

HEDDA GABLER

HENRIK IBSEN

MISS TESMAN: GOOD GRACIOUS! THEY'RE NOT EVEN UP-I DO BELIEVE!

BERTE: THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOU, MISS JULIANE. THE STEAMER GOT IN SO LATE LAST NIGHT; AND THE YOUNG MISTRESS HAD SUCH A LOT OF UNPACKING TO DO BEFORE SHE COULD GET TO BED.

MISS TESMAN: WELL-LET THEM SLEEP AS LONG AS THEY LIKE. BUT WHEN THEY DO GET UP, THEY'LL CERTAINLY NEED A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

BERTE: THERE'S NOT A BIT OF ROOM LEFT ANYWHERE. I'LL JUST PUT THEM DOWN HERE, MISS JULIANE.

MISS TESMAN: SO NOW YOU HAVE A NEW MISTRESS, BERTE. HEAVEN KNOWS IT WAS HARD ENOUGH FOR ME TO PART WITH YOU.

BERTE: DON'T THINK IT WASN'T HARD FOR ME TOO, MISS JULIANE; AFTER ALL THOSE HAPPY YEARS I SPENT WITH YOU AND MISS RINA.

MISS TESMAN: WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT, BERTE. MASTER JORGEN NEEDS YOU-HE REALLY DOES. YOU'VE LOOKED AFTER HIM EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE BOY.

BERTE: THAT'S TRUE, MISS JULIANE; BUT I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT MISS RINA LYING THERE HELPLESS, POOR THING; HOW WILL SHE MANAGE? THAT NEW MAID WILL NEVER LEARN TO TAKE PROPER CARE OF AN INVALID!

MISS TESMAN: I'LL SOON BE ABLE TO TRAIN HER; AND UNTIL THEN, I'LL DO MOST OF THE WORK MYSELF-SO DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT MY POOR SISTER, BERTE.

BERTE: BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, MISS JULIANE-YOU SEE, I'M SO AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLEASE THE YOUNG MISTRESS.

MISS TESMAN: WELL-THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO THINGS, JUST AT FIRST-

BERTE: SHE'LL BE VERY PARTICULAR, I EXPECT-

MISS TESMAN: THAT'S ONLY NATURAL-AFTER ALL, SHE'S GENERAL GABLER'S DAUGHTER. SHE WAS USED TO BEING SPOILED WHEN HER FATHER WAS ALIVE. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO SEE HER GALLOPING BY? HOW SMART SHE LOOKED IN HER RIDING CLOTHES!

BERTE: INDEED I DO REMEMBER, MISS JULIANE! WHO WOULD EVER HAVE THOUGHT THAT SHE AND MASTER JORGEN WOULD MAKE A MATCH OF IT.

MISS TESMAN: GOD MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS-! BUT, BY THE WAY, BERTE-BEFORE I FORGET-YOU MUSN'T SAY MASTER JORGEN ANYMORE-IT'S DOCTOR TESMAN!

BERTE: I KNOW, MISS JULIANE. THAT WAS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST THINGS THE YOUNG MISTRESS TOLD ME LAST NIGHT. SO IT'S REALLY TRUE, MISS JULIANE?

MISS TESMAN: YES, IT IS INDEED! HE WAS MADE A DOCTOR BY ONE OF THE FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES WHILE HE WAS ABROAD. IT WAS A GREAT SURPRISE TO ME; I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT UNTIL HE TOLD ME LAST NIGHT ON THE PIER.

BERTE: WELL-HE'S CLEVER ENOUGH FOR ANYTHING, HE IS! BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D GO IN FOR DOCTORING PEOPLE!

MISS TESMAN: IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF DOCTOR, BERTE! BUT LATER ON, YOU MAY HAVE TO CALL HIM SOMETHING EVEN GRANDER!

BERTE: REALLY, MISS JULIANE? NOW WHAT COULD THAT BE?

MISS TESMAN: WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW! I WONDER WHAT MY POOR BROTHER WOULD SAY IF HE COULD SEE WHAT A GREAT MAN HIS LITTLE BOY HAS BECOME. BUT, WHAT'S THIS, BERTE? WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN ALL THE COVERS OFF THE FURNITURE?

BERTE: THEY YOUNG MISTRESS TOLD ME TO. SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T BEAR THEM.

MISS TESMAN: PERHAPS SHE INTENDS TO USE THIS AS THE LIVING ROOM?

BERTE: I THINK MAYBE SHE DOES, MISS JULIANE; THOUGH MASTER JORGEN-I MEAN DOCTOR- SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT.

MISS TESMAN: GOOD MORNING-GOOD MORNING, MY DEAR JORGEN!

TESMAN: AUNT JULIANE! DEAR AUNT JULIANE! WAY OUT HERE-SO EARLY IN THE MORNING-EH?

MISS TESMAN: I HAD TO COME AND SEE HOW YOU WERE GETTING ON.

TESMAN: IN SPITE OF GOING TO BE SO LATE?

MISS TESMAN: MY DEAR BOY-AS IF THAT MATTERED TO ME!

TESMAN: YOU GOT HOME ALL RIGHT FROM THE PIER-EH?

MISS TESMAN: QUITE ALL RIGHT, DEAR, THANK YOU. JUDGE BRACK WAS KIND ENOUGH TO SEE ME SAFELY TO MY DOOR.

TESMAN: WE WERE SO SORRY WE COULDN'T GIVE YOU A LIFT-BUT HEDDA HAD SUCH A FEARFUL LOT OF LUGGAGE-

MISS TESMAN: YES-SHE DID SEEM TO HAVE QUITE A BIT!

BERTE: SHOULD I ASK THE MISTRESS IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR HER, SIR?

TESMAN: NO THANK YOU, BERTE-THERE'S NO NEED. SHE SAID SHE'D RING IF SHE WANTED ANYTHING.

BERTE: VERY GOOD, SIR.

TESMAN: YOU MIGHT JUST TAKE THAT SUITCASE WITH YOU.

BERTE: YES, SIR. I'LL PUT IT IN THE ATTIC.

TESMAN: DO YOU KNOW, AUNT JULIANE-I HAD THAT WHOLE SUITCASE FULL OF NOTES? IT'S UNBELIEVABLE HOW MUCH I FOUND IN ALL THE ARCHIVES I EXAMINED; CURIOUS OLD DETAILS NO ONE HAD ANY IDEA EXISTED.

MISS TESMAN: YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE WASTED YOUR TIME ON YOUR WEDDING TRIP!

TESMAN: INDEED I HAVEN'T!-BUT DO TAKE OFF YOUR HAT, AUNT JULIANE-LET ME HELP YOU-EH?

MISS TESMAN: HOW SWEET OF YOU! THIS IS JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN YOU WERE STILL WITH US!

TESMAN: THAT'S A VERY ELEGANT HAT YOU'VE TREATED YOURSELF TO.

MISS TESMAN: I BOUGHT THAT ON HEDDA'S ACCOUNT.

TESMAN: ON HEDDA'S ACCOUNT-EH?

MISS TESMAN: YES-I DIDN'T WANT HER TO FEEL ASHAMED OF HER OLD AUNT-IN CASE WE SHOULD HAPPEN TO GO OUT TOGETHER.

TESMAN: WHAT A DEAR YOU ARE, AUNT JULIANE-ALWAYS THINKING OF EVERYTHING! AND NOW LET'S SIT DOWN HERE ON THE SOFA AND HAVE A COZY LITTLE CHAT TILL HEDDA COMES.

MISS TESMAN: I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A JOY IT IS TO HAVE YOU HOME AGAIN, JORGEN.

TESMAN: AND IT'S A JOY FOR ME TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DEAR AUNT JULIANE. YOU'VE BEEN AS GOOD AS A FATHER AND MOTHER TO ME-I CAN NEVER FORGET THAT!

MISS TESMAN: I KNOW, DEAR-YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOR YOUR POOR OLD AUNTS.

TESMAN: HOW IS AUNT RINA-EH? ISN'T SHE FEELING A LITTLE BETTER?

MISS TESMAN: NO, DEAR. I'M AFRAID SHE'LL NEVER BE ANY BETTER, POOR THING! BUT I PRAY GOD I MAY KEEP HER WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER-FOR NOW THAT I HAVEN'T YOU TO LOOK AFTER ANY MORE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME WHEN SHE GOES.

TESMAN: THERE, THERE, THERE!

MISS TESMAN: YOU KNOW, I CAN'T GET USED TO THINKING OF YOU AS A MARRIED MAN, JORGEN. AND TO THINK THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO CARRY OFF HEDDA GABLER-THE FASCINATING HEDDA GABLER-WHO WAS ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY SO MANY ADMIRERS!

TESMAN: YES-I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME OF MY FRIENDS WERE A BIT JEALOUS OF ME-EH?

MISS TESMAN: AND THEN THIS WONDERFUL WEDDING TRIP! FIVE-NEARLY SIX MONTHS!

TESMAN: OF COURSE YOU MUST REMEMBER THE TRIP WAS ALSO OF GREAT VALUE TO ME IN MY RESEARCH WORK. I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU ALL THE ARCHIVES I'VE BEEN THROUGH-AND THE MANY BOOKS I'VE READ!

MISS TESMAN: I CAN WELL BELIEVE IT! BUT, JORGEN DEAR, ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NOTHING-WELL-NOTHING SPECIAL TO TELL ME?

TESMAN: ABOUT OUR TRIP?

MISS TESMAN: YES.

TESMAN: I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING I DIDN'T WRITE YOU ABOUT. I HAD A DOCTOR'S DEGREE CONFERRED ON ME-BUT I TOLD YOU THAT LAST NIGHT.

MISS TESMAN: YES, YES-YOUR TOLD ME ABOUT THAT. BUT WHAT I MEAN IS-HAVEN'T YOU ANY-WELL-ANY EXPECTATIONS?

TESMAN: EXPECTATIONS?

MISS TESMAN: YES, JORGEN. SURELY YOU CAN TALK FRANKLY TO YOUR OLD AUNT?

TESMAN: WELL, OF COURSE I HAVE EXPECTATIONS!

MISS TESMAN: WELL?

TESMAN: I HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION OF BECOMING A PROFESSOR ONE OF THESE DAYS!

MISS TESMAN: A PROFESSOR-YES, YES, I KNOW DEAR-BUT-

TESMAN: IN FACT, I'M CERTAIN OF IT. BUT YOU KNOW THAT JUST AS WELL AS I DO, AUNT JULIANE.

MISS TESMAN: OF COURSE I DO, DEAR-YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. BUT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY-IT MUST HAVE COST A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY, JORGEN!

TESMAN: WELL, YOU SEE, THE SCHOLARSHIP I HAD WAS PRETTY AMPLE-THAT WENT A GOOD WAY.

MISS TESMAN: STILL-I DON'T SEE HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN AMPLE ENOUGH FOR TWO-ESPECIALLY TRAVELING WITH A LADY-THEY SAY THAT MAKES IT EVER SO MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE.

TESMAN: IT DOES MAKE IT A BIT MORE EXPENSIVE-BUT HEDDA SIMPLY HAD TO HAVE THIS TRIP-SHE REALLY HAD TO-IT WAS THE FASHIONABLE THING TO DO.

MISS TESMAN: I KNOW-NOWADAYS IT SEEMS A WEDDING HAS TO BE FOLLOWED BY A WEDDING TRIP. BUT TELL ME, JORGEN-HAVE YOU BEEN OVER THE HOUSE YET?

TESMAN: I HAVE INDEED! I'VE BEEN UP SINCE DAYBREAK!

MISS TESMAN: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

TESMAN: IT'S SPLENDID-SIMPLY SPLENDID! BUT IT SEEMS AWFULLY BIG-WHAT ON EARTH SHALL WE DO WITH ALL THOSE EMPTY ROOMS?

MISS TESMAN: OH, MY DEAR JORGEN-I EXPECT YOU'LL FIND PLENTY OF USE FOR THEM-A LITTLE LATER ON.

TESMAN: YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, AUNT JULIANE-AS I GET MORE AND MORE BOOKS-EH?

MISS TESMAN: OF COURSE, MY DEAR BOY-IT WAS YOUR BOOKS I WAS THINKING OF!

TESMAN: I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED FOR HEDDA'S SAKE. SHE HAD HER HEART SET ON THIS HOUSE-IT BELONGED TO SECRETARY FALK, YOU KNOW-EVEN BEFORE WE WERE ENGAGED, SHE USED TO SAY IT WAS THE ONE PLACE SHE'D REALLY LIKE TO LIVE IN.

MISS TESMAN: BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL FIND ALL THIS VERY EXPENSIVE, MY DEAR JORGEN-VERY EXPENSIVE!

TESMAN: YES, IS SUPPOSE SO. HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL COST? I MEAN APPROXIMATELY-EH?

MISS TESMAN: THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY UNTIL WE'VE SEEN ALL THE BILLS.

TESMAN: JUDGE BRACK WROTE HEDDA THAT HE'D BEEN ABLE TO SECURE VERY FAVORABLE TERMS FOR ME.

MISS TESMAN: BUT YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MY DEAR BOY-FOR ONE THING, I'VE GIVEN SECURITY FOR ALL THE FURNITURE AND THE CARPETS.

TESMAN: SECURITY? YOU, DEAR AUNT JULIANE? WHAT SORT OF SECURITY?

MISS TESMAN: A MORTGAGE ON OUR ANNUITY.

TESMAN: WHAT!

MISS TESMAN: I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

TESMAN: YOU MUST BE MAD, AUNT JULIANE-QUITE MAD. THAT ANNUITY IS ALL THAT YOU AND AUNT RINA HAVE TO LIVE ON!

MISS TESMAN: DON'T GET SO EXCITED ABOUT IT! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF FORM, JUDGE BRACK SAYS. HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO ARRANGE THE WHOLE MATTER FOR ME.

TESMAN: THAT'S ALL VERY WELL-BUT STILL-!

MISS TESMAN: AND FROM NOW ON YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN SALARY TO DEPEND ON-AND EVEN IF WE SHOULD HAVE TO HELP OUT A LITTLE, JUST AT FIRST-IT WOULD ONLY BE THE GREATEST PLEASURE TO US!

TESMAN: ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE YOU, AUNT JULIANE! ALWAYS MAKING SACRIFICES FOR ME.

MISS TESMAN: THE ONLY HAPPINESS I HAVE IN THE WORLD IS MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR YOU, MY DEAR BOY. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME BAD TIMES, I ADMIT-BUT NOW WE'VE REACHED THE GOAL AND WE'VE NOTHING TO FEAR.

TESMAN: YES-IT'S AMAZING HOW EVERYTHING'S TURNED OUT FOR THE BEST!

MISS TESMAN: NOW THERE'S NO ONE TO STAND IN YOUR WAY-EVEN YOUR MOST DANGEROUS RIVAL HAS FALLEN. WELL, HE MADE HIS BED-LET HIM LIE ON IT, POOR MISGUIDED CREATURE.

TESMAN: HAS THERE BEEN ANY NEWS OF EJLERT-SINCE I WENT AWAY, I MEAN?

MISS TESMAN: THEY SAY HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE PUBLISHED A NEW BOOK.

TESMAN: EJLERT LOVBORG! A NEW BOOK? RECENTLY-EH?

MISS TESMAN: THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY-BUT I SHOULDN'T THINK ANY BOOK OF HIS WOULD BE WORTH MUCH. IT'LL BE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY WHEN YOUR NEW BOOK APPEARS. WHAT'S IT TO BE ABOUT JORGEN?

TESMAN: IT WILL DEAL WITH THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES OF BRABANT DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

MISS TESMAN: FANCY BEING ABLE TO WRITE ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

TESMAN: OF COURSE IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BOOK IS READY -I STILL HAVE TO ARRANGE AND CLASSIFY ALL MY NOTES, YOU SEE.

MISS TESMAN: YES-COLLECTING AND ARRANGING-NO ONE CAN COMPETE WITH YOU IN THAT! YOU'RE NOT YOUR FATHER'S SON FOR NOTHING!

TESMAN: I CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN! ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I HAVE MY OWN COMFORTABLE HOME TO WORK IN.

MISS TESMAN: AND BEST OF ALL-YOU HAVE YOUR WIFE! THE WIFE YOU LONGED FOR!

TESMAN: YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, AUNT JULIANE-HEDDA! SHE'S THE MOST WONDERFUL PART OF IT ALL! BUT HERE SHE COMES-EH?

MISS TESMAN: GOOD MORNING, HEDDA DEAR-AND WELCOME HOME!

HEDDA: GOOD MORNING, MY DEAR MISS TESMAN. WHAT AN EARLY VISITOR YOU ARE-HOW KIND OF YOU!

MISS TESMAN: NOT AT ALL. AND DID THE BRIDE SLEEP WELL IN HER NEW HOME?

HEDDA: THANK YOU-FAIRLY WELL.

TESMAN: FAIRLY WELL! I LIKE THAT, HEDDA! YOU WERE SLEEPING LIKE A LOG WHEN I GOT UP!

HEDDA: YES-FORTUNATELY. YOU KNOW, MISS TESMAN, ONE HAS TO ADAPT ONESELF GRADUALLY TO NEW SURROUNDINGS. GOOD HEAVENS-WHAT A NUISANCE! THAT MAID'S OPENED THE WINDOW AND LET IN A WHOLE FLOOD OF SUNSHINE!

MISS TESMAN: WELL-WE'LL JUST CLOSE IT THEN!

HEDDA: NO, NO-DON'T DO THAT! JORGEN, DEAR, JUST DRAW THE CURTAINS, WILL YOU? IT'LL GIVE A SOFTER LIGHT.

TESMAN: THERE, HEDDA! NOW YOU HAVE BOTH SHADE AND FRESH AIR!

HEDDA: HEAVEN KNOWS WE NEED SOME FRESH AIR, WITH ALL THESE STACKS OF FLOWERS! BUT DO SIT DOWN, MY DEAR MISS TESMAN.

MISS TESMAN: NO-MANY THANKS! NOW THAT I KNOW EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT HERE, I MUST BE GETTING HOME TO MY POOR SISTER.

TESMAN: DO GIVER HER MY BEST LOVE, AUNT JULIANE-AND TELL HER I'LL DROP IN AND SEE HER LATER IN THE DAY.

MISS TESMAN: YES, DEAR, I'LL DO THAT....OH! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN I'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU!

TESMAN: WHAT CAN THAT BE, AUNT JULIANE-EH?

MISS TESMAN: LOOK, DEAR!

TESMAN: OH, AUNT JULIANE! YOU REALLY KEPT THEM FOR ME! ISN'T THAT TOUCHING, HEDDA-EH?

HEDDA: WELL, WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

TESMAN: MY SLIPPERS, HEDDA! MY OLD BEDROOM SLIPPERS!

HEDDA: OH, YES-I REMEMBER. YOU OFTEN SPOKE OF THEM ON OUR JOURNEY.

TESMAN: I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW I'VE MISSED THEM! DO HAVE A LOOK AT THEM, HEDDA-

HEDDA: I'M REALLY NOT VERY INTERESTED, JORGEN-

TESMAN: DEAR AUNT RINA EMBROIDERED THEM FOR ME DURING HER ILLNESS. THEY HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES FOR ME-

HEDDA: SCARCELY FOR ME, JORGEN.

MISS TESMAN: OF COURSE NOT, JORGEN! THEY MEAN NOTHING TO HEDDA.

TESMAN: I ONLY THOUGHT, NOW THAT SHE'S ONE OF THE FAMILY-

HEDDA: WE SHALL NEVER GET ON WITH THIS SERVANT, JORGEN!

MISS TESMAN: NOT GET ON WITH BERTE?

TESMAN: HEDDA DEAR, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: LOOK! SHE'S LEFT HER OLD HAT LYING ABOUT ON THE TABLE.

TESMAN: WHY-HEDDA-!

HEDDA: JUST IMAGINE IF SOMEONE WERE TO COME IN AND SEE IT!

TESMAN: BUT, HEDDA! THAT'S AUNT JULIANE'S HAT!

HEDDA: OH! IS IT?

MISS TESMAN: YES, INDEED IT IS! AND WHAT'S MORE IT'S NOT OLD-LITTLE MRS. TESMAN!

HEDDA: I REALLY DIDN'T LOOK AT IT VERY CLOSELY, MISS TESMAN.

MISS TESMAN: THIS IS THE VERY FIRST TIME I'VE WORN IT!

TESMAN: AND IT'S A LOVELY HAT, TOO-QUITE A BEAUTY!

MISS TESMAN: OH, IT ISN'T AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALL THAT. WHERE'S MY PARASOL? AH-HERE IT IS! FOR THIS IS MINE TOO-NOT BERTHE'S.

TESMAN: A NEW HAT AND A NEW PARASOL-JUST THINK, HEDDA!

HEDDA: MOST HANDSOME AND LOVELY, I'M SURE!

TESMAN: YES-ISN'T IT, EH? BUT DO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HEDDA-SEE HOW LOVELY SHE IS!

MISS TESMAN: HEDDA WAS ALWAYS LOVELY, MY DEAR BOY-THAT'S NOTHING NEW.

TESMAN: BUT DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S LOOKING ESPECIALLY WELL? I THINK SHE'S FILLED OUT A BIT WHILE WE'VE BEEN AWAY.

HEDDA: OH, DO BE QUIET...!

MISS TESMAN: FILLED OUT?

TESMAN: OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T NOTICE IT SO MUCH IN THAT LOOSE DRESS-BUT I HAVE CERTAIN OPPORTUNITIES-

HEDDA: YOU HAVE NO OPPORTUNITIES AT ALL JORGEN-

TESMAN: I THINK IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE MOUNTAIN AIR IN THE TYROL-

HEDDA: I'M EXACTLY AS I WAS WHEN WE LEFT!

TESMAN: THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY-BUT I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK AUNT JULIANE?

MISS TESMAN: HEDDA IS LOVELY-LOVELY! GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU, HEDDA TESMAN, FOR JORGEN'S SAKE!

HEDDA: PLEASE! OH, PLEASE LET ME GO!

MISS TESMAN: I SHAN'T LET A DAY PASS WITHOUT COMING TO SEE YOU!

TESMAN: THAT'S RIGHT, AUNT JULIANE!

MISS TESMAN: GOOD-BYE, DEAREST HEDDA-GOOD-BYE!

TESMAN: WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, HEDDA?

HEDDA: I'M JUST LOOKING AT THE LEAVES-THEY'RE SO YELLOW-SO WITHERED.

TESMAN: WELL, WE'RE WELL INTO SEPTEMBER NOW.

HEDDA: GOD, YES! SEPTEMBER-SEPTEMBER ALREADY!

TESMAN: DIDN'T YOU THINK AUNT JULIANE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE? ALMOST SOLEMN, I THOUGHT. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WAS THE MATTER WITH HER-EH?

HEDDA: WELL, YOU SEE, I SCARCELY KNOW HER. ISN'T SHE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

TESMAN: NO, NOT AS SHE WAS TODAY.

HEDDA: PERHAPS SHE WAS ANNOYED ABOUT THE HAT.

TESMAN: OH, NOT SPECIALLY-PERHAPS JUST FOR A MOMENT-

HEDDA: SUCH A PECULIAR WAY TO BEHAVE-FLINGING ONE'S HAT ABOUT IN THE DRAWING ROOM-ONE DOESN'T DO THAT SORT OF THING.

TESMAN: I'M SURE AUNT JULIANE WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

HEDDA: I SHALL MANAGE TO MAKE MY PEACE WITH HER. WHEN YOU SEE HER THIS AFTERNOON, JORGEN, YOU MIGHT ASK HER TO COME AND SPEND THE EVENING HERE.

TESMAN: YES, I WILL, HEDDA. AND THERE'S ANOTHER THING YOU COULD DO THAT WOULD GIVE HER SO MUCH PLEASURE.

HEDDA: WELL-WHAT'S THAT?

TESMAN: IF YOU COULD ONLY BE A LITTLE MORE AFFECTIONATE WITH HER-JUST FOR MY SAKE-EH?

HEDDA: I SHALL TRY TO CALL HER AUNT-BUT THAT'S REALLY ALL I CAN DO.

TESMAN: VERY WELL. I JUST THOUGHT, NOW THAT YOU BELONG TO THE FAMILY-

HEDDA: I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY, JORGEN-

TESMAN: IS THERE ANYTHING THE MATTER WITH YOU, HEDDA, EH?

HEDDA: NO, NOTHING. I'M JUST LOOKING AT MY OLD PIANO. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO FIT IN WITH THE REST OF THE FURNITURE.

TESMAN: THE FIRST TIME I DRAW MY SALARY, WE'LL SEE ABOUT EXCHANGING IT.

HEDDA: EXCHANGE IT! WHY EXCHANGE IT? I DON'T WANT TO PART WITH IT. WHY COULDN'T WE PUT IT IN THE INNER ROOM AND GET A NEW ONE FOR HERE? THAT IS, OF COURSE, WHEN WE CAN AFFORD

TESMAN: YES, I SUPPOSE WE COULD DO THAT.

HEDDA: THESE FLOWERS WEREN'T HERE LAST NIGHT WHEN WE ARRIVE.

TESMAN: I EXPECT AUNT JULIANE BROUGHT THEM FOR YOU.

HEDDA: HERE'S A CARD. "SHALL RETURN LATER IN THE DAY." CAN YOU GUESS WHO IT'S FROM?

TESMAN: NO. TELL ME.

HEDDA: FROM MRS. ELVSTED.

TESMAN: REALLY! SHERIFF ELVSTEAD'S WIFE. THE FORMER MISS RYSING.

HEDDA: EXACTLY. THE GIRL WITH THAT IRRITATING MASS OF HAIR-SHE WAS ALWAYS SHOWING OFF. I'VE HEARD SHE WAS AN OLD FLAME OF YOURS, JORGEN?

TESMAN: OH, THAT DIDN'T LAST LONG, AND IT WAS BEFORE I MET YOU, HEDDA. FANCY HER BEING IN TOWN.

HEDDA: FUNNY THAT SHE SHOULD CALL ON US. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR YEARS. NOT SINCE WE WERE AT SCHOOL TOGETHER.

TESMAN: I HAVEN'T SEEN HER, EITHER, FOR EVER SO LONG. I WONDER HOW SHE CAN STAND LIVING IN THAT REMOTE, DREARY PLACE.

HEDDA: I WONDER! TELL ME, JORGEN, DOESN'T EJLERT LOVBORG LIVE SOMEWHERE NEAR THERE?

TESMAN: YES, I BELIEVE HE DOES. SOMEWHERE IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD.

BERTE: THAT LADY, MA'AM, WHO LEFT SOME FLOWERS A LITTLE WHILE AGO IS BACK AGAIN. THE FLOWERS YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND, MA'AM.

HEDDA: OH, IS SHE? VERY WELL, ASK HER TO COME IN. HOW DO YOU DO, MY DEAR MRS. ELVSTED? HOW DELIGHTFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, IT'S A VERY LONG TIME SINCE WE MET.

TESMAN: AND WE HAVEN'T MET FOR A LONG TIME, EITHER, EH?

HEDDA: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVELY FLOWERS.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, DON'T MENTION IT. I WOULD HAVE COME TO SEE YOU YESTERDAY, BUT I HEARD YOU WERE AWAY.

TESMAN: HAVE YOU JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN, EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, I GOT HERE YESTERDAY MORNING. I WAS SO UPSET NOT TO FIND YOU AT HOME.

HEDDA: UPSET! BUT WHY, MY DEAR MRS. ELVSTED?

TESMAN: BUT, MY DEAR MRS. RYSING-EH, MRS. ELVSTED, I MEAN-

HEDDA: I HOPE YOU'RE NOT IN ANY TROUBLE.

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, YES, I AM, AND I KNOW NO ONE ELSE IN TOWN THAT I COULD POSSIBLY TURN TO-

HEDDA: COME, LET'S SIT DOWN HERE ON THE SOFA-

MRS. ELVSTED: I'M REALLY TOO NERVOUS TO SIT DOWN.

HEDDA: OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT. COME ALONG NOW-

TESMAN: WELL, MRS. ELVSTED?

HEDDA: HAS ANYTHING GONE WRONG AT HOME?

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, EH-YES, AND NO. I DO HOPE YOU WON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME.

HEDDA: PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TELL US ALL ABOUT IT, MRS. ELVSTED.

TESMAN: I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE COME FOR, EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, OF COURSE. WELL, FIRST OF ALL-BUT PERHAPS YOU'VE ARLEADY HEARD-EJLERT LOVBORG IS IN TOWN, TOO.

HEDDA: LOVBORG!

TESMAN: WHAT! EJLERT LOVBORG HAS COME BACK! THINK OF THAT, HEDDA!

HEDDA: GOOD HEAVENS, YES, I HEARD IT!

MRS. ELVSTED: HE'S BEEN HERE FOR A WEEK. A WHOLE WEEK. I'M SO AFRAID HE'LL GET INTO TROUBLE-

HEDDA: BUT, MY DEAR MRS. ELVSTED, WHY SHOULD YOU BE SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM?

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, YOU SEE-HE'S THE CHILDREN'S TUTOR.

HEDDA: YOUR CHILDREN'S?

MRS. ELVSTED: NO. MY HUSBAND'S. I HAVE NONE.

HEDDA: OH, YOUR STEPCHILDREN'S THEN?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES.

TESMAN: WAS HE-I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO PUT IT-WAS HE DEPENDABLE ENOUGH TO FILL SUCH A POSITION, EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS HIS CONDUCT HAS BEEN IRREPROACHABLE.

TESMAN: HAS IT, REALLY? THINK OF THAT, HEDDA!

HEDDA: YES, YES, YES! I HEARD IT.

MRS. ELVSTED: IRREPROACHABLE IN EVERY RESPECT, I ASSURE YOU, BUT STILL I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FOR HIM TO BE HERE IN TOWN ALL ALONE, AND HE HAS QUITE A LOT OF MONEY WITH HIM, I CAN'T HELP BEING WORRIED TO DEATH ABOUT HIM.

TESMAN: BUT WHY DID HE COME HERE? WHY DIDN'T HE STAY WHERE HE WAS? WITH YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND, EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: AFTER HIS BOOK WAS PUBLISHED HE FELT TOO RESTLESS TO STAY ON WITH US.

TESMAN: OH, YES, OF COURSE. AUNT JULIANE TOLD ME HE HAD PUBLISHED A NEW BOOK.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, A WONDERFUL BOOK. A SORT OF OUTLINE OF CIVILIZATION. IT CAME OUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. IT'S SOLD MARVELOUSLY. MADE QUITE A SENSATION.

TESMAN: HAS IT REALLY? THEN I SUPPOSE IT'S SOMETHING HE WROTE SOME TIME AGO-DURING HIS BETTER YEARS.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NO. HE'S WRITTEN IT ALL SINCE HE'S BEEN WITH US.

TESMAN: WELL, ISN'T THAT SPLENDID, HEDDA? THINK OF THAT!

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, IF ONLY HE'LL KEEP IT UP.

HEDDA: HAVE YOU SEEN HIM HERE IN TOWN?

MRS. ELVSTED: NOT YET. I HAD GREAT TROUBLE FINDING OUT HIS ADDRESS, BUT THIS MORNING I GOT IT AT LAST.

HEDDA: BUT DOESN'T IT SEEM RATHER ODD OF YOUR HUSBAND TO-

MRS. ELVSTED: OF MY HUSBAND-WHAT?

HEDDA: WELL-TO SEND YOU ON SUCH AN ERRAND. WHY DIDN'T HE COME HIMSELF TO LOOK AFTER HIS FRIEND?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, NO. MY HUSBAND IS MUCH TOO BUSY. AND BESIDES, I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO.

HEDDA: OH, I SEE!

MRS. ELVSTED: I IMPORE YOU, MR. TESMAN, BE GOOD TO EJLERT LOVBORG IF HE SHOULD COME TO SEE YOU. I'M SURE HE WILL. YOU WERE SUCH GREAT FRIENDS IN THE OLD DAYS, AND AFTER ALL, YOU'RE BOTH INTERESTED IN THE SAME STUDIES. YOU SPECIALIZE IN THE SAME SUBJECTS-AS FAR AS I CAN UNDERSTAND.

TESMAN: YES, WE USED TO, AT ANY RATE.

MRS. ELVSTED: THAT'S WHY I'D BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOU TOO WOULD-WELL-KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. YOU WILL DO THAT, WON'T YOU, MR. TESMAN?

TESMAN: I'D BE DELIGHTED TO, MRS. RYSING.

HEDDA: ELVSTED!

TESMAN: I'D BE DELIGHTED TO DO ANYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP EULERT. YOU CAN RELY ON ME.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, HOW VERY KIND OF YOU! I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.... YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND IS SO VERY FOND OF HIM.

HEDDA: YES-I SEE. I THINK YOU SHOULD WRITE TO HIM, JORGEN. HE MAY NOT CARE TO COME OF HIS OWN ACCORD.

TESMAN: PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO, HEDDA, EH?

HEDDA: YES. THE SOONER THE BETTER. WHY NOT AT ONCE?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, YES, PLEASE DO!

TESMAN: I'LL WRITE HIM THIS MINUTE. HAVE YOU HIS ADDRESS, MRS. RY-ELVSTED?

MRS. ELVSTED: HERE IT IS.

TESMAN: SPLENDID. THEN I'LL GO IN. OH-I MUSTN'T FORGET MY SLIPPERS. AH! HERE THEY ARE.

HEDDA: MIND YOU WRITE HIM A NICE FRIENDLY LETTER, JORGEN, AND A GOOD LONG ONE, TOO.

TESMAN: I MOST CERTAINLY WILL.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT DON'T LET HIM KNOW THAT I SUGGESTED IT!

TESMAN: OF COURSE NOT! THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, EH?

HEDDA: THERE! NOW WE'VE KILLED TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

MRS. ELVSTED: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: COULDN'T YOU SEE THAT I WANTED TO GET RID OF HIM?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, TO WRITE THE LETTER.

HEDDA: AND SO THAT I COULD TALK TO YOU ALONE.

MRS. ELVSTED: ABOUT THE SAME THING?

HEDDA: PRECISELY.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO TELL, MRS. TESMAN. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

HEDDA: OF COURSE THERE IS. I CAN SEE THAT. THERE'S A GREAT DEAL MORE TO TELL. COME ALONG. SIT DOWN. WE'LL HAVE A NICE FRIENDLY TALK.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT, REALLY, MRS. TESMAN, I WAS JUST THINKING OF GOING-

HEDDA: OH, YOU CAN'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY. COME ALONG, NOW-I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR LIFE AT HOME.

MRS. ELVSTED: I PREFER NOT TO SPEAK ABOUT THAT.

HEDDA: BUT TO ME, DEAR! AFTER ALL, WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, BUT YOU WERE IN A HIGHER CLASS, AND I WAS ALWAYS SO DREADFULLY AFRAID OF YOU THEN.

HEDDA: AFRAID OF ME!

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, DREADFULLY. WHEN WE MET ON THE STAIRS YOU ALWAYS USED TO PULL MY HAIR.

HEDDA: DID I, REALLY!

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. AND ONCE YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO BURN IT ALL OFF.

HEDDA: I WAS JUST TEASING YOU, OF COURSE!

MRS. ELVSTED: I WAS SO SILLY IN THOSE DAYS, AND AFTERWARDS WE DRIFTED SO FAR APART. WE LIVED IN SUCH DIFFERENT WORLDS...

HEDDA: WELL, THEN WE MUST DRIFT TOGETHER AGAIN. AT SCHOOL WE ALWAYS CALLED EACH OTHER BY OUR FIRST NAMES. WHY SHOULDN'T WE NOW?

MRS. ELVSTED: I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN-

HEDDA: OF COURSE NOT. I REMEMBER IT DISTINCTLY. WE WERE GREAT FRIENDS! SO YOU MUST CALL ME HEDDA.

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU'RE SO KIND AND UNDERSTANDING. I'M NOT USED TO KINDNESS.

HEDDA: AND I SHALL CALL YOU MY DARLING LITTLE THORA.

MRS. ELVSTED: MY NAME IS THEA.

HEDDA: YES, YES, OF COURSE, I MEANT THEA! SO MY DARLING LITTLE THEA-YOU MEAN THEY'RE NOT KIND TO YOU AT HOME?

MRS. ELVSTED: IF ONLY I HAD A HOME! BUT I HAVEN'T. I NEVER HAD ONE.

HEDDA: I SUSPECTED SOMETHING OF THE SORT.

MRS. ELVSTED: AH!

HEDDA: TELL ME, THEA-I'M A LITTLE VAGUE ABOUT IT. WHEN YOU FIRST WENT TO THE ELVSTEDS', YOU WERE ENGAGED AS HOUSEKEEPER, WEREN'T YOU?

MRS. ELVSTED: I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO AS GOVERNESS, BUT MRS. ELVSTED-THE FIRST MRS. ELVSTED, THAT IS-WAS AN INVALID, AND RARELY LEFT HER ROOM, SO I HAD TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE HOUSE AS WELL.

HEDDA: AND, EVENTUALLY, YOU BECAME MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, I DID.

HEDDA: HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT?

MRS. ELVSTED: THAT I MARRIED HIM?

HEDDA: YES.

MRS. ELVSTED: FIVE YEARS AGO.

HEDDA: YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, THOSE FIVE YEARS, ESPECIALLY THE LAST TWO OR THREE OF THEM- IF ONLY YOU KNEW, MRS. TESMAN!

HEDDA: MRS. TESMAN! THEA!

MRS. ELVSTED: I'LL TRY- YOU HAVE NO IDEA, HEDDA-

HEDDA: EJLERT LOVBORG'S LIVED NEAR YOU ABOUT THREE YEARS, HASN'T HE?

MRS. ELVSTED: EJLERT LOVBORG? WHY, YES, HE HAS.

HEDDA: HAD YOU MET HIM BEFORE, HERE IN TOWN?

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NOT REALLY-I KNEW HIM BY HIS NAME, OF COURSE.

HEDDA: BUT I SUPPOSE UP THERE YOU SAW A GOOD DEAL OF HIM.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, HE CAME TO OUR HOUSE EVERY DAY. HE GAVE THE CHILDREN LESSONS, YOU SEE. I HAD SO MUCH TO DO, I COULDN'T MANAGER THAT, AS WELL.

HEDDA: NO. OF COURSE NOT. AND I SUPPOSE YOUR HUSBAND'S AWAY FROM HOME A GOOD DEAL.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. BEING SHERIFF, HE OFTEN HAS TO TRAVEL ABOUT HIS DISTRICT.

HEDDA: NOW, MY DEAR DARLING LITTLE THEA, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING-EXACTLY AS IT IS.

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, THEN YOU MUST QUESTION ME.

HEDDA: TELL ME-WHAT SORT OF A MAN IS YOUR HUSBAND, THEA? TO LIVE WITH, I MEAN. IS HE KIND TO YOU?

MRS. ELVSTED: HE PROBABLY THINKS HE IS.

HEDDA: BUT ISN'T HE MUCH TOO OLD FOR YOU, DEAR? THERE MUST BE AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS BETWEEN YOU.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, THAT MAKES IT ALL THE HARDER. WE HAVEN'T A THOUGHT IN COMMON. NOTHING, IN FACT.

HEDDA: BUT, I SUPPOSE HE'S FOND OF YOU IN HIS OWN WAY.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK HE FINDS ME USEFUL. AND THEN IT DOESN'T COST MUCH TO KEEP ME. I'M NOT EXPENSIVE.

HEDDA: THAT'S STUPID OF YOU.

MRS. ELVSTED: IT COULDN'T BE OTHERWISE. NOT WITH HIM. I DON'T BELIEVE HE REALLY CARES ABOUT ANYONE BUT HIMSELF. AND PERHAPS A LITTLE FOR THE CHILDREN.

HEDDA: AND FOR EJLERT LOVBORG, THEA?

MRS. ELVSTED: EJLERT LOVBORG? WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

HEDDA: WELL, IT'S OBVIOUS!- AFTER ALL, HE'S SENT YOU ALL THIS WAY INTO TOWN, SIMPLY TO LOOK FOR HIM!- WASN'T THAT WHAT YOU TOLD JORGEN?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, I SUPPOSE I DID. OH, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU THE TRUTH. IT'S BOUND TO COME OUT SOONER OR LATER.

HEDDA: WHAT-?

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, THEN-MY HUSBAND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ME COMING HERE.

HEDDA: YOUR HUSBAND DIDN'T KNOW!

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, OF COURSE NOT. HE WAS AWAY HIMSELF AT THE TIME. I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER, HEDDA. I SIMPLY COULDN'T. I FELT SO ALONE, SO DESERTED-

HEDDA: YES, YES-WELL?

MRS. ELVSTED: SO I PACKED A FEW OF MY THINGS-JUST THOSE I NEEDED MOST-I DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO ANYONE. I SIMPLY LEFT THE HOUSE.

HEDDA: JUST LIKE THAT!

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, AND TOOK THE NEXT TRAIN TO TOWN.

HEDDA: BUT, THEA, MY DARLING! HOW DID YOU DARE DO SUCH A THING?

MRS. ELVSTED: WHAT ELSE COULD I POSSIBLY DO?

HEDDA: BUT WHAT WILL YOUR HUSBAND SAY WHEN YOU GO HOME AGAIN?

MRS. ELVSTED: BACK TO HIM!

HEDDA: WELL, OF COURSE.

MRS. ELVSTED: I SHALL NEVER GO BACK TO HIM AGAIN.

HEDDA: YOU MEAN YOU'VE ACTUALLY LEFT YOUR HOME FOR GOOD?

MRS. ELVSTED: I SAW NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

HEDDA: BUT TO LEAVE LIKE THAT, SO OPENLY-

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU CAN'T VERY WELL HIDE A THING LIKE THAT!

HEDDA: BUT WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY ABOUT YOU, THEA?

MRS. ELVSTED: THEY CAN SAY WHATEVER THEY LIKE. I ONLY DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.

HEDDA: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?

MRS. ELVSTED: I DON'T KNOW YET. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I MUST LIVE NEAR EJLERT LOVBORG, IF I'M TO LIVE AT ALL.

HEDDA: TELL ME, THEA-HOW DID THIS FRIENDSHIP START BETWEEN YOU AND EJLERT LOVBORG?

MRS. ELVSTED: IT GREW GRADUALLY. I BEGAN TO HAVE A SORT OF POWER OVER HIM.

HEDDA: REALLY?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. AFTER A WHILE HE GAVE UP HIS OLD HABITS. OH, NOT BECAUSE I ASKED HIM TO-I NEVER WOULD HAVE DARED DO THAT. BUT I SUPPOSE HE REALIZED HOW UNHAPPY THEY MADE ME, AND SO HE DROPPED THEM.

HEDDA: SO, MY DARLING LITTLE THEA, YOU'VE ACTUALLY REFORMED HIM!

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, HE SAYS SO, AT ANY RATE, AND IN RETURN HE'S MADE A HUMAN BEING OUT OF ME. TAUGHT ME TO THINK AND UNDERSTAND SO MANY THINGS.

HEDDA: DID HE GIVE YOU LESSONS, TOO, THEN?

MRS. ELVSTED: NOT LESSONS, EXACTLY, BUT HE TALKED TO ME, EXPLAINED SO MUCH TO ME-AND THE MOST WONDERFUL THING OF ALL WAS WHEN HE FINALLY ALLOWED ME TO SHARE IN HIS WORK. ALLOWED ME TO HELP HIM.

HEDDA: HE DID, DID HE?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. HE WANTED ME TO BE A PART OF EVERYTHING HE WROTE.

HEDDA: LIKE TWO GOOD COMRADES!

MRS. ELVSTED: COMRADES! WHY, HEDDA, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS! I OUGHT TO BE SO HAPPY, BUT SOMEHOW I'M NOT. I'M SO AFRAID IT MAY NOT LAST.

HEDDA: YOU'RE NOT VERY SURE OF HIM, THEN?

MRS. ELVSTED: I SOMETIMES FEEL A SHADOW BETWEEN LOVBORG AND ME-A WOMAN'S SHADOW.

HEDDA: WHO COULD THAT BE?

MRS. ELVSTED: I DON'T KNOW. SOMEONE HE KNEW LONG AGO. SOMEONE HE'S NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORGET.

HEDDA: HAS HE TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT HER?

MRS. ELVSTED: HE SPOKE OF HER ONCE-QUITE VAGUELY.

HEDDA: WHAT DID HE SAY?

MRS. ELVSTED: HE SAID THAT WHEN THEY PARTED SHE THREATENED TO SHOOT HIM.

HEDDA: WHAT NONSENSE! NO ONE DOES THAT SORT OF THING HERE!

MRS. ELVSTED: I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I THINK IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT RED-HAIRED CABARET SINGER HE WAS ONCE--

HEDDA: VERY LIKELY.

MRS. ELVSTED: THEY SAY SHE USED TO GO ABOUT WITH LOADED PISTOLS.

HEDDA: THEN OF COURSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN SHE.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT, HEDDA, THEY SAY SHE'S HERE NOW--IN TOWN, AGAIN! I'M SO WORRIED I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

HEDDA: SH! HERE COMES TESMAN. NOT A WORD TO HIM. ALL THIS IS BETWEEN US.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, YES, OF COURSE.

TESMAN: WELL, HERE IS THE LETTER SIGNED AND SEALED!

HEDDA: SPLENDID! MRS. ELVSTED WAS JUST LEAVING, JORGEN. WAIT A MINUTE! I'LL GO WITH YOU AS FAR AS THE GARDEN GATE.

TESMAN: DO YOU THINK BERTE COULD POST THIS FOR ME, DEAR?

HEDDA: I'LL TELL HER TO.

BERTE: JUDGE BRACK WISHES TO KNOW IF YOU WILL SEE HIM, MA'AM.

HEDDA: YES. SHOW HIM IN. AND POST THIS LETTER, WILL YOU?

BERTE: CERTAINLY, MA'AM.

BRACK: MAY ONE VENTURE TO CALL SO EARLY IN THE DAY?

HEDDA: OF COURSE ONE MAY.

TESMAN: YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME. JUDGE BRACK, MISS RYSING.

HEDDA: AH!

BRACK: DELIGHTED.

HEDDA: WHAT FUN TO HAVE A LOOK AT YOU BY DAYLIGHT, JUDGE.

BRACK: DO YOU FIND ME--ALTERED?

HEDDA: A LITTLE YOUNGER, I THINK.

BRACK: I THANK YOU, MOST HEARTILY.

TESMAN: BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY TO HEDDA, EH? DOESN'T SHE LOOK FLOURISHING? SHE'S POSITIVELY--

HEDDA: FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, LEAVE ME OUT OF IT, JORGEN! YOU'D FAR BETTER THANK JUDGE BRACK FOR ALL THE TROUBLE HE'S TAKEN.

BRACK: OH, DON'T MENTION IT. IT WAS A PLEASURE, I ASSURE YOU.

HEDDA: YES, YOU'RE A LOYAL SOUL; BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP MRS. ELVSTED WAITING. EXCUSE ME, JUDGE. I'LL BE BACK DIRECTLY.

BRACK: WELL, I HOPE YOU WIFE'S PLEASED WITH EVERYTHING.

TESMAN: WE REALLY CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH. OF COURSE SHE WANTS TO REARRANGE THINGS ABIT, AND SHE TALKS OF BUYING A FEW ADDITIONAL TRIFLES.

BRACK: IS THAT SO?

TESMAN: BUT YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER ABOUT THAT. HEDDA WILL SEE TO THAT HERSELF. WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN, EH?

BRACK: THANKS. JUST FOR A MOMENT- THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TALK TO YOU ABOUT, MY DEAR TESMAN.

TESMAN: YES, THE EXPENSES, EH? I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS.

BRACK: OH, THAT'S NOT SO VERY PRESSING. THOUGH PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WISER TO BE A BIT MORE ECONOMICAL.

TESMAN: BUT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE QUESTION. YOU KNOW HEDDA, JUDGE. AFTER ALL, SHE'S BEEN USED TO A CERTAIN STANDARD OF LIVING-

BRACK: YES, THAT'S JUST THE TROUBLE.

TESMAN: FORTUNATELY, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I RECEIVE MY APPOINTMENT.

BRACK: WELL, YOU SEE-SUCH THINGS SOMETIMES HANG FIRE.

TESMAN: HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER, EH?

BRACK: NOTHING REALLY DEFINITE. BUT, BY THE WAY, I HAVE ONE BIT OF NEWS FOR YOU.

TESMAN: WELL?

BRACK: YOUR OLD FRIEND EJLERT LOVBORG IS BACK IN TOWN.

TESMAN: I'VE HEARD THAT ALREADY.

BRACK: REALLY? WHO TOLD YOU?

TESMAN: THAT LADY WHO WENT OUT WITH HEDDA.

BRACK: OH, YES, WHAT WAS HER NAME? I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH IT.

TESMAN: MRS. ELVSTED.

BRACK: OH, YES, THE SHERIFF'S WIFE. OF COURSE. LOVBORG'S BEEN LIVING NEAR THEM THE-

TESMAN: AND, JUST THINK, I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR HE'S QUITE A REFORMED CHARACTER.

BRACK: YES, SO THEY SAY.

TESMAN: AND HE'S PUBLISHED A NEW BOOK, EH?

BRACK: INDEED HE HAS.

TESMAN: I HEAR IT'S MADE QUITE A SENSATION.

BRACK: A MOST UNUSUAL SENSATION.

TESMAN: THINK OF THAT. I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT. A MAN OF SUCH EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS. I FELT SO SORRY TO THINK HE'D GONE COMPLETELY TO WRACK AND RUIN!

BRACK: WELL-EVERYBODY THOUGHT SO.

TESMAN: I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO NOW-HOW ON EARTH WILL HE MANAGE TO MAKE A LIVING?

HEDDA: ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE TESMAN, JUDGE? ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE ARE GOING TO MAKE THEIR LIVING.

TESMAN: WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT EJLERT LOVBORG, DEAR.

HEDDA: WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?

TESMAN: THAT MONEY HE INHERITED-HE'S UNDOUBTEDLY SQUANDERED THAT LONG AGO. AND HE CAN'T VERY WELL WRITE A NEW BOOK EVERY YEAR, EH? SO WHY SHOULDN'T I WONDER WHAT'S TO BECOME OF HIM?

BRACK: PERHAPS I CAN GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

TESMAN: INDEED?

BRACK: YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT HIS RELATIVES HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE.

TESMAN: BUT THEY WASHED THEIR HANDS OF HIM LONG AGO.

BRACK: AT ONE TIME HE WAS CONSIDERED THE HOPE OF THE FAMILY.

TESMAN: AT ONE TIME, PERHAPS. BUT HE SOON PUT AN END TO THAT.

HEDDA: WHO KNOWS? I HEAR THEY'VE QUITE REFORMED HIM UP AT THE ELVSTEDS'.

BRACK: AND THEN THERE'S HIS NEW BOOK, OF COURSE.

TESMAN: YES, THAT'S TRUE. LET'S HOPE THINGS WILL TURN OUT WELL FOR HIM. I'VE JUST WRITTEN HIM A NOTE. I ASKED HIM TO COME AND SEE ME THIS EVENING, HEDDA DEAR.

BRACK: BUT YOU'RE COMING TO MY STAG PARTY THIS EVENING. YOU PROMISED ME LAST NIGHT ON THE PIER.

HEDDA: HAD YOU FORGOTTEN, TESMAN!

TESMAN: YES, I REALLY HAD.

BRACK: IN ANY CASE, I THINK YOU CAN BE PRETTY SURE HE WON'T COME.

TESMAN: WHY SHOULDN'T HE?

BRACK: MY DEAR TESMAN, AND YOU, TOO, MRS. TESMAN, I THINK IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I SHOULD INFORM YOU OF SOMETHING THAT-

TESMAN: THAT CONCERNS EJLERT, EH?

BRACK: YES, YOU AS WELL AS HIM.

TESMAN: BUT, MY DEAR JUDGE, WHAT IS IT?

BRACK: I THINK YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FIND YOUR APPOINTMENT DEFERRED-RATHER LONGER THAN YOU DESIRED OR EXPECTED.

TESMAN: HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED TO PREVENT IT, EH?

BRACK: THE NOMINATION MAY DEPEND ON THE RESULT OF A COMPETITION.

TESMAN: A COMPETITION! THINK OF THAT, HEDDA. BUT WHO WOULD MY COMPETITOR BE? SURELY NOT-?

BRACK: YES. EJLERT LOVBORG. PRECISELY.

TESMAN: NO, NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S UTTERLY INCONCEIVABLE, EH?

BRACK: IT MAY COME TO THAT, ALL THE SAME.

TESMAN: BUT, JUDGE BRACK, THIS WOULD BE INCREDIBLY UNFAIR TO ME. JUST THINK, I'M A MARRIED MAN! WE MARRIED ON THESE PROSPECTS, HEDDA AND I. THINK OF THE MONEY WE'VE SPENT, AND WE'VE BORROWED FROM AUNT JULIANE, TOO! WHY, THEY PRACTICALLY PROMISED ME THE APPOINTMENT, EH?

BRACK: DON'T GET SO EXCITED. YOU'LL PROBABLY GET THE APPOINTMENT ALL THE SAME, ONLY YOU'LL HAVE TO COMPETE FOR IT.

HEDDA: JUST THINK, JORGEN, IT WILL HAVE QUITE A SPORTING INTEREST.

TESMAN: DEAREST HEDDA, HOW CAN YOU BE SO INDIFFERENT ABOUT IT?

HEDDA: INDIFFERENT! I'M NOT IN THE LEAST INDIFFERENT. I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHICH OF YOU WILL WIN.

BRACK: IN ANY CASE, I THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WARN YOU, MRS. TESMAN! PERHAPS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU'D BETTER GO EASY ON THOSE "ADDITIONAL TRIFLES" YOU'RE THINK OF BUYING.

HEDDA: I DON'T SEE HOW THIS COULD POSSIBLY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, MY DEAR JUDGE.

BRACK: REALLY? THEN I'VE NO MORE TO SAY. GOOD-BYE. I'LL CALL FOR YOU LATER ON MY WAY BACK FROM MY AFTERNOON WALK.

TESMAN: YES, YES-I'M SO UPSET-MY HEAD'S IN A WHIRL!

HEDDA: I SHALL HOPE TO SEE YOU LATER, JUDGE.
 BRACK: THANK YOU, MRS. TESMAN. GOOD-BYE.
 TESMAN: GOOD-BYE, MY DEAR JUDGE. YOU REALLY MUST EXCUSE ME-
 TESMAN: OH, HEDDA, HEDDA, ONE SHOULD NEVER RUSH INTO ADVENTURES, EH?
 HEDDA: DO YOU DO THAT, JORGEN?
 TESMAN: WHAT ELSE CAN YOU CALL IT? TO GET MARRIED AND SETTLE DOWN ON MERE EXPECTATIONS, EH?
 HEDDA: YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
 TESMAN: WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE OUR LOVELY HOME, HEDDA, EH? THE HOME WE BOTH DREAMT OF.
 HEDDA: I'D COUNTED ON DOING A LOT OF ENTERTAINING. THAT WAS PART OF THE AGREEMENT, I THOUGHT. WE WERE TO KEEP OPEN HOUSE.
 TESMAN: I'D BEEN SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, HEDDA DEAR. TO SEE YOU, A BRILLIANT HOSTESS, SURROUNDED BY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS- WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT FOR THE TIME BEING, DEAR- BE HAPPY IN ONE ANOTHER- WE CAN ALWAYS INVITE AUNT JULIANE IN NOW AND THEN. BUT I WANTED IT TO BE SO DIFFERENT FOR YOU, HEDDA. SO VERY DIFFERENT.
 HEDDA: I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS I'LL HAVE TO DO WITHOUT MY BUTLER.
 TESMAN: YES, I'M AFRAID A BUTLER IS QUITE OUT OF THE QUESTION!
 HEDDA: YOU PROMISED ME A SADDLE-HORSE, REMEMBER? I SUPPOSE THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, TOO?
 TESMAN: I'M AFRAID SO, HEDDA.
 HEDDA: WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE ONE THING TO AMUSE MYSELF WITH.
 TESMAN: THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT. WHAT IS IT HEDDA, EH?
 HEDDA: MY PISTOLS, JORGEN.
 TESMAN: YOUR PISTOLS!
 HEDDA: GENERAL GABLER'S PISTOLS.
 TESMAN: OH, HEDDA, DARLING, PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THOSE DANGEROUS THINGS. FOR MY SAKE, HEDDA, EH?

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HEDDA: WELCOME BACK, JUDGE!
 BRACK: THANK YOU, MRS. TESMAN.

HEDDA: NOW, I'M GOING OT SHOOT YOU, JUDGE!

BRACK: NO, NO, DON'T AIM AT ME LIKE THAT!

HEDDA: THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR SNEAKING IN THE BACK WAY.

BRACK: HAVE YOU GONE QUITE MAD?

HEDDA: SO SORRY. DID I HIT YOU BY ANY CHANCE?

BRACK: I WISH YOU'D STOP ALL THIS NON-SENSE.

HEDDA: COME ALONG, JUDGE, I'LL LET YOU PASS.

BRACK: SO YOU'RE STILL FOOLING WITH THOSE PISTOLS. WHAT ARE YOU SHOOTING AT?

HEDDA: JUST KILLING TIME. SHOOTING UP INTO THE BLUE.

BRACK: ALLOW ME. HM...I KNOW THIS PISTOL...I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. WHERE'S THE CASE FOR IT? AH, HERE! SO THAT GAME IS FINISHED FOR TODAY.

HEDDA: WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME AM I TO DO WITH MYSELF ALL DAY LONG!

BRACK: HAVEN'T YOU HAD ANY VISITORS?

HEDDA: NOT ONE. I SUPPOSE ALL OUR FRIENDS ARE STILL OUT OF TOWN.

BRACK: ISN'T TESMAN HOME?

HEDDA: NO. HE RUSHED OFF TO HIS AUNTS' DIRECTLY AFTER LUNCH. HE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU SO EARLY, JUDGE.

BRACK: FANCY MY NOT THINKING OF THAT- THAT WAS STUPID OF ME.

HEDDA: WHY STUPID?

BRACK: BECAUSE I SHOULD HAVE COME EVEN EARLIER.

HEDDA: THEN YOU'D HAVE FOUND NO ONE TO RECEIVE YOU, FOR I'VE BEEN DRESSING EVER SINCE LUNCH.

BRACK: BUT ISN'T THERE A LITTLE CRACK IN THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH ONE MIGHT CONVERSE?

HEDDA: NO. YOU FORGOT TO PROVIDE ONE, JUDGE.

BRACK: AGAIN STUPID OF ME.

HEDDA: WE MUST JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT UNTIL TESMAN COMES- HE MAY NOT BE BACK FOR SOME TIME.

BRACK: NEVER MIND. I SHAN'T BE IMPATIENT.

HEDDA: WELL?

BRACK: WELL?

HEDDA: I SPOKE FIRST.

BRACK: LET'S HAVE A REALLY PLEASANT LITTLE TALK, MRS.-HEDDA.

HEDDA: IT SEEMS AGES SINCE OUR LAST ONE, DOESN'T IT, JUDGE?
OF COURSE, I DON'T COUNT THE FEW WORDS WE HAD LAST NIGHT
AND THIS MORNING.

BRACK: I KNOW-YOU MEAN A REAL TALK. JUST A "TWSOME."

HEDDA: YES, THAT'S IT.

BRACK: EVERY SINGLE DAY I'VE WISHED YOU WERE HOME AGAIN.

HEDDA: I'VE WISHED THAT, TOO.

BRACK: YOU HAVE? REALLY, MRS. HEDDA? AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE
HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME ON YOUR JOURNEY.

HEDDA: HA!

BRACK: TESMAN'S LETTERS LED ME TO THINK SO.

HEDDA: OH, WELL, TESMAN! YOU KNOW TESMAN, MY DEAR JUDGE! HIS
IDEA OF BLISS IS GRUBBING ABOUT IN A LOT OF DIRTY BOOK-
SHOPS AND MAKING ENDLESS COPIES OF ANTIQUATED MANUSCRIPTS.

BRACK: WELL, AFTER ALL, THAT'S HIS VOCATION IN LIFE, YOU KNOW.
OR A LARGE PART OF IT.

HEDDA: YES, IF IT'S ONE'S VOCATION, I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES IT
DIFFERENT, BUT AS FOR ME! OH, MY DEAR JUDGE, I CAN'T
TELL YOU HOW BORED I'VE BEEN!

BRACK: ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS?

HEDDA: OF COURSE. SURELY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND? HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO SPEND SIX WHOLE MONTHS WITHOUT MEETING A SOUL
YOU COULD REALLY TALK TO?

BRACK: I SHOULDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL.

HEDDA: BUT THE MOST UNENDURABLE THING OF ALL WAS-

BRACK: WHAT?

HEDDA: TO BE EVERLASTINGLY WITH ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.

BRACK: MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT, AT ALL POSSIBLE TIMES.

HEDDA: I SAID "EVERLASTINGLY."

BRACK: BUT WITH OUR GOOD TESMAN, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ONE
MIGHT-

HEDDA: TESMAN IS A SPECIALIST, MY DEAR JUDGE.

BRACK: UNDENIABLY.

HEDDA: AND SPECIALISTS ARE NOT AMUSING TRAVELING COMPANIONS-
NOT FOR LONG, AT ANY RATE.

BRACK: NOT EVEN THE SPECIALIST YOU HAPPEN TO LOVE?

HEDDA: UGH! DON'T USE THAT REVOLTING WORD!

BRACK: WHAT? WHAT'S THAT, MRS. HEDDA?

HEDDA: JUST YOU TRY IT! NOTHING BUT THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT.

BRACK: EVERLASTINGLY.

HEDDA: AND THEN ALL THIS BUSINESS ABOUT THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES OF BRABANT DURING THE MIDDLE AGES. THAT'S THE MOST MADENING PART OF IT ALL.

BRACK: BUT, TELL ME, IN THAT CASE, HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT YOU-?

HEDDA: MARRIED TESMAN, YOU MEAN? IS THERE ANYTHING SO VERY ODD IN THAT?

BRACK: BOTH YES AND NO, MRS. HEDDA.

HEDDA: I HAD DANCED MYSELF TIRED, MY DEAR JUDGE-AND I WASN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER. BUT I WON'T TALK ABOUT THAT. I WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

BRACK: YOU CERTAINLY HAVE NO CAUSE.

HEDDA: AND ONE MUST ADMIT THAT JORGEN TESMAN IS A THOROUGHLY WORTHY MAN.

BRACK: A WORTHY, DEPENDABLE MAN. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THAT.

HEDDA: AND I DON'T SEE ANYTHING ESPECIALLY-FUNNY ABOUT HIM, DO YOU?

BRACK: FUNNY? NO-O-NOT REALLY. NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

HEDDA: AFTER ALL, HE'S A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR. WHO KNOWS? HE MAY STILL GO FAR.

BRACK: I THOUGHT YOU BELIEVED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE THAT SOME DAY HE'D BECOME A REALLY FAMOUS MAN.

HEDDA: YES, SO I DID. AND THEN SINCE HE WAS SO ABSOLUTELY BENT ON SUPPORTING ME, I REALLY DIDN'T SEE WHY I SHOULDN'T ACCEPT HIS OFFER.

BRACK: NO, IF YOU LOOK AT IT FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW-

HEDDA: WELL, THAT WAS MORE THAN SOME OF MY OTHER ADMIRERS WERE PREPARED TO DO, MY DEAR JUDGE.

BRACK: I CAN'T ANSWER FOR THE OTHERS, OF COURSE. YOU KNOW THAT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, I HAVE A GREAT RESPECT FOR THE STATE OF MATRIMONY, BUT I CONFESS, THAT AS AN INDIVIDUAL-

HEDDA: I NEVER HAD ANY HOPES AS FAR AS YOU WERE CONCERNED.

BRACK: ALL I ASK OF LIFE IS TO KNOW A FEW PEOPLE INTIMATELY. A FEW NICE PEOPLE WHOM I CAN HELP AND ADVISE, IN WHOSE HOUSES I CAN COME AND GO AS A TRUSTED FRIEND.

HEDDA: OF THE-MASTER OF THE HOUSE, YOU MEAN?

BRACK: WELL, PREFERABLY, OF THE MISTRESS. BUT OF THE MASTER, TOO, OF COURSE! I FIND SUCH A TRIANGULAR FRIENDSHIP, IF I MAY CALL IT SO, A GREAT CONVENIENCE TO ALL CONCERNED.

HEDDA: YES, GOD KNOWS, A THIRD PERSON WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME ON OUR JOURNEY. OH, THOSE INFERNAL TETE-A-TETES!

BRACK: CHEER UP! YOUR WEDDING TRIP IS OVER NOW.

HEDDA: NOT BY A LONG SHOT. NO, WE'VE ONLY STOPPED AT A STATION ON THE LINE.

BRACK: THEN THE THING TO DO IS TO JUMP OUT AND STRETCH ONESELF A BIT, MRS. HEDDA?

HEDDA: I NEVER JUMP OUT.

BRACK: WHY NOT?

HEDDA: THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE THERE WAITING TO-

BRACK: STARE AT YOUR LEGS, YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: PRECISELY.

BRACK: WELL, GOOD HEAVENS-

HEDDA: I DON'T LIKE THAT SORT OF THING. I'D RATHER KEEP MY SEAT AND CONTINUE THE TETE-A-TETE.

BRACK: BUT IF A THIRD PERSON WERE TO JUMP IN AND JOIN THE COUPLE?

HEDDA: AH! BUT THAT'S QUITE A DIFFERENT THING!

BRACK: A TRUSTED, UNDERSTANDING FRIEND.

HEDDA: GAY AND ENTERTAINING IN A VARIETY OF WAYS?

BRACK: AND NOT A BIT OF A SPECIALIST.

HEDDA: THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A GREAT RELIEF!

BRACK: THE TRIANGLE IS COMPLETED.

HEDDA: AND ON GOES THE TRAIN.

TESMAN: POOH! IT'S A WARM JOB TO CARRY ALL THESE BOOKS, HEDDA. I'M POSITIVELY PERSPIRING! OH, YOU'RE HERE ALREADY, JUDGE. BERTE DIDN'T TELL ME.

BRACK: I CAME IN THROUGH THE GARDEN.

HEDDA: WHAT ARE ALL THOSE BOOKS, JORGEN?

TESMAN: THEY'RE SOME NEW BOOKS ON MY SPECIAL SUBJECT. I SIMPLY HAD TO HAVE THEM.

HEDDA: YOUR SPECIAL SUBJECT, JORGEN?

BRACK: ON HIS SPECIAL SUBJECT, MRS. TESMAN.

HEDDA: DO YOU NEED STILL MORE BOOKS ON YOUR SPECIAL SUBJECT, JORGEN?

TESMAN: ONE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY, HEDDA. ONE MUST KEEP UP WITH ALL THE NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HEDDA: YES, I SUPPOSE ONE MUST.

TESMAN: LOOK, I GOT EJLERT LOVBORG'S NEW BOOK, TOO. WOULD YOU CARE TO HAVE A LOOK AT IT, HEDDA, EH?

HEDDA: NO, THANK YOU- WELL, PERHAPS A LITTLE LATER, JORGEN.

TESMAN: I GLANCED THROUGH IT ON MY WAY HOME.

BRACK: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? AS A SPECIALIST, I MEAN.

TESMAN: HE HANDLES HIS SUBJECT WITH THE GREATEST RESTRAINT. THAT IS WHAT STUCK ME MOST- IT'S QUITE REMARKABLE. HE NEVER WROTE LIKE THAT BEFORE. I'LL JUST TAKE THESE INTO MY STUDY. I'M LONGING TO CUT THE LEAVES. AND THEN I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER CHANGE, THOUGH WE NEEDN'T GO JUST YES, EH?

BRACK: OH, NO. THERE'S NOT THE SLIGHTEST HURRY.

TESMAN: THEN I'LL TAKE MY TIME. OH, BY THE WAY, HEDDA, AUNT JULIAN IS AFRAID SHE CAN'T COME TO SEE YOU THIS EVENING.

HEDDA: OH? WHY NOT? IS SHE STILL ANNOYED ABOUT THE HAT?

TESMAN: OF COURSE NOT. THAT WOULDN'T BE A BIT LIKE HER! NO, BUT YOU SEE, AUNT RINA'S VERY ILL.

HEDDA: SHE ALWAYS IS.

TESMAN: YES, BUT TODAY SHE'S WORSE THAN EVER, POOR THING!

HEDDA: THEN SHE'LL NEED HER SISTER WITH HER. THAT'S ONLY NATURAL. I SHALL HAVE TO TRY AND BEAR IT.

TESMAN: I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW DELIGHTED AUNT JULIANE WAS TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO WELL, SO POSITIVELY FLOURISHING.

HEDDA: OH, THOSE ETERNAL AUNTS!

TESMAN: WHAT DID YOU SAY, DEAR?

HEDDA: NOTHING-NOTHING-NOTHING!

TESMAN: VERY WELL, HEDDA-EH?

BRACK: WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT A HAT?

HEDDA: OH, IT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING. MISS TESMAN HAD TAKEN OFF HER HAT AND PUT IT DOWN ON THE TABLE. AND I PRETENDED TO THINK IT WAS THE SERVANT'S.

BRACK: WHY, MY DEAR MRS. HEDDA. HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING TO THAT NICE OLD LADY?

HEDDA: MY DEAR JUDGE, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. I SUDDENLY GET IMPULSES LIKE THAT AND I SIMPLY CAN'T CONTROL THEM. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT MYSELF.

BRACK: YOU'RE NOT REALLY HAPPY. I THINK THAT'S THE EXPLANATION.

HEDDA: I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY I SHOULD BE-HAPPY? CAN YOU TELL ME?

BRACK: WELL, TO BEGIN WITH; HERE YOU ARE, IN THE VERY HOUSE YOU ALWAYS LONGED TO LIVE IN.

HEDDA: YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN THAT FAIRY TALE?

BRACK: WASN'T IT TRUE, THEN?

HEDDA: I'LL TELL YOU HOW IT HAPPENED: LAST SUMMER I MADE USE OF TESMAN TO SEE ME HOME FROM PARTIES.

BRACK: UNFORTUNATELY, MY WAY LAY IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

HEDDA: YES, YOU WERE GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION THEN, WEREN'T YOU, JUDGE?

BRACK: SHAME ON YOU, MRS. HEDDA! AND SO YOU AND TESMAN-?

HEDDA: WELL, ONE EVENING WE HAPPENED TO PASS BY THIS HOUSE. TESMAN, POOR THING, WAS TURNING AND TWISTING AND COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY. I REALLY FELT SORRY FOR THE POOR LEARNED WRETCH.

BRACK: SORRY! YOU!

HEDDA: YES, I REALLY DID. I FELT SORRY FOR HIM. AND SO JUST TO MAKE CONVERSATION, TO HELP HIM OUT A BIT, I WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO SAY WHAT A CHARMING HOUSE THIS WAS, AND HOW I SHOULD LOVE TO LIVE IN IT.

BRACK: NO MORE THAN THAT?

HEDDA: NOT THAT EVENING.

BRACK: BUT AFTERWARDS?

HEDDA: AFTERWARDS! AFTERWARDS MY FOOLISHNESS WAS NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES, MY DEAR JUDGE.

BRACK: YES- UNFORTUNATELY, THAT HAPPENS ALL TOO OFTEN.

HEDDA: THANKS! SO, YOU SEE IT WAS THIS FICTITIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR SECRETARY FALK'S VILLA THAT REALLY BROUGHT TESMAN AND ME TOGETHER. IT WAS THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF OUR ENGAGEMENT, OUR WEDDING, OUR WEDDING JOURNEY, AND ALL THE REST OF IT. WELL, MY DEAR JUDGE, THEY SAY. AS YOU MAKE YOUR

BRACK: THIS IS REALLY PRICELESS! SO I SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T REALLY CARE A RAP ABOUT THE HOUSE?

HEDDA: NO, GOD KNOWS, I DIDN'T!

BRACK: STILL, NOW THAT WE'VE MADE IT SO ATTRACTIVE AND COMFORTABLE FOR YOU-

HEDDA: TO ME IT SMELLS OF LAVENDER AND DRIED ROSE LEAVES. WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED THE "AUNT JULIANE ATMOSPHERE."

BRACK: NO. THAT'S PROBABLY A LEGACY FROM THE LATE MRS. FALK.

HEDDA: YES! YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE IS A TOUCH OF DECAY ABOUT IT. OH, MY DEAR JUDGE, MY DEAR JUDGE! HOW INCREDIBLY I SHALL BORE MYSELF HERE!

BRACK: WHY SHOULDN'T YOU, TOO, FIND SOME SORT OF VOCATION IN LIFE, MRS. HEDDA?

HEDDA: A VOCATION-THAT WOULD ATTRACT ME?

BRACK: PREFERABLY, YES.

HEDDA: GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF A VOCATION THAT WOULD BE! I OFTEN WONDER WHETHER- BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE ANY GOOD, EITHER.

BRACK: WHAT? TELL ME.

HEDDA: I WAS WONDERING WHETHER I COULD GET JORGEN TO GO INTO POLITICS.

BRACK: TESMAN? NO, REALLY! I'M AFRAID POLITICAL LIFE WOULD BE THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD FOR HIM.

HEDDA: I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT; BUT I COULD TRY AND GET HIM INTO IT ALL THE SAME.

BRACK: BUT WHAT SATISFACTION WOULD IT BE TO YOU UNLESS HE WERE SUCCESSFUL AT IT? WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO DRIVE HIM INTO IT?

HEDDA: BECAUSE I'M BORED, I TELL YOU. SO YOU THINK IT QUITE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR JORGEN EVER TO BECOME-LET'S SAY- SECRETARY OF THE STATE?

BRACK: HA, HA! MRS. HEDDA. YOU MUST REMEMBER, APART FROM ANYTHING ELSE, TO BECOME ANYTHING OF THAT SORT HE'D HAVE TO BE A FAIRLY RICH MAN.

HEDDA: THERE YOU ARE. MONEY! ALWAYS MONEY! IT'S THIS GENTEEL POVERTY THAT MAKES LIFE SO HIDEOUS, SO UTTERLY LUDICROUS.

BRACK: NOW I SHOULD SAY THE FAULT LIES ELSEWHERE.

HEDDA: WHERE THEN?

BRACK: I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE EVER REALLY BEEN STIRRED BY ANYTHING IN LIFE.

HEDDA: ANYTHING SERIOUS, YOU MEAN?

BRACK: IF YOU LIKE. BUT I EXPECT IT WILL COME.

HEDDA: IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THAT RIDICULOUS PROFESSORSHIP, THAT'S JORGEN'S OWN AFFAIR. I ASSURE YOU I SHAN'T GIVE A THOUGHT TO THAT!

BRACK: I DARE SAY. BUT SUPPOSE YOU SHOULD SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELF FACED WITH WHAT'S KNOWN IN SOLEMN LANGUAGE, AS A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY- A NEW RESPONSIBILITY, MRS. HEDDA.

HEDDA: BE QUIET! NOTHING OF THAT SORT WILL EVER HAPPEN TO ME.

BRACK: WE'LL TALK OF THIS AGAIN A YEAR FROM NOW, AT THE VERY LATEST.

HEDDA: THAT SORT OF THING DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME, JUDGE. I'M NOT FITTED FOR IT. NO RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ME!

BRACK: WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE LESS FITTED THAN THE MAJORITY OF WOMEN? WHY SHOULD YOU DELIBERATELY TURN AWAY FROM DUTIES-?

HEDDA: BE QUIET, I TELL YOU! I SOMETIMES THINK THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IN THIS WORLD I'M REALLY FITTED FOR.

BRACK: WHAT'S THAT, IF I MAY ASK?

HEDDA: BORING MYSELF TO DEATH! NOW YOU KNOW IT. AH! I THOUGHT SO-HERE COMES THE PROFESSOR!

BRACK: NOW, NOW! MRS. HEDDA!

TESMAN: OH, HEDDA, HAS ANY MESSAGE COME FROM EJLERT, EH?

HEDDA: NO.

TESMAN: THEN HE'LL BE EHRE PRESENTLY, YOU'LL SEE.

BRACK: YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL COME?

TESMAN: I'M ALMOST SURE OF IT. WHAT YOU TOLD US THIS MORNING WAS PROBABLY JUST A RUMOR.

BRACK: DO YOU THINK SO?

TESMAN: AT ANY RATE, AUNT JULIANE DIDN'T BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT THAT HE WOULD EVER STAND IN MY WAY AGAIN. THINK OF THAT!

BRACK: WELL, THEN, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

TESMAN: I'D LIKE TO WAIT FOR HIM AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, THOUGH.

BRACK: WE'VE PLENTY OF TIME. MY GUESTS WON'T ARRIVE BEFORE SEVEN OR HALF-PAST.

TESMAN: MEANWHILE, WE CAN KEEP HEDDA COMPANY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, EH?

HEDDA: AND IF THE WORST COMES TO THE WORST, MR. LOVBORG CAN SPEND THE EVENING WITH ME.

BRACK: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THE WORST"?

HEDDA: I MEAN-IF HE REFUSES TO GO WITH YOU AND TESMAN.

TESMAN: BUT, HEDDA DEAR, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE QUITE THE THING FOR HIM TO STAY HERE WITH YOU, EH? REMEMBER, AUNT JULIANE ISN'T COMING.

HEDDA: NO, BUT MRS. ELVSTED IS. WE THREE CAN HAVE A CUP OF TEA TOGETHER.

TESMAN: OH, WELL, THEN IT WOULD BE QUITE ALL RIGHT.

BRACK: IT MIGHT PERHAPS BE THE BEST THING FOR HIM. TOO.

HEDDA: WHY THE "BEST THING," JUDGE?

BRACK: WELL, YOU KNOW HOW RUDE YOU ARE ABOUT MY STAGE PARTIES, MRS. TESMAN. YOU ALWAYS SAY THEY'RE ONLY SAFE FOR MEN OF THE STRICTEST PRINCIPLES.

HEDDA: I'M SURE MR. LOVBORG'S PRINCIPLES ARE STRICT ENOUGH NOW. A CONVERTED SINNER-

BERTE: THERE'S A GENTLEMAN ASKING TO SEE YOU, MA'AM.

HEDDA: OH, YES-SHOW HIM IN.

TESMAN: IT MUST BE EJLERT. THINK OF THAT! WELCOME, MY DEAR EJLERT. SO AT LAST WE MEET AGAIN!

LOVBORG: THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER, JORGEN. MAY I SHAKE HANDS WITH YOU TOO, MRS. TESMAN?

HEDDA: HOW DO YOU DO, MR. LOVBORG, I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU TWO GENTLEMEN-

LOVBORG: JUDGE BRACK, I BELIEVE.

BRACK: YES, I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE, SOME YEARS AGO.

TESMAN: AND NOW, EJLERT, YOU MUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, MUSTN'T HE, HEDDA? I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO SETTLE IN TOWN AGAIN, EH?

LOVBORG: YES, I AM.

TESMAN: WELL, THAT'S SPLENDID. I JSUT GOT YOUR NEW BOOK, EJLERT, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO READ IT YET.

LOVBORG: I WOULDN'T BOTHER TO, IF I WERE YOU.

TESMAN: WHY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LOVBORG: IT'S PRETTY THIN STUFF.

TESMAN: JUST THINK! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

BRACK: IT'S BEEN ENORMOUSLY PRAISED, I HEAR.

LOVBORG: THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED, SO I PUT NOTHING IN IT THAT ANYONE COULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO.

BRACK: VERY WISE OF YOU.

TESMAN: BUT, MY DEAR EJLERT-

LOVBORG: YOU SEE, I'M DETERMINED TO MAKE A FRESH START: TO WIN A REAL POSITION FOR MYSELF.

TESMAN: OH, SO THAT'S WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO, EH?

LOVBORG: BUT WHEN THIS ONE APPEARS, JORGEN TESMAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO READ IT, FOR THIS IS A REAL BOOK. EVERY OUNCE OF MY TRUE SELF IS IN THIS.

TESMAN: REALLY! WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

LOVBORG: IT'S THE SEQUEL.

TESMAN: SEQUEL? SEQUEL OF WHAT?

LOVBORG: OF THE OTHER BOOK.

TESMAN: YOU MEAN, THE NEW ONE?

LOVBORG: YES, OF COURSE.

TESMAN: BUT, MY DEAR EJLERT, SURELY THAT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO OUR TIME, DOESN'T IT?

LOVBORG: YES, BUT THIS DEALS WITH THE FUTURE.

TESMAN: WITH THE FUTURE. BUT GOOD HEAVENS, WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE!

LOVBORG: THERE'S A THING OR TWO TO BE SAID ABOUT IT ALL THE SAME. LOOK HERE-

TESMAN: THAT'S NOT YOUR HANDWRITING.

LOVBORG: NO, I DICTATED IT. IT FALLS INTO TWO SECTIONS. THE FIRST DEALS WITH THE CIVILIZING FORCES OF THE FUTURE AND THE SECOND-FORECASTS THE PROBABLE LINES OF DEVELOPMENT.

TESMAN: HOW REMARKABLE! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF WRITING ANYTHING OF THAT SORT.

HEDDA: NO, I DARESAY NOT.

LOVBORG: I BROUGHT IT WITH ME; I THOUGHT IT MIGHT READ YOU A BIT OF IT THIS EVENING.

TESMAN: THAT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU, EJLERT, BUT THIS EVENING- I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN MANAGE IT-

LOVBORG: WELL, THEN, SOME OTHER TIME. THERE'S NO HURRY.

BRACK: THAT FACT IS, MR. LOVBORG, I'M GIVING A LITTLE PARTY THIS EVENING TO CELEBRATE TESMAN'S RETURN.

LOVBORG: OH, THEN I MUSTN'T DETAIN YOU.

BRACK: NO, BUT WAIT. I'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU WOULD GIVE ME THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY.

LOVBORG: I'M SORRY. I CAN'T. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

BRACK: OH, NONSENSE! DO, COME. WE SHALL BE QUITE A SELECT LITTLE CIRCLE, NAD I CAN ASSURE YOU, WE SHALL HAVE A "JOLLY TIME," AS MRS. HED-MRS. TESMAN PUTS IT.

LOVBORG: I DON'T DOUBT THAT, BUT NEVERTHELESS-

BRACK: AND YOU COULD BRING YOUR MANUSCRIPT WITH YOU AND READ IT TO TESMAN AT MY HOUSE. I COULD GIVE YOU A ROOM ALL TO YOURSELVES.

TESMAN: YES, THINK OF THAT, EJLERT. WHY SHOULDN'T YOU DO THAT, EH?

HEDDA: BUT, JORGEN DEAR, IF MR. LOVBORG SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO, I'M SURE MR. LOVBORG WOULD MUCH PREFER TO STAY HERE AND HAVE SUPPER WITH ME.

LOVBORG: WITH YOU, MRS. TESMAN?

HEDDA: MRS. ELVSTED WILL BE HERE, TOO.

LOVBORG: OH-I SAW HER FOR A MOMENT TODAY.

HEDDA: OH, DID YOU? WELL, SHE'S SPENDING THE EVENING HERE. SO YOU SEE, YOU'RE ALMOST OBLIGED TO STAY, MRS. LOVBORG. OTHERWISE, MRS. ELVSTED WILL HAVE NO ONE TO SEE HER HOME.

LOVBORG: THAT'S TRUE. MANY THANKS. IN THAT CASE, I WILL STAY, MRS. TESMAN.

HEDDA: SPLENDID! I'LL JUST GIVE ONE OR TWO ORDERS TO THE SERVANT.

TESMAN: TELL ME, EJLERT, IS IT THIS NEW SUBJECT, THE FUTURE, THAT YOU ARE GOING TO LECTURE ABOUT?

LOVBORG: YES.

TESMAN: THEY TOLD ME AT THE BOOKSTORE THAT YOU WERE PLANNING A SERIES OF LECTURES.

LOVBORG: YES, I AM. I HOPE YOU'VE NO OBJECTION.

TESMAN: NO, OF COURSE NOT, BUT-

LOVBORG: I CAN QUITE SEE THAT IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH YOUR PLANS.

TESMAN: I CAN'T VERY WELL EXPECT YOU, OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR ME, TO-

LOVBORG: BUT, OF COURSE, I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR APPOINTMENT.

TESMAN: WHAT! YOU'LL WAIT! THEN-THEN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COMPETE WITH ME, EH?

LOVBORG: NO. I ONLY WANT PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT I COULD HAVE -A SORT OF MORAL VICTORY, IF YOU LIKE.

TESMAN: WHY, BLESS MY SOUL, THEN AUNT JULIANE WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL! I WAS SURE OF IT. HEDDA, JUST THINK, EJLERT IS NOT GOING TO STAND IN OUR WAY!

HEDDA: OUR WAY! DO PLEASE LEAVE ME OUT OF IT, JORGEN.

TESMAN: WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS, JUDGE, EH?

BRACK: WELL, I SAY A MORAL VICTORY MAY BE ALL VERY FINE BUT-

TESMAN: YES, CERTAINLY, BUT ALL THE SAME-

HEDDA: YOU STAND THERE LOOKING ABSOLUTELY THUNDERSTRUCK, JORGEN.

TESMAN: WELL, YOU KNOW, I ALMOST BELIEVE I AM.

HEDDA: AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, WON'T YOU HAVE A GLASS OF COLD PUNCH BEFORE YOU GO?

BRACK: A SORT OF STIRRUP CUP, YOU MEAN. YES, THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.

TESMAN: A CAPITAL IDEA, HEDDA. JUST THE THING. NOW THAT A HEAVY WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF MY MIND-

HEDDA: YOU'LL JOIN THEM, MR. LOVBORG?

LOVBORG: NO, THANK YOU, NOTHING FOR ME.

BRACK: WHY, SURELY, COLD PUNCH IS NOT POISON.

LOVBORG: PERHAPS NOT FOR EVERYONE.

HEDDA: WELL, THEN, YOU TWO GO IN AND I'LL SIT HERE AND KEEP MR. LOVBORG COMPANY.

TESMAN: YES, DO, HEDDA, DEAR.

HEDDA: PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO LOOK AT SOME SNAPSHOTS, MR. LOVBORG. YOU KNOW, TESMAN AND I DID SOME SIGHTSEEING IN THE TYROL, ON OUR WAY HOME. I'D SO LOVE TO SHOW YOU- DO YOU SEE THIS GROUP OF MOUNTAINS, MR. LOVBORG? IT'S THE ORTLAR GROUP- OH, YES, TESMAN HAS WRITTEN THE NAME UNDERNEATH. "THE ORTLAR GROUP NEAR MERAN."

LOVBORG: HEDDA GABLER-

HEDDA: SH!

LOVBORG: HEDDA GABLER-

HEDDA: THAT WAS MY NAME IN THE OLD DAYS, WHEN YOU AND I KNEW EACH OTHER.

LOVBORG: THEN I MUST LEARN NEVER TO SAY HEDDA GABLER AGAIN? NEVER AS LONG AS I LIVE?

HEDDA: YES, I'M AFRAID YOU MUST.

LOVBORG: HEDDA GABLER MARRIED! AND MARRIED TO JORGEN TESMAN!

HEDDA: SUCH IS LIFE!

LOVBORG: OH, HEDDA, HEDDA, HOW COULD YOU THROW YOURSELF AWAY LIKE THAT?

HEDDA: I WON'T HAVE YOU SAY SUCH THINGS.

LOVBORG: WHY SHOULDN'T I?

HEDDA: AND THIS, MR. LOVBORG, IS A VIEW FROM THE AMPEZZO VALLEY. JUST LOOK AT THOSE PEAKS. OH, JORGEN DEAR, WHAT'S THE NAME OF THESE CURIOUS PEAKS?

TESMAN: LET ME SEE-OH, THOSE ARE THE DOLOMITES.

HEDDA: OH, YES, THOSE ARE THE DOLOMITES, MR. LOVBORG.

TESMAN: HEDDA DEAR, ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ME TO BRING SOME PUNCH. FOR YOURSELF, AT ANY RATE, EH?

HEDDA: YES, I THINK I WILL HAVE SOME, DEAR. AND PERHAPS A FEW BISCUITS.

TESMAN: A CIGARETTE?

HEDDA: NO, I THINK NOT, DEAR.

TESMAN: VERY WELL.

LOVBORG: ANSWER ME, HEDDA. HOW COULD YOU DO IT?

HEDDA: IF YOU GO ON CALLING ME HEDDA, I WON'T TALK TO YOU.

LOVBORG: CAN'T I SAY HEDDA EVEN WHEN WE'RE ALONE?

HEDDA: NO. YOU MAY THINK IT, BUT YOU MUSTN'T SAY IT.

LOVBORG: I UNDERSTAND. IT OFFENDS YOUR LOVE FOR JORGEN TESMAN.

HEDDA: LOVE? HOW FUNNY YOU ARE!

LOVBORG: IT'S NOT LOVE, THEN?

HEDDA: ALL THE SAME, NO UNFAITHFULNESS, REMEMBER.

LOVBORG: HEDDA, ANSWER ME JUST ONE THING.

HEDDA: SH!

TESMAN: HERE YOU ARE! DOESN'T THIS LOOK TEMPTING?

HEDDA: WHY DO YOU BRING IT YOURSELF, JORGEN?

TESMAN: I THINK IT'S SUCH FUN TO WAIT ON YOU, HEDDA.

HEDDA: BUT YOU'VE POURED OUT TWO GLASSES. MR. LOVBORG SAID HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY.

TESMAN: I KNOW. BUT MRS. ELVSTED WILL BE HERE SOON, WON'T SHE?

HEDDA: OH, YES, OF COURSE, MRS. ELVSTED-

TESMAN: HAD YOU FORGOTTEN HER, EH?

HEDDA: YES, YOU KNOW WE WERE SO ENGROSSED IN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS. OH, JORGEN DEAR, DO YOU REMEMBER THIS LITTLE VILLAGE?

TESMAN: YES, OF COURSE I DO. IT'S THE ONE JUST BELOW THE BRENNER PASS. DON'T YOU REMEMBER? WE SPENT THE NIGHT THERE.

HEDDA: OH, YES. AND MEET THAT GAY PARTY OF TOURISTS.

TESMAN: YES, THAT WAS THE PLACE. JSUT THINK, IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE HAD YOU WITH US, EJLERT, EH?

LOVBORG: ANSWER ME THIS ONE THING HEDDA.

HEDDA: WELL?

LOVBORG: WAS THERE NO LOVE IN YOUR FEELING FOR ME, EITHER? NOT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH OF LOVE?

HEDDA: I WONDER- TO ME IT SEEMS THAT WE WERE JUST TWO GOOD COMRADES, TWO THOROUGHLY INTIMATE FRIENDS. YOU ESPECIALLY WERE EXCEEDINGLY FRANK!

LOVBORG: IT WAS YOU WHO MADE ME SO.

HEDDA: YOU KNOW, AS I LOOK BACK ON IT ALL, I REALIZE THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY BEAUTIFUL, SOMETHING FASCINATING, SOMETHING DARING-YES, DARING-IN THAT SECRET INTIMACY, THAT COMRADESHIP NO LIVING SOUL SUSPECTED.

LOVBORG: YES, THERE WAS, WASN'T THERE.. HEDDA? DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I USED TO COME TO YOUR HOME IN THE AFTERNOON AND THE GENERAL SAT OVER AT THE WINDOW READING HIS PAPER, WITH HIS BACK TOWARD US-

HEDDA: WE TWO SAT ON THE CORNER SOFA-

LOVBORG: ALWAYS THE SAME ILLUSTRATED PAPER BEFORE US-

HEDDA: FOR WANT OF AN ALBUM, YES!

LOVBORG: DO YOU REMEMBER, HEDDA, ALL THOS WILD THINGS I CONFESSED TO YOU? THINGS NO ONE SUSPECTED AT THE TIME-MY DAYS AND NIGHTS OF PASSION AND FRENZY, OF DRINKING AND MADNESS-HOW DID YOU MAKE ME TALK LIKE THAT, HEDDA? BY WHAT POWER?

HEDDA: POWER?

LOVBORG: YES. HOW ELSE CAN ONE EXPLAIN IT? AND ALL THOSE DEVIOUS QUESTIONS YOU USED TO ASK-

HEDDA: QUESTIONS YOU UNDERSTOOD SO PERFECTLY-

LOVBORG: HOW COULD YOU BRING YOURSELF TO ASK SUCH QUESTIONS? SO CANDIDLY, SO BOLDLY?

HEDDA: IN A DEVIOUS WAY, IF YOU PLEASE.

LOVBORG: YES, BUT BOLDLY, ALL THE SAME.

HEDDA: HOW COULD YOU BRING YOURSELF TO ANSWER THEM, MR. LOVBORG?

LOVBORG: THAT'S JUST WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN LOVE AT THE BOTTOM OF IT. PERHAPS YOU FELT THAT BY MAKING ME CONFESS LIKE THAT YOU WERE SOMEHOW WASHING AWAY MY SINS.

HEDDA: NO, NOT QUITE.

LOVBORG: WHAT WAS YOUR MOTIVE, THEN?

HEDDA: ISN'T IT QUITE EASY TO UNDERSTAND, THAT A YOUNG GIRL, ESPECIALLY IF IT CAN BE DONE IN SECRET-

LOVBORG: WELL?

HEDDA: SHOULD BE TEMPTED TO INVESTIGATE A FORBIDDEN WORLD? A WORLD SHE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT?

LOVBORG: SO THAT WAS IT.

HEDDA: THAT HAD A LOT TO DO WITH IT, I THINK.

LOVBORG: I SEE; WE WERE BOTH GREEDY FOR LIFE. THAT MADE US COMRADES. BUT WHY DID IT END?

HEDDA: YOU WERE TO BLAME FOR THAT!

LOVBORG: YOU BROKE WITH ME.

HEDDA: I REALIZED THE DANGER; YOU WANTED TO SPOIL OUR INTIMACY- TO DRAG IT DOWN TO REALITY. YOU TALK OF MY BOLDNESS, MY CANDOR-WHY DID YOU TRY TO ABUSE THEM?

LOVBORG: WHY DIDN'T YOU DO AS YOU SAID? WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOOT ME?

HEDDA: BECUASE...I HAVE SUCH A FEAR OF SCANDAL.

LOVBORG: YES, HEDDA, YOU ARE A COWARD AT HEART.

HEDDA: A TERRIBLE COWARD. BUT AFTER ALL, IT WAS A LUCKY THING FOR YOU. YOU FOUND AMPLE CONSOLATION AT THE ELVSTEDS'.

LOVBORG: I KNOW THEA HAS CONFIDED IN YOU.

HEDDA: AND I SUPPOSE YOU'VE CONFIDED IN HER-ABOUT US?

LOVBORG: NOT A WORD. SHE'S TOO STUPID TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

HEDDA: STUPID?

LOVBORG: ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING-YES.

HEDDA: AND I AM A COWARD. NOW I'LL CONFIDE SOMETHING TO YOU.

LOVBORG: WELL?

HEDDA: MY NOT DARING TO SHOOT YOU-

LOVBORG: YES?

HEDDA: THAT WAS NOT MY GREATEST COWARDICE THAT EVENING.

LOVBORG: OH, HEDDA, HEDDA GABLER! I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF OUR COMRADESHIP. YOU AND I!- YOU SEE, IT WAS YOUR CRAVING FOR LIFE-

HEDDA: BE CAREFUL! BELIEVE NOTHING OF THE SORT. AT LAST! THEA DARLING!- DARLING LITTLE THEA, I THOUGHT YOU WERE NEVER COMING!

MRS. ELVSTED: SHOULDN'T I GO AND SAY GOOD EVENING TO YOUR HUSBAND?

HEDDA: NO, WE NEEDN'T BOTHER ABOUT THEM. I EXPECT THEY'LL SOON BE OFF.

MRS. ELVSTED: ARE THEY GOING OUT?

HEDDA: YES. TO A WILD PARTY!

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU'RE NOT GOING ARE YOU?

LOVBORG: NO.

HEDDA: NO. MR. LOVBORG IS STAYING HERE WITH US.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, HOW NICE IT IS TO BE HERE!

HEDDA: NO, NO, LITTLE THEA, NOT THERE! YOU BE A GOOD GIRL AND SIT HERE, NEXT TO ME. I'LL SIT BETWEEN YOU.

MRS. ELVSTED: JUST AS YOU LIKE.

LOVBORG: ISN'T SHE LOVELY TO LOOK AT?

HEDDA: ONLY TO LOOK AT?

LOVBORG: WE'RE TWO REAL COMRADES, SHE AND I. WE HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN EACH OTHER. WE CAN TALK WITH PERFECT FRANKNESS.

HEDDA: NOT IN A DEVIOUS WAY, MR. LOVBORG.

LOVBORG: WELL-

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, I'M SO HAPPY, HEDDA! YOU KNOW-HE ACTUALLY SAYS I'VE INSPIRED HIM IN HIS WORK.

HEDDA: DOES HE REALLY, DEAR?

LOVBORG: AND THEN SHE HAS SUCH COURAGE, MRS. TESMAN.

MRS. ELVSTED: GOOD HEAVENS, COURAGE!

LOVBORG: TREMENDOUS COURAGE WHERE YOUR COMRADE IS CONCERNED.

HEDDA: GOD, YES, COURAGE! IF ONE ONLY HAD THAT!

LOVBORG: WHAT THEN?

HEDDA: THEN LIFE MIGHT PERHAPS BE ENDURABLE, AFTER ALL... NOW, MY DARLING LITTLE THEA, YOU MUST HAVE A NICE GLASS OF COLD PUNCH.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, THANK YOU. I NEVER TAKE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

HEDDA: THEN HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. LOVBORG:

LOVBORG: I DON'T EITHER, THANK YOU.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, HE DOESN'T EITHER.

HEDDA: BUT IF I WANT YOU TO.

LOVBORG: IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

HEDDA: POOR ME! HAVE I NO POWER OVER YOU AT ALL, THEN?

LOVBORG: NOT IN THAT RESPECT.

HEDDA: NO, BUT SERIOUSLY. I REALLY THINK YOU OUGHT TO TAKE IT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

MRS. ELVSTED: WHY, HEDDA-

LOVBORG: HOW DO YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: PEOPLE MIGHT BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT YOU WEREN'T QUITE SURE, QUITE CONFIDENT OF YOURSELF.

MRS. ELVSTED: DON'T, HEDDA.

LOVBORG: PEOPLE MAY SUSPECT WHATEVER THEY LIKE.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, LET THEM.

HEDDA: YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN JUDGE BRACK'S FACE A MOMENT AGO...

LOVBORG: INDEED?

HEDDA: HIS CONTEMPTUOUS SMILE WHEN YOU DIDN'T DARE JOIN THEM IN THERE.

LOVBORG: DIDN'T DARE! I SIMPLY PREFERRED TO STAY HERE AND TALK TO YOU.

MRS. ELVSTED: THAT'S NATURAL ENOUGH, HEDDA.

HEDDA: THAT'S NOT WHAT JUDGE BRACK THOUGHT. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM SMILE AND LOOK AT TESMAN WHEN YOU DIDN'T DARE GO TO HIS RIDICULOUS LITTLE PARTY.

LOVBORG: DIDN'T DARE! YOU SAY I DIDN'T DARE!

HEDDA: NO, I DON'T SAY IT-BUT THAT'S HOW JUDGE BRACK LOOKS AT IT.

LOVBORG: WELL, LET HIM.

HEDDA: SO YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH THEM?

LOVBORG: NO, I'M STAYING HERE WITH YOU AND THEA.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, HEDDA, OF COURSE, HE IS.

HEDDA: THERE, YOU SEE! FIRM AS A ROCK. FAITHFUL TO ALL GOOD PRINCIPLES NOW AND FOREVER. THAT'S HOW A MAN SHOULD BE. WHAT DID I TELL YOU THIS MORNING, THEA? DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO BE UPSET?

LOVBORG: UPSET?

MRS. ELVSTED: HEDDA-! PLEASE, HEDDA.

HEDDA: YOU SEE? NOW ARE YOU CONVINCED? YOU HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST REASON TO BE SO ANXIOUS AND WORRIED...THERE! NOW WE CAN ALL THREE ENJOY OURSELVES.

LOVBORG: WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN, MRS. TESMAN?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, GOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HEDDA?

HEDDA: BE CAREFUL! THAT HORRID JUDGE IS WATCHING YOU.

LOVBORG: SO YOU WERE ANXIOUS AND WORRIED ON MY ACCOUNT?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, HEDDA, YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING.

LOVBORG: WELL, MY COMRAD! SO THAT'S ALL YOUR FAITH AMOUNTS TO!

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME, EJLERT-

LOVBORG: YOUR HEALTH, THEA!

MRS. ELVSTED: HEDDA, HEDDA, HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?

HEDDA: I DO IT? ARE YOU CRAZY?

LOVBORG: AND YOUR HEALTH, TOO, MRS. TESMAN. THANKS FOR THE TRUTH. LONG LIVE THE TRUTH!

HEDDA: THERE, THERE! NO MORE FOR THE PRESENT. YOU'RE GOING TO THE PARTY, REMEMBER.

LOVBORG: NOW, THEA, BE HONEST WITH ME.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES?

LOVBORG: DID YOUR HUSBAND KNOW YOU CAME AFTER ME?

MRS. ELVSTED: EJLERT!...

LOVBORG: IT WAS ARRANGED BETWEEN YOU, WASN'T IT, THAT YOU SHOULD COME TO TOWN AND KEEP AN EYE ON ME. I DARE SAY THAT OLD MAN SUGGESTED IT HIMSELF. NO DOUBT HE NEEDED MY HELP IN THE OFFICE. OR PERHAPS IT WAS AT THE CARD TABLE HE MISSED ME.

MRS. ELVSTED: EJLERT! EJLERT!

LOVBORG: LET'S DRINK TO THE OLD SHERIFF, TOO!

HEDDA: NO MORE NOW. REMEMBER YOU'RE GOING TO READ YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO JORGEN.

LOVBORG: I'M BEHAVING LIKE A FOOL, THEA. TRY AND FORGIVE ME, MY DEAR, DEAR COMRADE. YOU'LL SEE-I'LL PROVE TO YOU-I'LL PROVE TO EVERYONE, THAT I'M ALL RIGHT AGAIN. I'M BACK ON MY FEET. THANKS TO YOU, THEA.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, THANK GOD!

BRACK: WELL, MRS. TESMAN, IT'S TIME TO GO.

HEDDA: I SUPPOSE IT IS, JUDGE.

LOVBORG: I'VE DECIDED TO JOIN YOU, JUDGE.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, LOVBORG, DON'T!

HEDDA: SH! THEY'LL HEAR YOU.

LOVBORG: SINCE YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO INVITE ME.

BRACK: YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND?

LOVBORG: YES, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

BRACK: I'M DELIGHTED.

LOVBORG: I SHOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU ONE OR TWO THINGS BEFORE THE MANUSCRIPT GOES TO PRESS.

TESMAN: JUST THINK, HOW DELIGHTFUL! BUT, HEDDA, DEAR, IN THAT CASE, HOW IS MRS. ELVSTED TO GET HOME?

HEDDA: OH, WE SHALL MANAGE, SOMEHOW.

LOVBORG: MRS. ELVSTED? OF COURSE, I'LL COME BACK AND FETCH HER. AROUND TEN O'CLOCK, MRS. TESMAN. WILL THAT DO?

HEDDA: THAT WILL BE SPLENDID, MR. LOVBORG.

TESMAN: WELL, THEN, THAT'S SETTLED. BUT YOU MUSTN'T EXPECT ME SO EARLY, HEDDA.

HEDDA: OH, YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, JORGEN.

MRS. ELVSTED: WELL, THEN, MR. LOVBORG, I'LL WAIT HERE TILL YOU COME.

LOVBORG: THAT'S UNDERSTOOD, MRS. ELVSTED.

BRACK: WELL, GENTLEMEN SHALL WE START? I HOPE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A VERY JOLLY TIME, AS A CERTAIN FAIR LADY PUT IT.

HEDDA: IF ONLY THE FAIR LADY COULD BE THERE, UNSEEN, JUDGE.

BRACK: WHY UNSEEN?

HEDDA: SO AS TO SHARE A LITTLE IN YOUR UNBRIDLED FUN.

BRACK: I SHOULDN'T ADVISE THE FAIR LADY TO TRY IT.

TESMAN: COME. YOU'RE A NICE ONE, HEDDA. THINK OF THAT!

BRACK: WELL, GOOD-BYE. GOOD-BYE, LADIES!

LOVBORG: ABOUT TEN O'CLOCK THEN.

HEDDA: YES, MR. LOVBORG!

MRS. ELVSTED: HEDDA, WHAT WILL COME OF ALL THIS!

HEDDA: AT TEN O'CLOCK HE WILL BE HERE, WITH VINE LEAVES IN HIS HAIR. FLUSHED AND FEARLESS!

MRS. ELVSTED: IF I COULD ONLY BELIEVE THAT-

HEDDA: AND THEN, YOU SEE, HE WILL HAVE REGAINED CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF. HE'LL BE A FREE MAN FOREVER AND EVER.

MRS. ELVSTED: PRAY GOD YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

HEDDA: I AM RIGHT! IT WILL BE AS I SAY. DOUBT HIM AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE. I BELIEVE IN HIM. NOW WE SHALL SEE-

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU HAVE SOME HIDDEN REASON FOR ALL THIS, HEDDA.

HEDDA: YES, I HAVE. FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I WANT THE POWER TO SHAPE A HUMAN DESTINY.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT SURELY, YOU HAVE THAT!

HEDDA: I HAVEN'T. I NEVER HAVE HAD.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?

HEDDA: DO YOU THINK HE'S WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT! IF YOU COULD ONLY UNDERSTAND HOW POOR I AM; AND THAT YOU SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE SO RICH!- I THINK I SHALL HAVE TO BURN YOUR HAIR OFF, AFTER ALL!

MRS. ELVSTED: LET ME GO! LET ME GO! I'M AFRAID OF YOU HEDDA!

BERTE: SUPPER'S READY, MA'AM.

HEDDA: VERY WELL, WE'RE COMING.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NO! I'D RATHER GO HOME ALONE. NOW-AT ONCE!

HEDDA: NONSENSE! YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT, YOU SILLY LITTLE THING. YOU'LL HAVE SOME SUPPER AND A NICE CUP OF TEA AND THEN AT TEN O'CLOCK ERLERT LOVBORG WILL BE HERE WITH VINE LEAVES IN HIS HAIR-

CURTAIN

A C T T H R E E

MRS. ELVSTED: NOT YET-OH GOD!-OH GOD! -NOT YET- DID SOMEONE COME?

BERTE: A GIRL JUST BROUGHT THIS LETTER, MA'AM.

MRS. ELVSTED: A LETTER! GIVE IT TO ME!

BERTE: IT'S FOR DR. TESMAN, MA'AM.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH.

BERTE: MISS TESMAN'S MAID BROUGHT IT. I'LL JUST PUT IT ON THE TABLE.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, DO.

BERTE: I THINK I'D BETTER PUT OUT THE LAMP, MA'AM.

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU MIGHT AS WELL-IT MUST BE NEARLY DAYLIGHT.

BERTE: IT IS DAYLIGHT, MA'AM.

MRS. ELVSTED: SO IT IS! BROAD DAYLIGHT-AND NO ONE'S COME HOME YET!

BERTE: LORD BLESS YOU, MA'AM-I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU DID?

BERTE: YES-WHEN I SAW THEM GO OFF WITH A-CERTAIN GENTLEMAN, LAST NIGHT-WE USED TO HEAR PLENTY ABOUT HIM IN THE OLD DAYS.

MRS. ELVSTED: SH! NOT SO LOUD! YOU'LL WAKE MRS. TESMAN-

BERTE: YES, YOU'RE RIGHT-LET HER SLEEP, POOR THING. SHALL I MAKE UP THE FIRE, MA'AM?

MRS. ELVSTED: THANK YOU-YOU NEEDN'T TROUBLE-

BERTE: VERY WELL, MA'AM.

HEDDA: WHAT-WHAT WAS THAT?

MRS. ELVSTED: IT WAS JUST THE MAID-

HEDDA: WHAT ARE WE DOING IN HERE? OH YES! NOW I REMEMBER! WHAT'S THE TIME, THEA?

MRS. ELVSTED: IT'S PAST SEVEN.

HEDDA: WHEN DID JORGEN GET HOME?

MRS. ELVSTED: HE HASN'T COME.

HEDDA: NOT HOME YET?

MRS. ELVSTED: NO ONE HAS COME.

HEDDA: AND WE WERE FOOL ENOUGH TO SIT UP HALF THE NIGHT-WATCHING AND WAITING!

MRS. ELVSTED: AND WAITING IN SUCH TERRIBLE ANXIETY!

HEDDA: WELL-WE MIGHT HAVE SPARED OURSELVES THE TROUBLE.

MRS. ELVSTED: DID YOU MANAGE TO GET A LITTLE SLEEP?

HEDDA: YES, I BELIEVE I SLEPT QUITE WELL-DIDN'T YOU?

MRS. ELVSTED: I COULDN'T, HEDDA-I COULDN'T POSSIBLY!

HEDDA: THERE, THERE! THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! IT'S EASY TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED.

MRS. ELVSTED: WHAT-TELL ME!

HEDDA: BRACK'S PARTY PROBABLY DRAGGED ON FOR HOURS-

MRS. ELVSTED: I EXPECT THAT'S TRUE, BUT STILL-

HEDDA: -AND PROBABLY TESMAN DIDN'T WANT TO COME HOME AND WAKE ME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT-PERHAPS HE WAS IN NO CONDITION TO SHOW HIMSELF, AFTER THE FAMOUS PARTY.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

HEDDA: TO HIS AUNTS', OF COURSE!-I EXPECT HE WENT THERE TO SLEEP IT OFF. THEY ALWAYS KEEP HIS OLD ROOM READY FOR HIM.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, HE CAN'T BE THERE. THAT LETTER JSUT CAME FOR HIM, FROM MISS TESMAN.

HEDDA: LETTER? OH, YES! IT'S FROM BRACK'S. AS FOR EJLERT LOVBORG-HE IS SITTING WITH VINE LEAVES IN HIS HAIR, READING HIS MANUSCRIPT.

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE, HEDDA! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT-

HEDDA: WHAT A LITTLE NINNY YOU ARE, THEA!

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, I'M AFRAID I AM-

HEDDA: AND HOW DREADFULLY TIRED YOU LOOK!

MRS. ELVSTED: I AM-DREADFULLY TIRED.

HEDDA: NO YOU DO EXACTLY AS I TELL YOU! YOU GO INTO MY ROOM-LIE DOWN ON THE BED-AND GET A LITTLE REST.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NO!-I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SLEEP.

HEDDA: OF COURSE YOU WOULD.

MRS. ELVSTED: BESIDES, YOUR HUSBAND SHOULD BE BACK SOON; I MUST FIND OUT AT ONCE-

HEDDA: I'LL TELL YOU THE MOMENT HE ARRIVES-

MRS. ELVSTED: YOU PROMISE, HEDDA?

HEDDA: YES-YOU CAN COUNT ON ME-GO ON IN NOW, AND HAVE A GOOD SLEEP.

MRS. ELVSTED: THANKS-I WILL TRY.

BERTE: DID YOU RING, MA'AM?

HEDDA: YES-DO SOMETHING TO THE FIRE-I'M ABSOLUTELY FROZEN.

BERTE: CERTAINLY, MA'AM-I'LL MAKE IT UP AT ONCE. THAT WAS THE FRONT DOOR, MA'AM.

HEDDA: SEE WHO IT IS-I'LL LOOK AFTER THE FIRE.

BERTE: IT'LL SOON BURN UP, MA'AM.

HEDDA: GOOD MORNING, JORGEN!

TESMAN: HEDDA! GOOD HEAVENS-ARE YOU UP SO EARLY, EH?

HEDDA: YES, I'M UP VERY EARLY TODAY, JORGEN.

TESMAN: AND I WAS SURE YOU'D STILL BE SOUND ASLEEP-THINK OF THAT, HEDDA!

HEDDA: SH! DON'T TALK SO LOUD. YOU'LL WAKE MRS. ELVSTED.

TESMAN: DID MRS. ELVSTED STAY HERE ALL NIGHT?

HEDDA: NATURALLY-SINCE NO ONE CAME TO CALL FOR HER.

TESMAN: NO-I SUPPOSE NOT-

HEDDA: WELL-DID YOU ENJOY YOURSELVES?

TESMAN: WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME, HEDDA, EH?

HEDDA: THAT WOULD NEVER OCCUR TO ME-I ASKED IF YOU'D ENJOYED YOURSELVES?

TESMAN: YES, WE REALLY DID, HEDDA. ESPECIALLY AT FIRST-YOU SEE, EIJLERT READ ME PART OF HIS BOOK. WE GOT THERE QUITE EARLY, THINK OF THAT-AND BRACK HAD ALL SORTS OF ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE, SO EIJLERT READ TO ME.

HEDDA: YES?-WELL?

TESMAN: HEDDA, YOU CAN'T CONCEIVE WHAT A BOOK IT WILL BE! I BELIEVE IT'S ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE THINGS THAT HAS EVER BEEN WRITTEN. THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: I'M REALLY NOT VERY INTERESTED, JORGEN.

TESMAN: I'VE SOMETHING TO CONFESS, HEDDA-AFTER HE'D FINISHED READING, I HAD SUCH A HORRID FEELING-

HEDDA: A HORRID FEELING, JORGEN?

TESMAN: YES. I FELT QUITE JEALOUS OF EJLERT, BECAUSE HE'D BEEN ABLE TO WRITE SUCH A BOOK. JUST THINK, HEDDA.

HEDDA: YES, YES! I AM THINKING!

TESMAN: IT'S REALLY APPALLING, THAT HE, WITH ALL HIS GREAT GIFTS, SHOULD BE SO UTTERLY INCORRIGIBLE!

HEDDA: BECAUSE HE HAS MORE DARING THAN ANY OF THE REST OF YOU?

TESMAN: IT'S NOT THAT, HEDDA-HE'S UTTERLY INCAPABLE OF MODERATION.

HEDDA: WELL-TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

TESMAN: THERE'S ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE IT, HEDDA-IT WAS AN ORGY!

HEDDA: DID HE HAVE VINE LEAVES IN HIS HAIR?

TESMAN: VINE LEAVES? NO, I DIDN'T SEE ANY VINE LEAVES-BUT HE MADE A LONG INCOHERENT SPEECH IN HONOR OF THE WOMAN WHO HAD INSPIRED HIM IN HIS WORK-THAT WAS THE PHRASE HE USED.

HEDDA: DID HE MENTION HER NAME?

TESMAN: NO, HE DIDN'T. BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING HE MEAN MRS. ELVSTED-JUST YOU SEE!

HEDDA: WHERE DID YOU PART?

TESMAN: WHEN THE PARTY FINALLY BROKE UP, THERE WERE ONLY A FEW OF US LEFT-SO WE CAME AWAY TOGETHER. BRACK CAME WITH US TOO-HE WANTED A BREATH OF FRESH AIR; AND THEN WE DECIDED WE HAD BETTER TAKE EJLERT HOME-HE WAS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, YOU SEE.

HEDDA: YES, I DARE SAY.

TESMAN: AND THEN, THE STRANGEST THING HAPPENED, HEDDA-THE MOST TRAGIC THING! I'M REALLY ALMOST ASHAMED TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT-FOR EJLERT'S SAKE--

HEDDA: OH, DO GO ON, JORGEN!

TESMAN: WELL-AS WE WERE NEARING TOWN, YOU SEE-I HAPPENED TO DROP A LITTLE BEHIND THE OTHERS-ONLY FOR A MINUTE OR TWO-THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: YES, YES!-WELL?

TESMAN: AND THEN, AS I HURRIED AFTER THEM, WHAT DO YOU THINK I FOUND ON THE SIDEWALK, EH?

HEDDA: HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

TESMAN: YOU MUSTN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYONE, HEDDA-DO YOU HEAR? PROMISE ME-FOR EJLERT'S SAKE.

HEDDA: YES, JORGEN!

TESMAN: JUST THINK, DEAR-I FOUND THIS.

HEDDA: ISN'T THAT THE PARCEL HE HAD WITH HIM YESTERDAY?

TESMAN: YES. IT'S HIS PRECIOUS, IRREPLACEABLE MANUSCRIPT. HE HAD LOST IT, AND HADN'T EVEN NOTICED IT. ISN'T IT TRAGIC, HEDDA, THAT-?

HEDDA: WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT BACK TO HIM AT ONCE?

TESMAN: I DIDN'T DARE TRUST HIM WITH IT, IN THE CONDITION HE WAS IN.

HEDDA: DID YOU TELL ANY OF THE OTHERS YOU'D FOUND IT?

TESMAN: CERTAINLY NOT! I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO KNOW-FOR EJLERT'S SAKE, YOU SEE.

HEDDA: THEN NO ONE KNOWS THAT EJLERT LOVBORG'S MANUSCRIPT IS IN YOUR POSSESSION?

TESMAN: NO-AND NO ONE MUST KNOW IT.

HEDDA: WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM AFTERWARDS?

TESMAN: I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM AGAIN; HE AND TWO OR THREE OF THE OTHERS GAVE US THE SLIP AND DISAPPEARED -THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: I SUPPOSE THEY TOOK HIM HOME THEN.

TESMAN: YES, I SUPPOSE THEY DID-AND BRACK WENT HOME TOO.

HEDDA: AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN GALLIVANTING EVER SINCE?

TESMAN: SOMEONE SUGGESTED WE SHOULD GO BACK TO HIS HOUSE AND HAVE AN EARLY BREAKFAST THERE-OR PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE CALLED A LATE SUPPER-EH? AND NOW-AS SOON AS I HAVE HAD A LITTLE REST AND POOR EJLERT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO RECOVER HIMSELF A BIT-I MUST TAKE THIS BACK TO HIM.

HEDDA: NO, JORGEN-DON'T GIVE IT BACK TO HIM-NOT RIGHT AWAY, I MEAN. LET ME READ IT FIRST.

TESMAN: NO, DEAREST HEDDA, I DAREN'T DO THAT. IT REALLY DARE NOT.

HEDDA: YOU DARE NOT, JORGEN?

TESMAN: THINK OF THE STATE HE'LL BE IN WHEN HE WAKES UP AND CAN'T FIND HIS MANUSCRIPT! THERE'S NO COPY OF IT, HEDDA -THINK OF THAT! HE TOLD ME SO HIMSELF.

HEDDA: TELL ME, JORGEN-WOULD IT BE QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO WRITE SUCH A THING OVER AGAIN?

TESMAN: OH, I SHOULD THINK SO, HEDDA. YOU SEE, IT'S THE IN-
SPIRATION-

HEDDA: YES, OF COURSE-THE INSPIRATION...I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON THAT. BY THE WAY, JORGEN, HERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU.

TESMAN: JUST THINK-

HEDDA: IT CAME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

TESMAN: IT'S FROM AUNT JULIANE, HEDDA! WHAT CAN IT BE? OH, HEDDA-SHE SAYS AUNT RINA IS DYING, POOR THING.

HEDDA: WELL-WE WERE EXPECTING THAT.

TESMAN: AND THAT I MUST HURRY, IF I WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN-I'LL JUST RUN OVER AND SEE THEM AT ONCE.

HEDDA: WILL YOU RUN, JORGEN?

TESMAN: OH, MY DEAREST HEDDA-IF YOU COULD ONLY BRING YOURSELF TO COME WITH ME! JUST THINK!

HEDDA: NO, NO! DON'T ASK ME TO DO THAT! I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SICKNESS OR DEATH. I LOATHE ANYTHING UGLY.

TESMAN: WELL THEN, IN THAT CASE- MY HAT?- MY OVERCOAT?-OH, IN THE HALL. I DO HOPE I WON'T BE TOO LATE, HEDDA-EH?

HEDDA: WELL, AFTER ALL-IF YOU RUN, JORGEN-!

BERTE: JUDGE BRACK IS HERE, SIR-AND WISHES TO KNOW IF YOU'LL SEE HIM?

TESMAN: AT THIS HOUR? NO, NO! I CAN'T POSSIBLY-

HEDDA: BUT I'LL SEE HIM. ASK HIM TO COME IN, BERTE. JORGEN!-THE MANUSCRIPT!

TESMAN: YES, GIVE IT TO ME!

HEDDA: NO, NO. I'LL KEEP IT HERE TILL YOU COME BACK. YOU'RE CERTAINLY AN EARLY BIRD, JUDGE.

BRACK: I AM, AREN'T I? WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?

TESMAN: I MUST RUSH OFF TO MY AUNTS'. JUST THINK, AUNT RINA IS DYING, POOR THING.

BRACK: DEAR ME, IS SHE? THEN DON'T LET ME DETAIN YOU; EVERY MOMENT MAY BE PRECIOUS.

TESMAN: YES, I REALLY MUST RUN-GOOD-BYE, GOOD-BYE, HEDDA-

HEDDA: I HEAR THE PARTY WAS MORE THAN USUALLY JOLLY LAST NIGHT, JUDGE.

BRACK: YES, I'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT-HAVEN'T EVEN CHANGED MY CLOTHES.

HEDDA: SO I SEE-

BRACK: WHAT HAS TESMAN TOLD YOU OF LAST NIGHT'S ADVENTURES?

HEDDA: OH, NOTHING MUCH; SOME DREARY TALE ABOUT GOING TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE AND HAVING BREAKFAST.

BRACK: YES, I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT BREAKFAST PARTY-BUT EJLERT LOVBORG WASN'T WITH THEM, WAS HE?

HEDDA: NO-HE'D BEEN ESCORTED HOME.

BRACK: BY TESMAN, YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: NO-BY SOME OF THE OTHERS.

BRACK: JORGEN TESMAN IS CERTAINLY A NAIVE CREATURE, MRS. HEDDA.

HEDDA: YES, GOD KNOWS HE IS! BUT, YOU'RE VERY MYSTERIOUS-WHAT ELSE HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?

BRACK: OH, A NUMBER OF THINGS-

HEDDA: DO SIT DOWN, JUDGE, AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT! WELL?

BRACK: I HAD SPECIAL REASONS FOR KEEPING AN EYE ON MY GUESTS -OR RATHER SOME OF MY GUESTS-LAST NIGHT.

HEDDA: ONE OF THEM BEING EJLERT LOVBORG, I SUPPOSE.

BRACK: FRANKLY-YES.

HEDDA: THIS SOUNDS QUITE THRILLING, JUDGE!

BRACK: DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE AND SOME OF THE OTHERS SPENT THE REST OF THE NIGHT?

HEDDA: NO. DO TELL ME-IF IT'S NOT QUITE UNMENTIONABLE!

BRACK: NO. IT'S BY NO MEANS UNMENTIONABLE. WELL-THEY TURNED UP AT AN EXTREMELY GAY PARTY.

HEDDA: A VERY JOLLY PARTY, JUDGE?

BRACK: AND EXCESSIVELY JOLLY ONE!

HEDDA: DO GO ON!

BRACK: LOVBORG, AS WELL AS THE OTHERS, HAD BEEN INVITED SOME TIME AGO. I KNEW ALL ABOUT IT. BUT HE HAD REFUSED THE INVITATION, FOR HE HAD BECOME A REFORMED CHARACTER, AS YOU KNOW-

HEDDA: AT THE ELVSTEDS', YES. BUT HE WENT ALL THE SAME?

BRACK: WELL, YOU SEE, MRS. HEDDA, HE BECAME SOMEWHAT INSPIRED AT MY PLACE LAST NIGHT-

HEDDA: YES. I HEARD HE WAS...INSPIRED.

BRACK: RATHER VIOLENTLY INSPIRED, IN FACT-AND SO, HE CHANGED HIS MIND. WE MEN ARE NOT ALWAYS AS HIGH-PRINCIPLED AS PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE.

HEDDA: I'M SURE YOU ARE AN EXCEPTION, JUDGE. BUT TO GET BACK TO EJLERT LOVBORG-

BRACK: SO-TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT-HE DID FINALLY TURN UP AT MLLE. DIANA'S RESIDENCE.

HEDDA: MLLE. DIANA?

BRACK: YES, IT WAS SHE WHO WAS GIVING THE PARTY-TO A VERY SELECT CIRCLE OF HER FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS.

HEDDA: IS SHE THAT RED-HAIRED WOMAN?

BRACK: PRECISELY.

HEDDA: A SORT OF...SINGER?

BRACK: YES-IN HER LEISURE MOMENTS. SHE IS ALSO A MIGHTY HUNTRESS -OF MEN. YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF HER, MRS. HEDDA. IN THE DAYS OF HIS GLORY EJLERT LOVBORG WAS ONE OF HER MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PROTECTORS.

HEDDA: BUT HOW DID ALL THIS END, JUDGE?

BRACK: IN A NONE-TOO-FRIENDLY FASHION, IT SEEMS. AFTER GREETING HIM MOST TENDERLY MLLE. DIANA FINALLY PROCEEDED TO TEAR HIS HAIR OUT!

HEDDA: WHAT?-LOVBORG'S?

BRACK: YES. IT SEEMS HE ACCUSED HER, OR HER FRIENDS, OF HAVING ROBBED HIM. HE KEPT INSISTING SOME VALUABLE NOTEBOOK HAD DISAPPEARED-AS WELL AS VARIOUS OTHER THINGS. IN SHORT, HE RAISE QUITE A TERRIFIC ROW.

HEDDA: WHAT DID ALL THIS LEAD TO?

BRACK: IT LED TO A GENERAL FREE-FOR-ALL, IN WHICH THE WOMEN AS WELL AS THE MEN TOOK PART. FORTUNATELY THE POLICE AT LEAST APPEARED ON THE SCENE.

HEDDA: THE POLICE?

BRACK: YES. I'M AFRAID IT MAY PROVE AN EXPENSIVE AMUSEMENT FOR EJLERT LOVBORG-CRAZY LUNATIC THAT HE IS!

HEDDA: HOW?

BRACK: THEY SAY HE MADE A VIOLENT RESISTANCE-HALF KILLED ONE POLICEMAN, AND TORE ANOTHER ONE'S COAT OFF HIS BACK. SO THEY MARCHED HIM OFF TO THE POLICE STATION.

HEDDA: WHERE DID YOU HEAR ALL THIS?

BRACK: FROM THE POLICE THEMSELVES.

HEDDA: SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THEN, AFTER ALL, HE HAD NO VINE LEAVES IN HIS HAIR!

BRACK: VINE LEAVES, MRS. HEDDA?

HEDDA: TELL ME, JUDGE-WHY SHOULD YOU BE SO INTERESTED IN SPYING ON LOVBORG IN THIS WAY?

BRACK: IN THE FIRST PLACE-I AM NOT ENTIRELY INDIFFERENT TO THE FACT THAT DURING THE INVESTIGATION IT WILL BE KNOWN THAT HE CAME DIRECTLY FROM MY HOUSE.

HEDDA: YOU MEAN, THE CASE WILL GO TO COURT?

BRACK: NATURALLY. HOWEVER-BE THAT AS IT MAY. BUT I FELT IT MY DUTY, AS A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY, TO GIVE YOU AND TESMAN A FULL ACCOUNT OF HIS NOCTURNAL EXPLOITS.

HEDDA: FOR WHAT REASON, JUDGE?

BRACK: BECAUSE I HAVE A SHREWD SUSPICION THAT HE MEANS TO USE YOU AS A SORT OF...SCREEN.

HEDDA: WHATEVER MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

BRACK: AFTER ALL-WE'RE NOT COMPLETELY BLIND, MRS. HEDDA. YOU WATCH! THIS MRS. ELVSTED-SHE'LL BE IN NO GREAT HURRY TO LEAVE TOWN.

HEDDA: WELL-SUPPOSING THERE WERE SOMETHING BETWEEN THEM-THERE MUST BE PLENTY OF OTHER PLACES WHERE THEY COULD MEET.

BRACK: NOT A SINGLE HOME. FROM NOW ON, EVERY RESPECTABLE HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED TO ERLERT LOVBORG.

HEDDA: AND MINE OUGHT TO BE TOO, YOU MEAN?

BRACK: YES. I ADMIT IT WOULD BE MORE THAN PAINFUL TO ME IF HE SHOULD BE WELCOME HERE. IF THIS UNDESIRABLE AND SUPERFLUOUS PERSON SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FORCE HIS WAY INTO THE-

HEDDA: -THE TRIANGLE?

BRACK: PRECISELY. IT WOULD SIMPLY MEAN THAT I SHOULD FIND MYSELF HOMELESS.

HEDDA: I SEE. SO YOU WANT TO BE COCK-OF-THE-WALK, JUDGE. THAT IS YOUR AIM.

BRACK: YES-THAT IS MY AIM; AND FOR THAT I WILL FIGHT WITH EVERY WEAPON I CAN COMMAND.

HEDDA: I WONDER, JUDGE, NOW ONE COMES TO THINK OF IT, IF YOU'RE NOT RATHER A DANGEROUS PERSON.

BRACK: DO YOU THINK SO?

HEDDA: I'M BEGINNING TO THINK SO. AND I'M EXCEEDINGLY GLAD THAT YOU HAVE NO SORT OF HOLD OVER ME.

BRACK: WELL, WELL, MRS. HEDDA-PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. IF I HAD, WHO KNOWS WHAT I MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF.

HEDDA: COME NOW! COME, JUDGE! THAT SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A THREAT.

BRACK: NOT AT ALL! FOR THE TRIANGLE, IT SEEMS TO ME, OUGHT, IF POSSIBLE, TO BE BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

HEDDA: THERE I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH YOU.

BRACK: WELL-NOW I'VE SAID ALL I HAD TO SAY-I'D BETTER BE OFF. GOOD-BYE, MRS. HEDDA.

HEDDA: ARE YOU GOING THROUGH THE GARDEN, JDUGE?

BRACK: YES, IT'S A SHORT CUT FOR ME.

HEDDA: YES-AND THEN IT'S THE BACK WAY, ISN'T IT?

BRACK: VERY TRUE; I'VE NO OBJECTION TO BACK WAYS. THEY ARE RATHER INTRIGUING AT TIMES.

HEDDA: WHEN THERE'S SHOOTING GOING ON, YOU MEAN?

BRACK: PEOPLE DON'T SHOOT THEIR TAME POULTRY, I FANCY.

HEDDA: AND CERTAINLY NOT THE COCK-OF-THE-WALK, JUDGE! GOOD-BYE!

LOVBORG: I WILL GO IN, I TELL YOU!

HEDDA: WELL, MR. LOVBORG! ISN'T IT RATHER LATE TO CALL FOR THEA?

LOVBORG: AND RATHER EARLY TO CALL ON YOU-FORGIVE ME.

HEDDA: HOW DO YOU KNOW THEA'S STILL HERE?

LOVBORG: THEY TOLD ME AT HER LODGINGS SHE'D BEEN OUT ALL NIGHT.

HEDDA: DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ODD IN THEIR MANNER WHEN THEY TOLD YOU THAT?

LOVBORG: ANYTHING ODD?

HEDDA: DIDN'T THEY SEEM TO THINK IT-A LITTLE-QUEER?

LOVBORG: OH, OF COURSE! I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. I SUPPOSE I'M DRAGGING HER DOWN WITH ME-HOWEVER, I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING. I SUPPOSE TESMAN ISN'T UP YET?

HEDDA: NO-I DON'T THINK SO-

LOVBORG: WHEN DID HE GET HOME?

HEDDA: OH, VERY LATE.

LOVBORG: DID HE TELL YOU ANYTHING?

HEDDA: HE JUST SAID IT HAD ALL BEEN VERY JOLLY AT JUDGE BRACK'S.

LOVBORG: NOTHING ELSE?

HEDDA: NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO. IN ANY CASE, I WAS SO DREADFULLY SLEEPY-

MRS. ELVSTED: EJLERT! AT LAST!

LOVBORG: YES-AT LAST-AND TOO LATE!

MRS. ELVSTED: WHAT IS TOO LATE?

LOVBORG: EVERYTHING'S TOO LATE NOW-IT'S ALL UP WITH ME.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NO! YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT!

LOVBORG: YOU'LL SAY THE SAME WHEN YOU HEAR-

MRS. ELVSTED: I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING!

HEDDA: PERHAPS YOU'D RATHER TALK TO HER ALONE? I'LL LEAVE YOU.

LOVBORG: NO! STAY, PLEASE-I BEG OF YOU! —

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING, I TELL YOU.

LOVBORG: I DON'T INTEND TO TALK ABOUT LAST NIGHT, THEA-

MRS. ELVSTED: NO?

LOVBORG: NO.) I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT NOW WE MUST PART.

MRS. ELVSTED: PART?

HEDDA: I KNEW IT!

LOVBORG: I NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE FOR YOU, THEA.

MRS. ELVSTED: HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT! NO MORE USE FOR ME? YOU'LL LET ME GO ON HELPING YOU-WE'LL GO ON WORKING TOGETHER, EJLERT?

LOVBORG: I SHALL DO NO MORE WORK, FROM NOW ON.

MRS. ELVSTED: THEN, WHAT SHALL I HAVE TO LIVE FOR?

LOVBORG: YOU MUST TRY AND LIVE AS THOUGH YOU'D NEVER KNOWN ME.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT!

LOVBORG: YOU MUST TRY, THEA. YOU MUST GO HOME AGAIN.

MRS. ELVSTED: NEVER! I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DRIVE ME AWAY. WE MUST BE TOGETHER WHEN THE BOOK APPEARS.

HEDDA: AH, YES-THE BOOK! }

LOVBORG: MY BOOK AND THEA'S-FOR THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

MRS. ELVSTED: YES-THAT'S TRUE; I FEEL THAT. THAT'S WHY WE MUST BE TOGETHER WHEN IT'S PUBLISHED. I WANT TO SEE YOU SHOWERED WITH PRAISE AND HONORS-AND, THE JOY! I WANT TO SHARE THAT WITH YOU TOO!

LOVBORG: OUR BOOK WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED, THEA.

MRS. ELVSTED: NOT PUBLISHED?

LOVBORG: NO. IT NEVER CAN BE.

MRS. ELVSTED: LOVBORG-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE MANUSCRIPT?

HEDDA: YES-THE MANUSCRIPT?

MRS. ELVSTED: WHERE IS IT?

LOVBORG: THEA! DON'T ASK ME ABOUT IT?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES-I MUST KNOW-I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

LOVBORG: VERY WELL, THEN! I'VE TORN IT INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!

MRS. ELVSTED: NO-NO?

HEDDA: BUT THAT'S NOT-

LOVBORG: NOT TRUE, YOU THINK?

HEDDA: OF COURSE IT MUST BE-IF YOU SAY SO! BUT IT SOUNDS SO UTTERLY INCREDIBLE!

LOVBORG: IT'S TRUE ALL THE SAME.

MRS. ELVSTED: TORN HIS OWN WORK TO PIECES!-OH, GOD, HEDDA!

LOVBORG: I'VE TORN MY LIFE TO PIECES-WHY SHOULDN'T I TEAR UP MY WORK AS WELL!

MRS. ELVSTED: AND YOU DID THIS LAST NIGHT?

LOVBORG: YES. I TORE IT INTO A THOUSAND PIECES. I SCATTERED THEM FAR OUT ON THE FJORD. I WATCHED THEM DRIFT ON THE COOL SEA WATER-DRIFT WITH THE CURRENT AND THE WIND. IN A LITTLE WHILE THEY'LL SINK, DEEPER AND DEEPER-JUST AS I SHALL, THEA.

MRS. ELVSTED: LOVBORG-THIS THING YOU'VE DONE TO THE BOOK-IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'D KILLED A LITTLE CHILD.

LOVBORG: YOU'RE RIGHT-IT WAS CHILD-MURDER.

MRS. ELVSTED: THEN-HOW COULD YOU?-IT WAS MY CHILD TOO.

HEDDA: THE CHILD-

MRS. ELVSTED: IT'S ALL OVER THEN-I'LL GO NOW, HEDDA.

HEDDA: BUT YOU WON'T BE LEAVING TOWN?

MRS. ELVSTED: I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO-THERE'S NOTHING BUT DARKNESS BEFORE ME.

HEDDA: THEN-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE HER HOME, MR. LOVBORG?

LOVBORG: I?-DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SEE HER WITH ME?

HEDDA: OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE MAY HAVE HAPPENED LAST NIGHT-BUT IS IT SO UTTERLY IRREPARABLE?

LOVBORG: IT WON'T END WITH LAST NIGHT-I KNOW THAT ONLY TOO WELL:
AND THE TROUBLE IS, THAT KIND OF LIFE NO LONGER APPEALS
TO ME. I HAVE NO HEART TO START IT AGAIN-SHE'S SOMEHOW
BROKEN MY COURAGE-MY DEFIANT SPIRIT!

HEDDA: TO THINK THAT THAT PRETTY LITTLE FOOL SHOULD HAVE INFLUENCED
A MAN'S DESTINY! STILL, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD BE
SO HEARTLESS.

LOVBORG: DON'T SAY THAT!

HEDDA: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO SAY! YOU'VE DESTROYED HER WHOLE
PURPOSE IN LIFE-ISN'T THAT BEING HEARTLESS?

LOVBORG: HEDDA-TO /YOU I CAN TELL THE TRUTH.

HEDDA: THE TRUTH?

LOVBORG: FIRST, PROMISE ME-GIVE ME YOUR WORD-THAT THEA WILL NEVER
KNOW.

HEDDA: I GIVE YOU MY WORD.

LOVBORG: GOOD. THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN WHAT I SAID JUST NOW-

HEDDA: YOU MEAN-ABOUT THE MANUSCRIPT?

LOVBORG: YES. I DIDN'T TEAR IT TO PIECES OR SCATTER IT ON THE
FJORD-

HEDDA: WHERE IS IT THEN?

LOVBORG: BUT I HAVE DESTROYED IT, HEDDA-UTTERLY DESTROYED IT!

HEDDA: I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

LOVBORG: JUST NOW, THEA SAID I HAD KILLED OUR CHILD-

HEDDA: YES-SO SHE DID-

LOVBORG: ONE CAN DO WORSE THINGS TO A CHILD THAN KILL IT-I WANTED
TO SPARE THEA THE TRUTH-

HEDDA: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LOVBORG: I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL HER; I COULDN'T SAY TO
HER: THEA, I SPENT LAST NIGHT IN A FRANZY OF DRINKING-
I TOOK OUR CHILD WITH ME, DRAGGED IT ROUND WITH ME TO
ALL SORTS OF OBSCENE AND LOATHSOME PLACES-AND I LOST
OUR CHILD-LOST IT! GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT'S BECOME OF IT
-OR WHO'S GOT HOLD OF IT!

HEDDA: BUT, WHEN YOU COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THIS WAS ONLY A
BOOK-

LOVBORG: THEA'S PURE ~~SOLE~~ WAS IN THAT BOOK.

HEDDA: YES-SO I UNDERSTAND.

LOVBORG: THEN YOU MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND WHY NO FUTURE IS POSSIBLE
FOR US.

HEDDA: WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

LOVBORG: NOTHING. I WANT TO MAKE AN END OF IT. THE SOONER THE BETTER.

HEDDA: IF YOU DO MAKE AN END OF IT, EJLERT LOVBORG-LET IT BE BEAUTIFUL!

LOVBORG: BEAUTIFUL! SHALL I PUT VINE LEAVES IN MY HAIR, AS YOU WANTED ME TO IN THE OLD DAYS?

HEDDA: NO-I DON'T BELIEVE IN VINE LEAVES ANY MORE. BUT-FOR ONCE-LET IT BE BEAUTIFUL! GOOD-BYE-YOU MUST GO NOW-YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE ANY MORE.

LOVBORG: GOOD-BYE, MRS. TESMAN. REMEMBER ME TO JORGEN TESMAN.

HEDDA: NO, WAIT!-I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOMETHING OF MINE WITH YOU-AS A TOKEN-

LOVBORG: THIS? IS THIS THE TOKEN?

HEDDA: DO YOU REMEMBER IT? IT WAS AIMED AT YOU ONCE.

LOVBORG: YOU SHOULD HAVE USED IT THEN.

HEDDA: TAKE IT!-USE IT NOW!

LOVBORG: THANKS.

HEDDA: BUT LET IT BE-BEAUTIFUL, EJLERT LOVBORG! PROMISE ME THAT!

LOVBORG: GOOD-BYE, HEDDA GABLER.

HEDDA: YOUR CHILD, THEA-YOUR CHILD AND EJLERT LOVBORG'S. DARLING LITTLE THEA, WITH THE CURLY GOLDEN HAIR. I'M BURNING YOUR CHILD, THEA. I'M BURNING IT-BURNING IT-

CURTAIN

A C T F O U R

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MISS TESSMAN: WELL, HEDDA, HERE I AM, ALL DRESSED IN BLACK! MY POOR SISTER HAS FOUND REST AT LAST!

HEDDA: AS YOU SEE, I HAVE HEARD ALREADY. TESMAN SENT ME A NOTE.

MISS TESSMAN: HE PROMISED HE WOULD. I WISH. RINA HADN'T LEFT US JUST NOW-THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR HEDDA'S HOUSE TO BE A HOUSE OF MOURNING.

HEDDA: IT IS GOOD TO KNOW SHE DIED PEACEFULLY, MISS TESMAN.

MISS TESSMAN: YES, HER END WAS SO CALM, SO BEAUTIFUL. AND THANK HEAVEN, SHE HAD THE JOY OF SEEING JORGEN ONCE MORE-AND BIDDING HIM GOOD-BYE.-HE IS NOT HOME YET?

HEDDA: NO. HE WROTE ME HE MIGHT BE DETAINED. BUT DO SIT DOWN, MISS TESMAN.

MISS TESMAN: NO, THANK YOU, MY DEAREST HEDDA. I SHOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER, BUT I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO. I MUST PREPARE MY DARLING SISTER FOR HER BURIAL. SHE MUST LOOK HER VERY SWEETEST WHEN THEY CARRY HER TO HER GAVE.

HEDDA: CAN I DO ANYTHING TO HELP?

MISS TESMAN: OH, NO, YOU MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT! THIS IS NO TIME FOR HEDDA TESMAN TO TAKE PART IN SUCH SAD WORK. NOR LET HER THOUGHTS DWELL ON IT EITHER-

HEDDA: H'M-ONE'S THOUGHTS-!

MISS TESMAN: HOW STRANGE LIFE IS! AT HOME WE SHALL BE SEWING A SHROUD; AND SOON I EXPECT THERE WILL BE SEWING HERE, TOO-BUT OF A DIFFERENT KIND, THANK GOD!

HEDDA: WELL! HERE YOU ARE AT LAST!

TESMAN: YOU HERE, AUNT JULIANE? WITH HEDDA? THINK OF THAT!

MISS TESMAN: I AM JUST GOING, MY DEAR BOY. DID YOU GET EVERYTHING DONE?

TESMAN: I'M AFRAID I FORGOT HALF OF IT. I'LL HAVE TO RUN OVER AND SEE YOU IN THE MORNING. TODAY MY BRAIN'S IN A WHIRL! I CAN'T KEEP MY THOUGHTS TOGETHER.

MISS TESMAN: BUT, MY DEAR JORGEN, YOU MUSTN'T TAKE IT SO MUCH TO HEART.

TESMAN: HOW DO YOU MEAN?

MISS TESMAN: WE MUST BE GLAD FOR HER SAKE-GLAD THAT SHE HAS FOUND REST AT LAST.

TESMAN: OH, YES, OF COURSE-YOU ARE THINKING OF AUNT RINA.

HEDDA: I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE VERY LONELY FOR YOU NOW, MISS TESMAN.

MISS TESMAN: IT WILL BE AT FIRST-BUT I WON'T LET POOR RINA'S ROOM STAY EMPTY FOR LONG.

TESMAN: REALLY? WHO WILL YOU PUT IN IT-EH?

MISS TESMAN: ONE CAN ALWAYS FIND SOME POOR INVALID WHO NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

HEDDA: WOULD YOU REALLY TAKE SUCH A BURDEN ON YOURSELF AGAIN?

MISS TESMAN: A BURDEN? HEAVEN FORGIVE YOU, CHILD, IT HAS BEEN NO BURDEN TO ME.

HEDDA: BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WITH A STRANGER!

MISS TESMAN: I SIMPLY MUST HAVE SOMEONE TO LIVE FOR-AND ONE SOON
MAKES FRIENDS WITH SICK FOLKS; AND PERHAPS SOME DAY THERE
MAY BE SOMETHING IN THIS HOUSE TO KEEP AN OLD AUNT BUSY.

HEDDA: OH, PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE ABOUT US!

TESMAN: JUST THINK! WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE THREE MIGHT HAVE
TOGETHER IF-

HEDDA: IF-?

TESMAN: NOTHING. LET'S HOPE THINGS WILL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST-
EH?

MISS TESMAN: WELL, WELL, I DARESAY YOU TWO WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE
TALK. AND PERHAPS HEDDA MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU,
JORGEN. GOOD-BYE! I MUST GO HOME TO POOR RINA. HOW
STRANGE IT IS TO THINK THAT NOW RINA IS WITH MY POOR
BROTHER, AS WELL AS WITH ME.

TESMAN: YES, THINK OF THAT, AUNT JULIANE! EH?

HEDDA: AUNT RINA'S DEATH SEEMS TO AFFECT YOU MORE THAN IT DOES
AUNT JULIANE.

TESMAN: OH, IT'S NOT THAT ALONE. IT'S EKLERT I AM SO TERRIBLY
UPSET ABOUT.

HEDDA: HAVE YOU HEAR ANYTHING NEW?

TESMAN: I CALLED ON HIM THIS AFTERNOON. I WANTED TO TELL HIM
THE MANUSCRIPT WAS SAFE.

HEDDA: DID YOU SEE HIM?

TESMAN: NO, HE WASN'T HOME. BUT LATER, I MET MRS. ELVSTED AND
SHE SAID HE HAD BEEN HERE, EARLY THIS MORNING.

HEDDA: YES, DIRECTLY AFTER YOU HAD LEFT.

TESMAN: AND HE SAID THAT HE HAD TORN HIS MANUSCRIPT TO PIECES,
EH?

HEDDA: THAT IS WHAT HE SAID.

TESMAN: GOOD HEAVENS, HE MUST HAVE GONE COMPLETELY MAD! I SUPPOSE
IN THAT CASE YOU DIDN'T DARE GIVE IT BACK TO HIM, HEDDA.

HEDDA: NO, HE DIDN'T GET IT.

TESMAN: BUT OF COURSE YOU TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD IT?

HEDDA: NO. DID YOU TELL MRS. ELVSTED?

TESMAN: NO, I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER NOT. BUT YOU OUGHT TO HAVE
TOLD HIM. JUST THINK-HE MIGHT DO HIMSELF SOME INJURY.
GIVE ME THE MANUSCRIPT. I'LL RUN OVER WITH IT AT ONCE.
WHERE IS IT, HEDDA? EH?

HEDDA: I HAVEN'T GOT IT ANY LONGER.

TESMAN: HAVEN'T GOT IT? WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU MEAN?

HEDDA: I'VE BURNT IT-EVERY WORD OF IT.

TESMAN: BURNT! BURNT EJLERT'S MANUSCRIPT!

HEDDA: DON'T SHOUT SO LOUD. THE SERVANT MIGHT HEAR YOU.

TESMAN: BURNT! WHY, GOOD GOD-! NO, NO, NO! IT'S UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE!

HEDDA: IT'S TRUE, ALL THE SAME.

TESMAN: DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, HEDDA? IT IS UNLAWFUL APPROPRIATION OF LOST PROPERTY. THINK OF THAT! JUST ASK JUDGE BRACK, HE WILL TELL YOU WHAT THAT MEANS.

HEDDA: IT WOULD BE WISER NOT TO SPEAK OF IT-EITHER TO JUDGE BRACK OR TO ANYONE ELSE.

TESMAN: BUT HOW COULD YOU DO ANYTHING SO UNHEARD OF? WHAT PUT IT INTO YOUR HEAD? WHAT POSSESSED YOU? DO ANSWER ME-

HEDDA: I DID IT FOR YOUR SAKE, JORGEN!

TESMAN: FOR MY SAKE!

HEDDA: THIS MORNING WHEN YOU TOLD ME THAT HE HAD READ IT TO YOU-

TESMAN: YES, YES-WHAT THEN?

HEDDA: YOU ADMITTED THAT YOU WERE JEALOUS OF HIS WORK.

TESMAN: OF COURSE, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT LITERALLY.

HEDDA: ALL THE SAME-I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF ANYONE PUTTING YOU IN THE SHADE.

TESMAN: HEDDA? IS THIS TRUE? BUT-BUT-I HAVE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO SHOW YOUR LOVE LIKE THAT BEFORE. THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: THEN-PERHAPS I'D BETTER TELL YOU THAT-JUST NOW-AT THIS TIME- NO, NO; ASK AUNT JULIANE. SHE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.

TESMAN: OH, I ALMOST THINK I UNDERSTAND, HEDDA. GREAT HEAVENS! DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT, EH?

HEDDA: DON'T SHOUT SO LOUD. THE SERVANTS WILL HEAR-

TESMAN: THE SERVANTS-? WHY, HOW ABSURD YOU ARE, HEDDA! IT'S ONLY MY DEAR OLD BERTIE! WHY, I'LL RUN OUT AND TELL HER MYSELF!

HEDDA: OH, GOD, I SHALL DIE-I SHALL DIE OF ALL THIS-!

TESMAN: OH WHAT, HEDDA? WHAT IS IT? EH?

HEDDA: IT'S ALL SO LUDICROUS-JORGEN!

TESMAN: LUDICROUS! THAT I SHOULD BE OVERJOYED AT THE NEWS? STILL, AFTER ALL, PERHAPS I HAD BETTER NOT TELL BERTE.

HEDDA: WHY NOT THAT-WITH ALL THE REST?

TESMAN: NO, NO, I WON'T TELL HER YET. BUT I MUST CERTAINLY TELL AUNT JULIANE. OH, SHE WILL BE SO HAPPY-SO HAPPY!

HEDDA: WHEN SHE HEARS THAT I'VE BURNT EJLERT LOVBORG'S MANUSCRIPT-FOR YOUR SAKE?

TESMAN: NO, OF COURSE NOT-NOBODY MUST KNOW ABOUT THE MANUSCRIPT. BUT I WILL CERTAINLY TELL HER HOW DEARLY YOU LOVE ME, HEDDA. SHE MUST SHARE THAT JOY WITH ME. I WONDER, NOW, WHETHER THIS SORT OF THING IS USUAL IN YOUNG WIVES? EH?

HEDDA: WHY NOT ASK AUNT JULIANE THAT, TOO?

TESMAN: I WILL, INDEED, SOME TIME OR OTHER. BUT THE MANUSCRIPT. GOOD GOD-THE MANUSCRIPT! I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK WHAT POOR EJLERT WILL DO NOW!

MRS. ELVSTED: HEDDA, DEAR-PLEASE FORGIVE MY COMING BACK SO SOON.

HEDDA: WHAT IS IT, THEA? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

TESMAN: IS IT SOMETHING TO DO WITH EJLERT LOVBORG, EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, I AM TERRIBLY AFRAID HE HAS MET WITH SOME ACCIDENT.

HEDDA: AH!-YOU THINK SO?

TESMAN: WHY SHOULD YOU THINK THAT, MRS. ELVSTED?

MRS. ELVSTED: WHEN I GOT BACK TO MY LODGINGS-I HEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT HIM. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF STRANGE RUMORS-

TESMAN: YES, I'VE HEARD THEM TOO! AND YET I CAN BEAR WITNESS THAT HE WENT STRAIGHT HOME LAST NIGHT. THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: WHAT SORT OF THINGS DID THEY SAY?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, I COULDN'T QUITE MAKE IT OUT. EITHER THEY KNEW NOTHING DEFINITE OR-IN ANY CASE, THEY STOPPED TALKING THE MOMENT I CAME IN, AND I DIDN'T DARE QUESTION THEM.

TESMAN: WE MUST ONLY HOPE YOU MISUNDERSTOOD THEM, MRS. ELVSTED.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, I AM SURE THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT HIM-THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A HOSPITAL OR-

TESMAN: HOSPITAL?

HEDDA: NO, NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, I AM SO TERRIBLY AFRAID FOR HIM. I FINALLY WENT TO HIS HOUSE TO ASK AFTER HIM!

HEDDA: YOU WENT THERE YOURSELF, THEA?

MRS. ELVSTED: WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? I COULDN'T BEAR THE SUSPENSE ANY LONGER.

TESMAN: BUT YOU DIDN'T FIND HIM-EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: NO. AND THE POEPL^E THERE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HIM. THEY SAID HE HADN'T BEEN HOME SINCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

TESMAN: YESTERDAY! JUST THINK-HOW COULD THEY SAY THAT?

MRS. ELVSTED: I AM SURE SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM!

TESMAN: HEDDA DEAR-SUPPOSING I RUN OVER AND MAKE SOME INQUIRIES-?

HEDDA: NO, NO! PLEASE DON'T MIX YOURSELF UP IN THIS AFFAIR.

TESMAN: OH, IT'S YOU, MY DEAR JUDGE-EH?

BRACK: YES, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT I SEE YOU AT ONCE.

TESMAN: I CAN SEE YOU HAVE HEARD THE NEW ABOUT AUNT RINA?

BRACK: YES, THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS.

TESMAN: ISN'T IT SAD? EH?

BRACK: WELL, MY DEAR TESMAN, THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.

TESMAN: HAS ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENED?

BRACK: YES.

HEDDA: ANYTHING SAD, JUDGE?

BRACK: THAT, TOO, DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, MRS. TESMAN.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH! IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT EJLERT LOVBORG!

BRACK: WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT, MRS. ELVSTED? PERHAPS YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD SOMETHING-?

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, NO, NOTHING AT ALL-BUT-

TESMAN: WELL, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, TELL US. WHAT IS IT?

BRACK: WELL, I AM SORRY TO SAY, EJLERT LOVBORG HAS BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITL-^LTHEY SAY HE IS DYING.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, GOD! GOD!

TESMAN: TO THE HOSPITAL!! AND DYING-

HEDDA: SO SOON THEN-

MRS. ELVSTED: AND WE PARTED IN ANGER, HEDDA!

HEDDA: THEA-THEA-BE CAREFUL!

MRS. ELVSTED: I MUST GO TO HIM! I MUST SEE HIM ALIVE!

BRACK: I'M AFRAID IT IS USELESS, MRS. ELVSTED. NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO SEE HIM.

MRS. ELVSTED: BUT AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHAT IS IT?

TESMAN: HE DIDN'T TRY TO KILL HIMSELF-EH?

HEDDA: YES-I AM SURE HE DID!

TESMAN: HEDDA, HOW CAN YOU-?

BRACK: UNFORTUNATELY, YOU HAVE GUESSED QUITE CORRECTLY, MRS. TESMAN.

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, HOW HORRIBLE!

TESMAN: KILLED HIMSELF!-THINK OF THAT!

HEDDA: SHOT HIMSELF!

BRACK: YOU ARE RIGHT AGAIN, MRS. TESMAN.

MRS. ELVSTED: WHEN DID IT HAPPEN, JUDGE BRACK?

BRACK: THIS AFTERNOON-BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR.

TESMAN: BUT, WHERE DID IT HAPPEN? EH?

BRACK: WHERE? WELL-I SUPPOSE AT HIS LODGINGS.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE-FOR I WAS THERE MYSELF BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN.

BRACK: WELL, THEN, SOMEWHERE ELSE-I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY. I ONLY KNOW THAT HE WAS FOUND-HE HAD SHOT HIMSELF...THROUGH THE HEART.

MRS. ELVSTED: HOW HORRIBLE! THAT HE SHOULD DIE LIKE THAT!

HEDDA: THROUGH THE HEART?

BRACK: YES-AS I TOLD YOU.

HEDDA: THROUGH THE HEART-

TESMAN: IT'S ABSOLUTELY FATAL, YOU SAY?

BRACK: ABSOLUTELY! MOST LIKELY IT IS ALREADY OVER.

MRS. ELVSTED: OVER-ALL OVER-OH, HEDDA!

TESMAN: YOU'RE QUITE POSITIVE OF THIS? WHO TOLD YOU-EH?

BRACK: ONE OF THE POLICE.

HEDDA: AT LAST, A DEED WORTH DOING!

TESMAN: GOOD HEAVENS, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HEDDA?

HEDDA: I SAY, THERE IS BEAUTY IN THIS.

BRACK: H'M, MRS. TESMAN-

TESMAN: BEAUTY! THINK OF THAT!

MRS. ELVSTED: OH, HEDDA, HOW CAN YOU TALK OF BEAUTY IN SUCH A CASE?

HEDDA: EJLERT LOVBORG HAS MADE UP HIS OWN ACCOUNT WITH LIFE. HE HAD THE COURAGE TO DO-THE ONE RIGHT HING.

MRS. ELVSTED: NO; NO! YOU MUSTN'T BELIEVE THAT! HE DID IT IN DELIRIUM!

TESMAN: IN DESPAIR.

HEDDA: NO! NO! HE DIDN'T-I'M SURE OF THAT!

MRS. ELVSTED: I TELL YOU HE MUST HAVE BEEN DELIRIOUS-AS HE WAS WHEN HE TORE UP OUR MANUSCRIPT!

BRACK: THE MANUSCRIPT? HE TORE UP THE MANUSCRIPT?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. LAST NIGHT.

TESMAN: OH, HEDDA, WE'LL NEVER GET OVER THIS!

BRACK: H'M-HOW EXTRAORDINARY.

TESMAN: TO THINK OF EJLERT DEAD! AND HIS BOOK DESTROYED TOO-HIS BOOK THAT WOULD HAVE MADE HIM FAMOUS!

MRS. ELVSTED: IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY OF SAVING IT-

TESMAN: YES, IF ONLY THERE WERE!-THERE'S NOTHING I WOULDN'T GIVE-

MRS. ELVSTED: PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY MR. TESMAN.

TESMAN: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MRS. ELVSTED: LOOK! I HAVE KEPT ALL THE NOTES HE USED TO DICTATE FROM-

HEDDA: AH-!

TESMAN: YOU HAVE, MRS. ELVSTED?-EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: YES. I TOOK THEM WITH ME WHEN I LEFT HOME-THEY'RE HERE IN MY POCKET-

TESMAN: DO LET ME SEE THEM!

MRS. ELVSTED: I'M AFRAID THEY ARE DREADFULLY MIXED UP-

TESMAN: PERHAPS, TOGETHER, WE MIGHT BEABLE TO SORT THEM OUT-JUST THINK!

MRS. ELVSTED: WE COULD TRY AT ANY RATE-

TESMAN: WE'LL DO IT-WE MSUT DO IT-I'LL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO IT!

HEDDA: YOU, JORGEN? YOUR LIFE?

TESMAN: OR AT LEAST, ALL THE TIME I CAN SPARE. MY OWN WORK WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO WAIT-I OWE THIS TO EJLERT'S MEMORY...YOU UNDERSTAND, HEDDA, EH?

HEDDA: YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

TESMAN: NOW, MY DEAR MRS. ELVSTED, WE MUST PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER- IT IS NO GOOD BROODING OVER WHAT HAS HAPPENED. EH? WE MUST TRY AND CONTROL OUR GRIEF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE-

MRS. ELVSTED: YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. TESMAN, I WILL TRY-

TESMAN: THAT'S SPLENDID! NOW THEN, LET'S SEE-WE MSUT GO THROUGH THE NOTES AT ONCE- WHERE SHALL WE SIT? HERE? NO, NO, WE'D BETTER GO IN THERE- EXCUSE ME, JUDGE- COME ALONG, MRS. ELVSTED!

MRS. ELVSTED: OH! IF ONLY IT WERE POSSIBLE-

HEDDA: OH, WHAT A SENSE OF FREEDOM THERE IS IN THIS ACT OF EJLERT LOVBORG'S.

BRACK: FREEDOM, MRS. HEDDA? OF COURSE, IT IS FREEDOM FOR HIM.

HEDDA: I MEAN FOR ME. IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF FREEDOM TO KNOW THAT AN ACT OF DELIBERATE COURAGE IS STILL POSSIBLE IN THIS WORLD-AN ACT OF SPONTANEOUS BEAUTY.

BRACK: H'M-MY DEAR MRS. HEDDA-

HEDDA: OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SAY. FOR YOU'RE A SPECIALIST, TOO, IN A WAY-JUST LIKE-WELL, YOU KNOW.

BRACK: EJLERT LOVBORG MEANT MORE TO YOU THAN YOU ARE WILLING TO ADMIT-EVEN TO YOURSELF. OR AM I MISTAKEN?

HEDDA: I DON'T ANSWER SUCH QUESTIONS. I KNOW THAT EJLERT LOVBORG HAD THE COURAGE TO LIVE HIS LIFE AS HE SAW IT -AND TO END IT IN BEAUTY. HE HAD THE STRENGTH AND THE WILL TO BREAK WITH LIFE-WHILE STILL SO YOUNG.

BRACK: IT PAINS ME TO DO SO, MRS. HEDDA-BUT I FEAR I MUST ROB YOU OF THIS BEAUTIFUL ILLUSION.

HEDDA: ILLUSION?

BRACK: IT WOULD SOON BE DESTROYED, IN ANY CASE.

HEDDA: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BRACK: HE DID NOT SHOOT HIMSELF-OF HIS OWN ACCORD.

HEDDA: NOT OF HIS OWN-?

BRACK: NO, THE THING DID NOT HAPPEN EXACTLY AS I TOLD IT.

HEDDA: YOU'VE CONCEALED SOMETHING? WHAT IS IT?

BRACK: FOR POOR MRS. ELVSTED'S SAKE, I SLIGHTLY CHANGED THE FACTS.

HEDDA: WHAT ARE THE FACTS, THEN?

BRACK: FIRST, THAT HE IS ALREADY DEAD.

HEDDA: AT THE HOSPITAL.

BRACK: YES-WITHOUT REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.

HEDDA: WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU CONCEALED?

BRACK: THAT-THE TRAGEDY DID NOT HAPPEN AT HIS LODGINGS-

HEDDA: THAT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE-

BRACK: DOESN'T IT? NOT EVEN IF I TELL YOU THAT EJLERT LOVBORG WAS FOUND SHOT IN-IN MADEMOISELLE DIANA'S BOUDOIR?

HEDDA: THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE, JUDGE. HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE THERE AGAIN TODAY.

BRACK: HE WAS THERE THIS AFTERNOON. HE WENT THERE TO CLAIM SOMETHING HE SAID THEY HAD TAKEN FROM HIM-TALKED WILDLY ABOUT A LOST CHILD-

HEDDA: AH-THAT WAS WHY-

BRACK: I THOUGHT HE MUST HAVE MEANT THE MANUSCRIPT. BUT NOW I HEAR HE DESTROYED THAT HIMSELF. SO I SUPPOSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS POCKETBOOK.

HEDDA: YES-PROBABLY. SO, HE WAS FOUND-THERE.

BRACK: YES. WITH A DISCHARGED PISTOL IN HIS BREAST POCKET. HE HAD WOUNDED HIMSELF MORTALLY.

HEDDA: THROUGH THE HEART!-YES!

BRACK: NO-IN THE BOWELS.

HEDDA: HOW HORRIBLE! EVERYTHING I TOUCH BECOMES LUDICROUS AND DESPICABLE!-IT'S LIKE A CURSE!

BRACK: THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE, MRS. HEDDA-SOMETHING RATHER UGLY-

HEDDA: WHAT IS THAT?

BRACK: THE PISTOL HE CARRIED-

HEDDA: WHAT OF IT?

BRACK: HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT.

HEDDA: THAT IS NOT TRUE! HE DIDN'T STEAL IT!

BRACK: NO OTHER EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE. HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT-HUSH!

TESMAN: HEDDA DEAR, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE UNDER THAT LAMP. JUST THINK!

HEDDA: YES, I AM THINKING.

TESMAN: DO YOU THINK YOU'D LET US USE YOUR DESK, EH?

HEDDA: OF COURSE-NO, WAIT! JUST LET ME CLEAR IT FIRST.

TESMAN: OH, YOU NEEDN'T TROUBLE, HEDDA. THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM.

HEDDA: NO, NO! LET ME DO AS I SAY. I'LL PUT ALL THESE THINGS IN ON THE PIANO. WELL, DARLING LITTLE THEA-HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON WITH EJLERT LOVBORG'S MEMORIAL?

MRS. ELVSTED: I'M AFRAID IT'S ALL VERY DIFFICULT-

TESMAN: WE MUST MANAGE IT. WE'VE SIMPLY GOT TO DO IT! AND YOU KNOW SORTING OUT AND ARRANGING OTHER PEOPLE'S PAPERS - THAT'S SOMETHING I'M PARTICULARLY GOOD AT-

HEDDA: WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE PISTOL?

BRACK: THAT HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT.

HEDDA: WHY STOLEN?

BRACK: BECAUSE ANY OTHER EXPLANATION OUGHT TO BE OUT OF THE QUESTION, MRS. HEDDA.

HEDDA: INDEED?

BRACK: OF COURSE, EJLERT LOVBORG WAS HERE THIS MORNING. WAS HE NOT?

HEDDA: YES.

BRACK: WERE YOU ALONE WITH HIM?

HEDDA: YES-FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

BRACK: DID YOU LEAVE THE ROOM WHILE HE WAS HERE?

HEDDA: NO.

BRACK: TRY TO REMEMBER. ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T LEAVE THE ROOM-EVEN FOR A MOMENT?

HEDDA: I MIGHT HAVE GONE INTO THE HALL-JUST FOR A MOMENT

BRACK: AND WHERE WAS YOUR PISTOL CASE?

HEDDA: IT WAS PUT AWAY IN-

BRACK: WELL, MRS. HEDDA?

HEDDA: IT WAS OVER THERE ON THE DESK.

BRACK: HAVE YOU LOOKED SICNE TO SEE IF BOTH PISTOLS ARE THERE?

HEDDA: NO.

BRACK: WELL, YOU NEEDN'T. I SAW THE PISTOL LOVBORG HAD WITH HIM, AND I RECOGNIZED IT AT ONCE AS THE ONE I HAD SEEN YESTERDAY-AND BEFORE THAT TOO.

HEDDA: HAVE YOU GOT IT BY ANY CHANCE?

BRACK: NO, THE POLICE HAVE IT.

HEDDA: WHAT WILL THE POLICE DO WITH IT?

BRACK: SEARCH UNTIL THEY FIND THE OWNER.

HEDDA: DO YOU THINK THEY WILL SUCCEED?

BRACK: NO, HEDDA GABLER, NOT SO LONG AS I KEEP SILENT.

HEDDA: AND IF YOU DO NOT KEEP SILENT-WHAT THEN?

BRACK: ONE COULD ALWAYS DECLARE THAT THE PISTOL WAS STOLEN.

HEDDA: IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DIE!

BRACK: ONE SAYS SUCH THINGS-BUT ONE DOESN'T DO THEM.

HEDDA: AND IF THE PISTOL WERE NOT STOLEN AND THE POLICE FIND THE OWNER? WHAT THEN?

BRACK: WELL, HEDDA-THEN-THINK OF THE SCANDAL!

HEDDA: THE SCANDAL!

BRACK: THE SCANDAL, YES-OF WHICH YOU ARE SO TERRIFIED. YOU'D NATURALLY HAVE TO APPEAR IN COURT-BOTH YOU AND MADEMOISELLE DIANA. SHE WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN HOW THE THING HAPPENED -WHETHER IT WAS AN ACCIDENT OR MURDER. DID HE THREATEN TO SHOOT HER, AND DID THE PISTOL GO OFF THEN-OR DID SHE GRAB THE PISTOL, SHOOT HIM, AFTERWARDS PUTTING IT BACK INTO HIS POCKET. SHE MIGHT HAVE DONE THAT, FOR SHE IS A HEFTY WOMAN, THIS-MADEMOISELLE DIANA.

HEDDA: WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH ALL THIS REPULSIVE BUSINESS?

BRACK: NOTHING. BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHY DID YOU GIVE EJLERT LOVBORG THE PISTOL? AND WHAT CONCLUSION WILL PEOPLE DRAW FROM THE FACT THAT YOU DID GIVE IT TO HIM?

HEDDA: THAT IS TRUE. I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT.

BRACK: WELL, FORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO DANGER AS LONG AS I KEEP SILENT.

HEDDA: THAT MEANS YOU HAVE ME IN YOUR POWER, JUDGE! YOU HAVE ME AT YOUR BECK AND CALL FROM NOW ON.

BRACK: DEAREST HEDDA-BELIEVE ME-I SHALL NOT ABUSE MY ADVANTAGE.

HEDDA: I AM IN YOUR POWER, ALL THE SAME. SUBJECT TO YOUR COMMANDS AND WISHES. NO LONGER FREE-NOT FREE!... NO, I WON'T ENDURE THAT THOUGHT. NEVER!

BRACK: PEOPLE MANAGE TO GET USED TO THE INEVITABLE.

HEDDA: YES, PERHAPS. WELL? HOW'S IT GOING, JORGEN, EH?

TESMAN: HEAVEN KNOWS, DEAR. IN ANY CASE, IT WILL TAKE MONTHS TO DO.

HEDDA: THINK OF THAT! DOESN'T IT SEEM STRANGE TO YOU, THEA? HERE YOU ARE WORKING WITH TESMAN-AS YOU USED TO WORK WITH EJLERT LOVBORG?

MRS. ELVSTED: IF I COULD ONLY INSPIRE YOUR HUSBAND IN THE SAME WAY!

HEDDA: OH, NO DOUBT THAT WILL COME-IN TIME.

TESMAN: YOU KNOW, HEDDA-I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO FEEL SOMETHING OF THE SORT! WHY DON'T YOU GO AND TALK TO JUDGE BRACK AGAIN?

HEDDA: IS THERE NOTHING AT ALL-I CAN DO TO HELP?

TESMAN: NO, THANK YOU. NOT A THING. YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP HEDDA COMPANY FROM NOW ON, MY DEAR JUDGE.

BRACK: IT WILL GIVE ME THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!

HEDDA: THANKS. BUT THIS EVENING I FEEL A LITTLE TIRED. I'LL GO AND LIE DOWN ON THE SOFA FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

TESMAN: YES, DO THAT DEAR-EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: OH-WHAT'S THAT?

TESMAN: DEAREST HEDDA, DON'T PLAY DANCE MUSIC TONIGHT! THINK OF AUNT RINA! AND OF POOR EJLERT!

HEDDA: AND OF AUNT JULIANE. AND OF ALL THE REST OF THEM- NEVER MIND- FROM NOW ON, I PROMISE TO BE QUIET.

TESMAN: I DON'T THINK IT IS GOOD FOR HER TO SEE US AT THIS DISTRESSING WORK; I HAVE AN IDEA, MRS. ELVSTED. YOU CAN MOVE OVER TO AUNT JULIANE'S AND THEN I'LL COME OVER IN THE EVENINGS AND WE'LL WORK THERE. EH?

MRS. ELVSTED: PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO DO.

HEDDA: I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, TESMAN. WHAT AM I TO DO WITH ALL THOSE LONG EVENINGS-HERE-BY MYSELF?

TESMAN: OH, I AM SURE JUDGE BRACK WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO DROP IN AND SEE YOU.

BRACK: EVERY SINGLE EVENING, WITH THE VERY GREATEST OF PLEASURE, MRS. TESMAN! I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE A VERY JOLLY TIME TOGETHER, WE TWO.

HEDDA: YES, THAT'S WHAT YOU HOPE, JUDGE, ISN'T IT?-NOW THAT
YOU ARE COCK-OF-THE-WALK-

TESMAN: NOW SHE IS PLAYING WITH THOSE PISTOLS AGAIN.

TESMAN: SHOT HERSELF! SHOT HERSELF IN THE TEMPLE! THINK OF
THAT!

BRACK: GOOD GOD-BUT-PEOPLE DON'T DO SUCH THINGS!

CURTAIN