

*A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen -- NORA

ACT III

NORA: (*after a short silence*) Isn't there one thing that strikes you as strange in our sitting here like this? We have been married now eight years. Does it not occur to you that this is the first time we two, you and I, husband and wife, have had a serious conversation? In all these eight years-longer than that-from the very beginning of our acquaintance, we have never exchanged a word on a serious subject. I'm not speaking about business matters. I say that we have never sat down in earnest together to try and get at the bottom of anything. You have never understood me. I have been greatly wronged, Torvald-first by papa and then by you. You have never loved me. You have only thought it pleasant to be in love with me. I was simply transferred from papa's hands into yours. You arranged everything according to your own taste, and so I got the same tastes as you-or else I pretended to, I am really not quite sure which-I think sometimes the one and sometimes the other. When I look back on it, it seems to me as if I had been living here like a poor woman-just from hand to mouth. I have existed merely to perform tricks for you, Torvald. But you would have it so. You and papa have committed a great sin against me. It is your fault that I have made nothing of my life.