

Marriage when  
torvald found out  
about the blackmail.



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Marriage is a union between two people, without love and respect it is just an act with nothing holding it together. In a Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, Nora and Torvald appear to show that they have a perfect marriage but when secrets are discovered true feelings come out.

People say that true feelings come out when you are angry and or drunk. In this case Nora could see her worth when Torvald found out about the blackmail. Realizing she had a relationship based on public status, and the upkeep of appearance. The play ends with Nora slamming the door behind her when she decides to turn her back on her family and the reasons is clear. In their last argument Torvald sarcastically says that by leaving her family she is abandoning her "most sacred duties" (3. 309). Nora doesn't see it this way and realizes the lack of respect, what is most sacred to her now are the "duties to herself" (3.

314). She comes to the conclusion that, she wants to be respected and needs to spend some time to figure out who she is if she is ever to be more than a doll. At the end of the play Torvald is alone in the living room.

He realizes that they both have to respect each other as individuals in order to have a real marriage. Before she exits the house, Nora says to her husband, Torvald "Our home has been nothing but a playroom. I have been your doll wife" (3. 286). With statements like that it isn't hard to guess where the title came from. Torvald has treated Nora as nothing more than his doll appreciating nothing more than her beauty. He dresses her up in costumes to dance for him and others for public status. First, their fathers and brothers

would control them while they were still young and when they are married, their husbands would finally control them (Bakken & Farrington, 2003, p. 327). Nora adds, "at home I was papa's doll child" (3. 286). She's never been anything more than a toy to man.

Their home and her life in reality, is all just for show. Torvald receives the blackmail letter and drops his genial act lashing out at Nora, realizing that his reputation could be ruined. Upset and in the moment, he calls Nora a hypocrite and liar, screaming that she has ruined his life. Torvald goes on to say that she will not be allowed to raise their children and will remain in the house only for public status. The maid then brings in another letter where Torvald discovers that Nora's contract has been returned. Ecstatic, Torvald attempts to dismiss his past insults, but his harsh words don't sit well with Nora. In the beginning Nora and Torvald Helmer receives good about Torvald's job position.

He will be promoted to bank manager which to Nora means their money problems are over. All is well except with new power comes threat and blackmail. Nora has a secret debt. It wasn't until the early 19th century that married women could open bank accounts or take out loans. This play takes place before that time. But although acquired with good intentions, a forged signature for money will reveal Torvald's true colors. "To hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, until death do us part".

Marriage is the union of two people with love so pure that only death can do them to part. In *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, Nora and Torvald appear to <https://assignbuster.com/marriage-when-torvald-found-out-about-the-blackmail/>

show the elements of a flawless marriage. However, throughout the play problems within Helmer marriage are exposed, a lack of respect, love and selflessness. A relationship based on public status, where appearance matters the most.