

## Comment P. 113

The quotation is taken from "A Doll's House", a modern tragedy written by the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Throughout the play, he attempts successfully to discuss some important themes; the emancipation of women's character, the husband-wife relationship, the hereditary doom, and appearance versus reality. The play is about a young beautiful wife who sacrifices a lot for her husband and her children.

Throughout the quotation, Nora, the heroine of the play, addresses her husband, Torvald Helmer, in their house. Nora sacrifices a lot for her husband. She wants to do everything to make him happy and to be sure of the safety of her family. Torvald always seems to be responsible and a man of principles. Nora has borrowed money from Krogstad when Torvald has been sick. She does not tell him about this matter because he will be annoyed with her. He hates debts and it is against his principles. Nora works hard to pay Krogstad his money back, but he threatens her that he will reveal her secret to Torvald if she does not talk to him about Krogstad's dismissal. When Torvald discovers the truth and the secret is revealed, he accuses Nora of being guilty and he does not appreciate her sacrifices for his sake. Nora begins to understand his shallow selfish character and blames herself for sacrificing for such a person. She wants to go and leave him after knowing his truth, however he does not allow her to go and still blames her. She has thought that he will save her and that he will keep her away from Krogstad's evil and will appreciate what she has done for his sake, but she discovers she is wrong and he will do nothing for her since he is selfish.

Nora, the main female character in the play, is a young beautiful wife who sacrifices a lot for her family. She is a loyal wife. She stands beside her husband in all the troubles he encounters. She has borrowed money for his sake. She has not told him because he would have been annoyed. When he knows so, she can do anything just to make her family happy and safe. While Torvald Helmer, the hero of the play and Nora's husband, is a shallow and selfish man. Nora sacrifices a lot for his sake but he does not appreciate her sacrifices. He seems to be a man of principles but the truth is that he is a shallow character and a selfish man who cares only for himself.

In the extract, the idea of the gap between the husband and the wife is very clear in the relationship between Torvald and Nora. She sacrifices a lot for him, but he does not care for these sacrifices and accuses her of being guilty and that shows that they cannot understand each other. In addition, the idea of appearance versus reality is very evident in Torvald's character. He seems all the time to be a responsible man and a man of principles. Nora depends on him that

he will keep her safe from any danger, but she discovers that he is a shallow selfish man and that he does not deserve her sacrifices.

Moreover, Ibsen uses very simple language. He is distinguished by his style. He uses very short and brief sentences but highly emotional. Furthermore, his stage directions are very important as they reveal a lot about the insights of the characters. Ibsen is the first to write in prose, earlier plays are written in verse.

To conclude, Ibsen is very successful in conveying his themes to the reader. He seems to be controlling his devices. His play starts where every other play ends.