

A doll house

Literature



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

“ The Doll’s House.” Henrik Ibsen’s drama, “ A Doll’s House,” explores gender roles, as seen in the marriage of Nora and Torvald Helmer. Nora starts off as a happy homemaker, who is content with the role of wife and mother assigned to her by society. She meets her husband’s expectations as a clinging, helpless ‘ doll-wife,’ and says, “ Yes, Torvald, I cant get along a bit without your help” (Ibsen, Act I). She knows that this is the way to please him and keep his love.

As Nora comes face to face with society’s laws, which she has not understood earlier, she changes. She finds it difficult to accept that her forgery is considered a crime and asks Krogstad, “ is a daughter not to be allowed to spare her dying father anxiety and care? Is a wife not to be allowed to save her husbands life?” (Ibsen, Act I). Nora becomes the desperate woman of Act 11 who considers suicide as the way out of her difficult situation of blackmail.

In Act III, Nora again changes when she realizes that Helmer’s promise to her - “ You will see I am man enough to take everything upon myself” (Ibsen, Act II), is just empty words. Once she understands that Helmer is not willing to sacrifice his social position and honor for her sake, and his social standing is more important to him than his wife, Nora becomes a woman who decides to fulfill first and foremost her “ duties to myself” (Ibsen, Act III). She is now a woman in search of self-realization.

(1) Is Nora right in abandoning her children? (2) Is Helmer responsible for Nora’s debt?

Works Cited.

Ibsen, Henrik. “ A Doll’s House.” Title of Collection. Ed. (Editor). Place of

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