

TORVALD.

NORA.

Alright Torvald—I see that you see me as some kind of monster, but you're not totally clean here either. You've changed what really happened, in your mind. You make yourself into the victim, the blameless, the right, the better one of the two. That's you. That's how you are—you have to be right and superior. This thing you do—this thing that men do of standing in front of women and looking down at them, telling them how the world works, educating them, us, me about how things should be as if you were some kind of expert.

TORVALD.

And what would happen if we—men—if we didn't—I wonder sometimes about this—yeah, I won't disagree—it happens—we do this, okay, but I wonder if women don't ask that men behave the way we behave, in some ways

NORA.  
really

TORVALD.

if we didn't project some kind of confidence—an assuredness in what we know or think we know—would women even be attracted to men—?

NORA.

confidence is different from—

TORVALD.

to stand up straight and lead—

# TORVALD #1

NORA.

that's different from talking down to me.

TORVALD.

How.

Explain the difference.

NORA.

Also.

Also.

Here's another thing that bothers me:

You don't get angry.

TORVALD.

Of course I do.

NORA.

Maybe once you've ever gotten—

TORVALD.

right now. I feel angry.

NORA.

Right now.  
You feel angry

TORVALD.

damn right I—

NORA.

I don't believe that you *are* angry, that you're in it, that you're inside of that feeling of feeling angry right—no, I think you're just outside of it, looking at it like it's some interesting thing.

You don't act.

You're constipated.

You're scared.

I don't like that you're scared—  
it's a really big turn off

TORVALD.  
sorry, I'm not trying to turn you on right now

NORA.  
and there it is

TORVALD.  
what.

NORA.  
That tone

TORVALD.  
of.

NORA.  
condescension

TORVALD.  
not standing up for myself?

NORA.  
Yeah, I don't read that as standing up for yourself at all.

TORVALD.  
Then what is it?  
What is the difference between being  
condescending and standing up for myself?  
You won't say, even though I've asked you twice to show me—

NORA.  
so that you can just disprove me

TORVALD.  
so you can educate me

NORA.  
oh!

TORVALD.  
I would like to learn

NORA.  
you'd like to be right

TORVALD.  
I'd like you to stand up and take the lead and teach me something

NORA.  
I did. 15 years ago, right here, I did that

TORVALD.  
No.  
No.  
What happened 15 years ago—if you'd like to talk about that—okay  
let's talk about that—  
is that you stood here and had your big epiphany,  
and you know, I think—I thought then and I think now—  
that a lot of things you said had a lot of validity.  
You said that we never had a serious conversation in  
8 years of marriage,  
and yeah, I think that there was some truth to that.  
We'd both been avoiding things,  
avoiding hurting the other,  
and all of that avoiding of stuff made us liars.  
And yes, we have to tell the truth.  
We have to stick our noses in some shit—  
we have to—you talk about a true marriage,  
you talked about how what we needed was a true marriage—

well, I think sticking our faces in the shit  
is a really big part of that.

But listen, Nora, here's where you're wrong.  
At the very moment that you realized the problem with our marriage

NORA.  
let's be real, there was more than one problem

TORVALD.  
no, I get that—I'm not saying there wasn't—but the moment you  
brought the problems to light,  
you walked out the door.

That's shitty if you ask me

**END**

NORA.  
how is it—?

TORVALD.  
shitty—? because having epiphanies is easy,  
but actually doing something about it is—

NORA.  
my "doing something" was leaving, that was "doing" and that sure  
as hell wasn't easy

TORVALD.  
easier than staying and trying to tough it out with me—us toughing  
it out together—instead you run off and pretend that this is the  
same thing as being strong.

And I look at you and I...

NORA

...

TORVALD.  
...I think—

NORA.

...

TORVALD.  
I did so much for you.  
I loved you.  
And you threw it away.

NORA.  
But who did you love really?  
Because who I was when I was last here—that wasn't me.  
You liked that, but what I was doing—that was just for show.  
All the flitting around, the whole "oh Torvald, oh help me,  
I can't figure out this or that, I can't do anything myself, oh help me"  
—that's not me. That was a thing I was doing, because if I didn't do it,  
then you wouldn't have paid attention to anything that was important  
to me.

I don't think you'd like what I'm actually like.

...

TORVALD.

...

NORA.  
I hurt you.  
I know that.  
Don't think that I don't know.

And I knew what I was doing when I left you, and I knew what I was  
doing was very cruel—very harsh. But staying would have been  
cruel to me—

TORVALD.  
and our kids?

NORA.  
Don't bring up the children