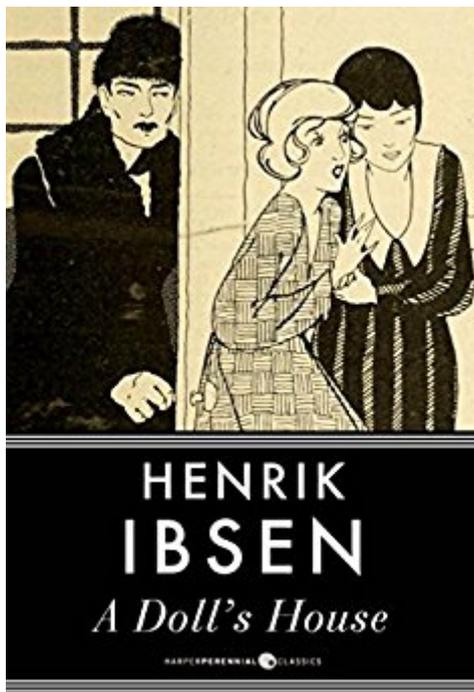


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A Doll's House



Synopsis

On Christmas Eve, Nora and Torvald Helmer host unexpected guests: Nora's friend Kristine, Dr. Rank, a close family friend, and Krogstad, an employee at Torvald's bank. As the Helmers contend with their guests' hidden agendas and deceits in their own marriage, Nora is forced to confront her husband's true selfish nature and acknowledge what she truly desires from life. Written in 1879, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* was scandalous for its criticism of nineteenth-century marriage and the constraints on women's identities in the male-dominated society of the time. *A Doll's House* is one of the most performed stage plays in the world, and has also been adapted for film. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

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Customer Reviews

The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen subjects his writing to the intricacies of marriage time and time again. He seems to have an omniscient power and ability to observe the sacrament itself, along with the fictional characters whom he creates to engage in these marital affairs. Such is the

case with his classic drama, *A Doll's House*. The play raises questions about female self-sacrifice in a male-dominated world. Nora is a "wife and child" to Torvald Helmer, and nothing more. She is his doll, a plaything on display to the world, of little intellectual value and even less utility in his life. Thus it is logical for Helmer to act so shockingly upon his discovery that Nora has managed financial affairs (typically a family responsibility reserved for the patriarch) without so much as his consent or knowledge. What, then, is the play saying about women by allowing Nora to act alone and independently, all the while allowing her to achieve little success in doing so? Such an apparent doubt by the playwright of the abilities of women is quickly redeemed by Nora's sudden mental fruition, as though she, in the course of a day or so, accomplishes the amount of growing up to which most persons devote years and years. She has developed the intuition and motivation to leave behind everything she has lived for during she and Helmer's eight years of marriage in exchange for an independent life and the much-sought virtue of independent thought. Nora suddenly wishes to be alone in the world, responsible for only her own well-being and success or failure. She is breaking free of her crutches (Helmer, her deceased father, the ill-obtained finances from Krogstad) and is now appetent to walk tall and proud.

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