becomes unbearable for anyone who isn't a mother. HELMER. Come along, Mrs. Linde. This is where it Mrs. Linde. Good-bye.

(Helmer, Dr. Rank and Mrs. Linde viit. Nora goes into living room. Anne-Marie closes door and crosses toward the nursery.)

Ivar gave Emmy a ride on his sled. ANNIE-MARIE. We had a fine time out there. Little

want to stop. Nora. What a good boy.

Anne-Marie. And they threw snowballs. Didn't

Nora. Snowballs! Oh, I wish I'd been there. (Takes

There's

some hot coffee in the nursery. Anne-Marie's right hand.) You're freezing.

(She exits.)] ANNE-MARIE. Thank you, Miss Nora. Thank you

KROGSTAD. Excuse me, Mrs. Helmer .

ing.) Oh! What do you want? Nora. (Smothering a cry, turning round and half-jump.

KROGSTAD. I'm sorry to—er... the front door was open, someone must have forgotten to close it...

Nora. (Getting up.) My husband is out, Mr. Krog-

KROGSTAD. I know.

Nora. Then . . . what is it you want?

KROGSTAD. A word with you.

NORA. With me? (Quietly to the CHILDREN.) Go in and see Anne-Marie. No, there's nothing to worry about, want to talk to me L. and closes the door behind them. Tense, uneasy.) You game. (She takes the CHILDREN over to the room on the he won't hurt me. And when he's gone, we'll play another

KROGSTAD. Yes.

Nora. Why today? It's not the first of the month yet. KROGSTAD. No, I know, it's Christmas Eve. And if you want it to be a happy Christmas, it's up to you.

A DOLL'S HOUSE

ACT I

Nora. What do you want? I can't possibly get hold 2

the moment. It's something else. Here you got a minute? Nora. Yes. Yes, of course. Except . . KROGSTAD. There's no need to worry about that just at

street ... ust now, and I saw your husband passing down the KROCETAD. Good. I was sitting in Olsen's restaurant

Nora. Well?

KROGSTAD. . . . with a lady.

Nora. What of it?

lady was a certain Mrs. Linde? KROGSTAD. Might I be so bold as to ask whether that

NOPA. Yes, it was.

KROGSTAD. Has she just arrived in 'cwn?

Nora. Yes, today.

KROGSTAD. Is she a close friend of yours?

Nora. Yes, she is. But I don't see . . . KROGSTAD. I used to know her as well.

Nora. Yes.

thought as much. Now, will you please give me a straight answer to this? Has Mrs. Linde been given a job at the KROGSTAD. Ah, she told you about all that, did she? I

bank?
Nora. I don't know how you can have the face to inhusband's employees, after all. However, since you ask, I terrogate me like this, Mr. Krogstad. You are one of my might as well tell you. Mrs. Linde has been given a job know. there. On my recommendation, Mr. Krogstad. Now you

KROGSTAD. So I guessed right.

woman, it deesn't mean I don't . . . So you see, Mr. little bit of influence, you know. Just because I'm a tion, one really needs to be careful not to offend anyone Krogstad, when one finds oneself in a subordinate posi-Nora. (Pacing round the room.) I think I do have a

KROGSTAD. Influence.

Nora. Exactly.

der if you'd be kind enough to use your influence on my KROGSTAD. (A change of tone.) Mrs. Helmer, I won-

Nora. What? What do you mean?

Krocstap. Would you be so kind as to make sure keep my subordinate position at the bank?

Nora. I don't understand. Why should anyone take it

away irom your

I realize who's responsible for bounding me out. for your friend to be pushed together with me. And now know anything about it. I realize it can't be very pleasant Krocstad. Oh, there's no point pretending you don'

Nora. I assure you I . . .

still time to stop it, and I advise you to use your influence to do something about it. KROGSTAD. Yes, yes, well, never mind that. There's

Nora. But, Mr. Krogstad, I've got no influence, really

KROGSTAD. You just said.

Nora. I know, I know, but that was different. You can't really think I have that much influence over my

you'll find him any more resolute than any other hus together. I know he's a bank manager, but I don't think KROGSTAD. Oh, I know your husband, we were students

have to ask you to leave Nora. If you're going to insult my husband, I shal

KROGSTAD. A lady of spirit.

Nora. I'm not afraid of you any more. By the new year, all this will be behind me.

little job at the bank as if I were fighting for my life. Mrs. Helmer. If necessary, I'm prepared to fight for my KROGSTAD. (Controlling himself.) Now listen to me,

Nora. Apparently.

the last thing I'm worried about. It's something else. I'll tell you about it, shall I, explain it to you. I suppose KROGSTAD. It's not just the salary, you know. That's

you know, like everyone else, that a few years ago I . . .

made a mistake.

Nora. I did hear something about it.

I can, for their sake. For me that job at the bank was the first step on the ladder. And now your husband wants to up, I've got to win back as much public respectability as don't think I've been as bad as man j of them. But now kick me off again, back into the mud. business I went into then. I had to do something; and then on, for me, all roads were blocked. You know what 've got to put all that behind me. My sons are growing KROGSTAD. I was never brought to rial for it. But from

Nora. But for God's sake, Mr. Krogstad, it really isn't

in my power to help you.

KROGSTAD. You only say that, because you don't want to help me. But I have the means to force you. Nora. You aren't going to tell my husband I owe you

KROGSTAD. Well? Suppose I doi

money?

were to find out about it in such a crude, ugly way, from pleasant position. you . . . It would put me in the most frightfully un fully.) That secret is my pride and my happiness, if he Nora. That would be a wicked thing to do. (Tear-

vicious you are, and you're bound to lose your job. worse for you. Then my husband really will see how Krogstan. Unpleasant, is that all? Nora. (Vehemently.) All right then, do it. It'll be the

KROGSTAD. I asked you if it was just a bit of domestic

unpleasantness you were afraid of?

need have nothing more to do with you. course pay whatever's outstanding at once, and then we Nora. If my husband does find out about it, he will of

mer. Either you have a very poor memory, or else you going to have to give you a course of basic instruction. haven't much of a clue about business. I can see I'm KROGSTAD. (Moving a step nearer.) Listen, Mrs. Hel Nora. What do-you mean?

me to borrow four thousand, eight hundred knoner. #ILO O

KROGSTAD. I promised to raise the money for you. . . . Nora. You were the only one I knew of.

Nora. And you did.

you paid very much attention to the technicalities of the contract. That's why I feel it would be not inappropriate certain conditions. But at the time, you were so premoney for you in return for an I.O.U., which I drew up. Nor.A. Yes, and which I signed. Krocstan. Right. But then I added another clause at get hold of enough money for the journey, I don't think occupied with your husband's illness and so anxious to to remind you of them. Now. I promised to raise the KROGSTAD. I promised to raise the money for you on

for the lcan, and which needed your father's signature. the bottom, which said your father would net as guaranter < . 4000

Nora. He did sign it.

you remember? could fill it in himself when he signed the contract. Do KROGSTAD. The date was left blank, so that your father

father, didn't I? Nora. I think so, yes. . . . KROGSTAD. I gave you the contract to post to your

over the money. me with your father's signature. Whereupon I handed away. Because five or six days later you brought it in to KROGSTAD. You must have sent it off to him straight

Nora. Well? I've kept my payments regular, haven't

KROCSTAD. More or less. But anyway, to go back to

a very difficult time for you, Mrs. Helmer what we were discussing, I imagine that must have been

KROGSTAD. I believe your father was very ill as well

Nora. He was dying.

Krogstad. And did die shortly afterwards?

ACT I

Nora. Yes.

Krogstad. Tell me, Mrs. Helmer, do you by any chance remember what day your father died? The date,

Nora. Father died on the 29th of September.

where we come to the unusual feature of the case . . . (Produces a document.) . . . which I must say I'm at a KROGSTAD. That's right. I made inquiries. And this is

Nora. Unusual feature? I don't think . . .

after he died. mer, is that your father signed this contract three days KROGSTAD. The unusual feature of the case, Mrs. Hel

Nora. What? I don't understand. . . .

wrong with that. What is vitally important is the signarandom, not knowing about his death. There's nothing date his signature, and someone else has added a date at plantation for that, your father might have forgotten to writing I think I recognize. Well, I'm sure there's an exstruck me that the words October the 2nd and the year to explain, is it? (Nora still doesn't answer.) It also ture itself. I suppose it is genuine, Mrs. Helmer? Your father really did sign here, did he? were not in your father's handwriting, but in a hand Helmer, wouldn't you agree? (Nora is silent.) Not easy Now, look at this. Here your father has dated his signature October the 2nd. Now, that is rather unusual, Mrs. KROGSTAD. Your father died on September the 29th

NORA. (After a short silence, throwing her head back and confronting him defiantly.) No, he didn't. I did.

dangerous confession? KROGSTAD. Mrs. Helmer . . . you realize that's a very

send your father the contract? Nora. Why? You'll have your money soon enough. KROGSTAD. May I ask you a question? Why didn't you

for his signature, I'd have to have told him why I needed Nora. I couldn't. Father was very ill. If I'd asked him

the money. He was so ill, I couldn't have told him my husband's life was in danger. It was impossible.

KROGSTAD. Then you would have done better to cancel

your trip.

Nora. I couldn't possibly. It saved my husband's life I couldn't possibly cancel it.

KROGSTAD. But you were cheating me, or did that never occur to you?

Now. I couldn't afford to worry about things like that. I didn't care about you. I hated you for making all those ruthless conditions when you knew how dangerously ill my husband was.

Krogstad. Mrs. Helmer, you obviously have no clear idea what you're guilty of. I can assure you that what I did was no more and no worse than that, and it totally destroyed my position in society.

Nora. What you did? Are you trying to tell me you took any risks to save your wife's life?

KROGSTAD. The law is not interested in motives.

Nora. Then the law is useless.

KROCSTAD. Useless or not, if I were to submit this contract to a court, you would be condemned by the law.

Nor. I don't believe it. You mean a daughter isn't allowed to spare her old, dying father worry and anxiety? A wife isn't allowed to save her husband's life? I don't know much about the law, but I'm sure there must be provisions made somewhere for that kind of situation. And if you don't know that, then all I can say is that you must be a pretty useless lawyer, Mr. Krogstad.

must be a pretty useless lawyer, Mr. Krogstad.

KROGSTAD. That's as may be. But when it comes to business, the kind of business we're involved in, you can take my word for it I know what I'm talking about. All right. Now do what you like. But I'm telling you one thing: if I'm thrown out again, you're coming with me.

[Baus and exits into the hall.]

Nora. (Stands for a moment, thinking, then tosses her head back.) Hm! He's just trying to frighten me. I'm