               HELMER, and Mrs. LINDE
                                                                                                                                                                                                      e for a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   moth
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         er no
go downstairs. The NUR ks like apples and roses.
                                                                                                    SE comes forward with the child ren; NORA shuts t
                                                                                                                                                                                                      oor.) N
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ora. H
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ow fr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    esh and well
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               you look! Such red chee
                                                                                                                                                                               ks to them.) H
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                splendid! What, you pull
                                                                                                      (The children all talk at on
                                                                                                                                              ce while she spea
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    t fun? That's
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ave yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   u had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          grea
                                                                                                                                           e?--both at once?
                                                                                                                                                                           --that was good.
ed both Emmy and Bob a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              me take her for a little, An
                                                                                                            long on the sledg
                                                                                                                                                                                                       You ar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e a cl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ever b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    oy, Ivar. Let
ne. My sweet little baby d
                                                                                                     oll! (Takes the bab
                                                                                                                                        y from the MAID
                                                                                                                                                                     and dances it up and
                                                                                                                                                                                                      down.)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Yes,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    mother
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             will dance with Bob too. W
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          yes,
                                                                                                                                   I had been there
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     please let m
hat! Have you been snow
                                                                                                                                                               too! No, no, I will take thei
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e do it, it is such fun. Go in n
                                                                                                     balling? I wish
                                                                                                                                                                                                       r thing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   s off,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Anne;
                                                                                                                               coffee for you o n the stove. (The NURSE goes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       takes off the children's things
ow, you look half frozen. There
                                                                                                                                                                                                       into th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e roo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         m on t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    he left. NORA
                                                                                                                         alk to her at onc e.) Nora. Really! Did a big dog run
and throws them about, while t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    u? Bu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      No, dogs don't bite nice little d
                                                                                                                                                                                                       after yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         t it did
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   n't bite you?
olly children. You mustn't look
                                                                                                       at the parc els, Ivar. What a re they? Ah, I daresay you would like to
                                                                                                                                                                                                       know.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     No,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         no--it'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    s somet
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hing nasty! Come, let us have
                                                                                                     ? Hide and Seek? Yes, we'l I play Hide and Seek. Bob shall hide first. M
                                                                                                                                                                                                       ust I hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   de? V
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ell, I'll hide fi
a game! What shall we play at
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ery w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         rst. (She and the children lau
                                                                                                     nd out of the room; at last NORA hides under the table, the children rus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         for he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         see her; they hear her smoth
gh and shout, and romp in a
                                                                                                                                                                                                       h in an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   d out
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    r, but do not
ered laughter, run to the tab
                                                                                                             le, lift up the cloth and find her. Shouts of laughter. She crawls for
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ward an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   d pret
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ends t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    o frighten th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         em. Fresh laughter. Meanwh
                                                                                                     t the hall door, but none of them has noticed it. The door is half opened
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  RÓGS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         TAD a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           lie waits a little; the game g
le there has been a knock a
                                                                                                                                                                                                        , and K
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ppears,
                                                                                                    me, Mrs. Helmer. Nora (with a stifled cry, turns round and gets up on to
                                                                                                                                                                                                       her kne es). A
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    t do you wa
oes on.) Krogstad. Excuse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        h! wha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            nt? Krogstad. Excuse me,
he outer door was ajar; I s
                                                                                                     uppose someone forgot to shut it. Nora (rising). My husband is out, Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                                       Krogsta d. Kro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Nora. What do you want he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         gstad.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     I know that.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ? No,
re, then? Krogstad. A wor
                                                                                                           d with you. Nora. With me?--(To the children, gently.) Go in to nurs
                                                                                                                                                                                                      e. What
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         the str
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ange man w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            on't do mother any harm.
When he has gone we wil
                                                                                                      I have another game. (She takes the children into the room on the left,
                                                                                                                                                                                                       and shu ts the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        door af
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ter them.) Y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ou want to speak to me?
Krogstad. Yes, I do. Nora
                                                                                                     . Today? It is not the first of the month yet. Krogstad. No, it is Christmas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ill dep
                                                                                                                                                                                                        Eve, a nd it w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   end on yours
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              elf what sort of a Christm
as you will spend. Nora.
                                                                                                    What do you mean? Today it is absolutely impossible for me-- Krogstad.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    that until lat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              er on. This is something
                                                                                                                                                                                                       We wo n't talk
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         about
```