

# A Doll's House, Act III

Annie, Nyanar, Eleanor

# Characters

- **Nora Helmer**
  - Torvald's wife
  - Is worried about Krogstad's threat to expose her
- **Torvald Helmer**
  - Nora's husband
  - Bank manager
- **Dr. Rank**
  - The Helmer's doctor and friend
  - Loves Nora
- **Christine Linde**
  - Nora's childhood friend
  - Plans to talk to Krogstad on Nora's behalf



# Characters (cont.)

- Nils Krogstad
  - Recently unemployed banker under Torvald
  - Is blackmailing Nora in order to get his job back



# Story

- Krogstad and Mrs. Linde meet up
  - They were in love in the past
    - They decide to be together
    - Krogstad wants to take the letter he sent back
    - “Helmer must know all about it. This unhappy secret must be disclosed; they must have a complete understanding between them...” (Ibsen 61).
- Nora and Torvald enter after the ball
  - Dr. Rank says his goodbye
  - Torvald opens the letterbox
    - They see Rank’s letter
    - Torvald opens Krogstad’s letter
    - Maid brings in Krogstad’s new letter
      - Torvald tries to go back on what he said to Nora
      - Nora leaves



# Alternative Ending

- Replaced the ending where Nora leaves Torvald with one where she stays
- “Oh, this is a sin against myself, but I cannot leave them” (Ibsen).
- Ibsen called it “a barbaric act of violence”



[https://als.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrik\\_Ibsen](https://als.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrik_Ibsen)

# Character Relationships

- Nora
  - Torvald
    - Normalized husband and wife dynamic
    - “Why shouldn't I look at my dearest treasure?—at all the beauty that is mine, all my very own?” (Ibsen 65)
    - Torvald said that Nora and her father lack morals and religion and that Nora ruined his future
    - “Nora, believe me. Tomorrow morning you will look upon it all quite differently; soon everything will be just as it was before. Very soon you won't need me to assure you that I have forgiven you” (Ibsen 72)
    - “But our home has been nothing but a playroom. I have been your doll-wife, just as at home I was papa's doll-child...” (Ibsen 74)
  - Christine
    - Awaiting for Christine to get back to her about the letter.
    - Nora would have nothing to fear after Torvald read it
  - Krogstad
    - They were not seeing eye to eye and Nora desperately wanted him to take his letter back
    - He let what she did go
  - Dr. Rank
    - Felt bad for her friend and said that it would be a shame for Dr. Rank to shut himself out
    - Left an 'X' on his last letter and said that at the next party he'd be invisible

# Character Relationships cont.

- Torvald
  - Christine
    - Torvald acted as if he was glad she was around but in reality thought she was a bore
    - Told her she should do embroidery instead
  - Krogstad
    - Fired him even though Nora begged him not to
    - Torvald was so glad that Krogstad wouldn't get in the way of his perfect family dynamic
  - Dr. Rank
    - Great friends
    - Torvald revealing how he truly feels about Dr. Rank when he nonverbally announces his death
    - His life made his and Nora's life together seem better than it actually was
- Christine
  - Krogstad
    - They had a history
    - They're former lovers and discussed what had happened
    - Tells her that she originally wanted to meet with him about his letter, but it didn't end that way
    - "Well, I am like a shipwrecked woman clinging to some wreckage—no one to mourn for, no one to care for" (Ibsen 59)
  - Dr. Rank
    - Jealous of her supposed dynamic with the Helmer

# Themes and Symbols

- The letter
  - Whenever it is referred to, it brings about distress and anxiety, especially with Nora.
- “My” Little skylark/ squirrel
  - A symbol of possession and Nora’s “weakness”
- Embroidery vs. Knitting
  - Symbolizing women should be graceful and very delicate





# Symbolism Behind the Title

- Nora's father used to call her his doll-child
- He played with her as if she were a "doll"
- She has never lived for herself
- The title is a symbol of Nora's lack of individuality and independence throughout the play
- In the alternate ending, Nora chooses to stay for her children
  - It can be inferred her decision is because she wants her children to have their own voices
  - Without her mother, Nora only listened to men's opinions



# Work Cited

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. Dover Thrift Edition. New York: Dover Publications, 1992.

