

HELMER: Then it's quite likely I can offer you a position —
(*Nora claps her hands.*)

NORA: I knew, I knew.

HELMER: You've arrived at the right time, Mrs. Linde —

MRS. LINDE: How can I thank you —

HELMER: No need whatsoever. (*He puts on his overcoat.*) But for now you must excuse me today — |

RANK: Wait, I'll go with you. (*He fetches his fur coat from the hall and warms it by the stove.*)

NORA: Torvald my dear, don't stay out long. 3

HELMER: An hour. No more.

NORA: Kristine, are you leaving as well? (*Mrs. Linde puts her coat on.*)

MRS. LINDE: Yes, I now have to start searching for lodgings.

HELMER: Perhaps we can walk some of the way together. (*Nora helps her.*) 4

NORA: I'm so sorry that we're so cramped for space. We just could not —

MRS. LINDE: Don't even think about it. I can't thank you enough. Good-bye. 5

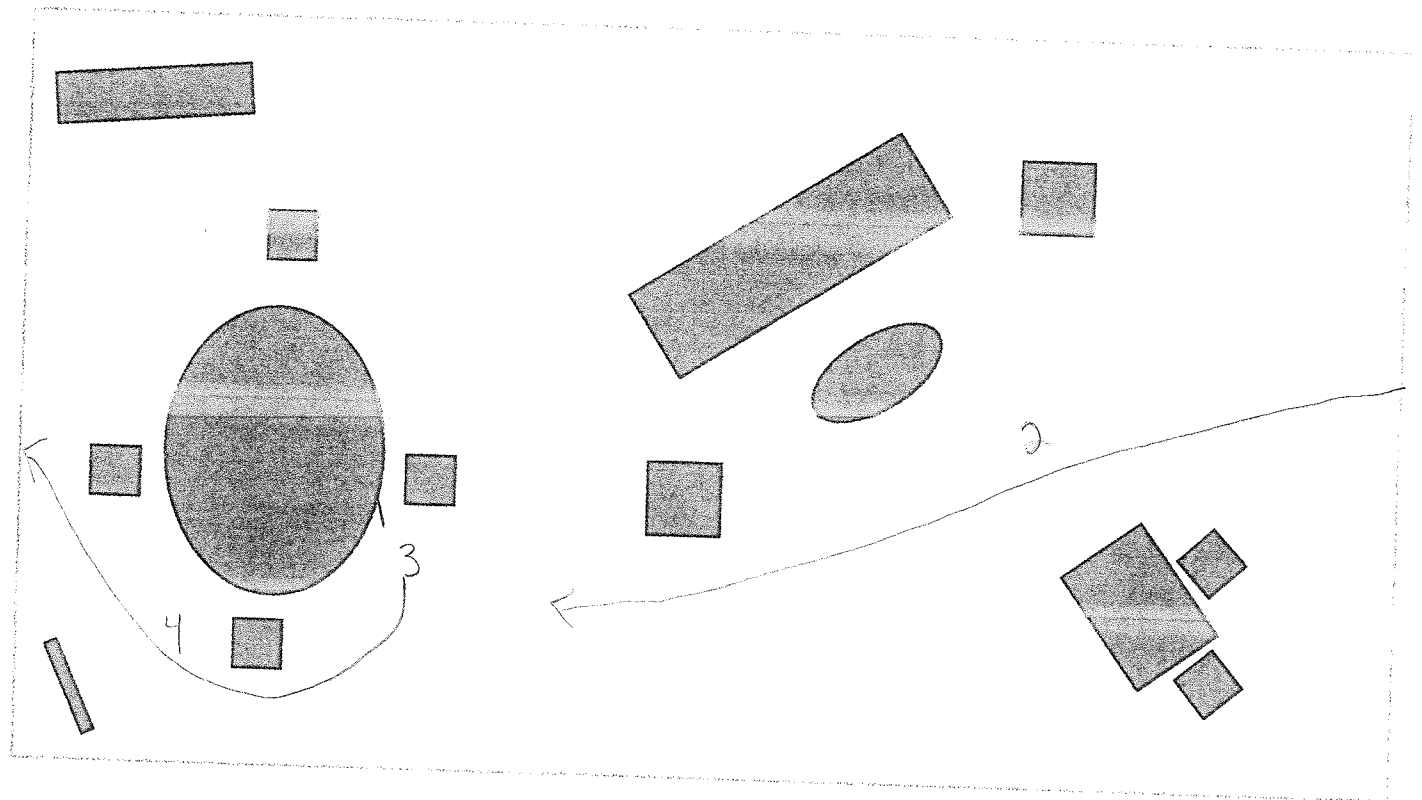
NORA: For now, good-bye. But you will come back this evening, won't you? You too, Dr. Rank. What do you say? Are you well enough? You will be, I know. Just wrap up well. (*During this conversation they enter the hall and children's voices are heard outside the door.*)

6 Here they are, here they are. (*She runs to open the door and the Nanny, Anne-Marie, enters with the children.*) Come on, come in. (*Nora bends down and kisses the children.*) Aren't they sweet? Aren't they angels? Do you see them, Kristine? Aren't they lovely?

RANK: Stop talking in this draught.

HELMER: Come along, Mrs. Linde. Only a mother could bear to be here. (*Rank, Helmer, and Mrs. Linde go down the stairs. The Nanny enters the room with the children. Nora does so too and closes the hall door.*) 7

NORA: Look at those rosy red cheeks. You look so lovely I could eat you. (*The children all talk at the same time and interrupt her during the following.*) Was it great fun? Good, good. You pulled both Emmy and Bob in the sledge. Imagine that, the two of them at the same time? You're a big boy, Ivar. Anne-Marie, let me hold her a



1. Nora hides under table
2. Krogstad enters L + Xs DR near table
3. Nora stands
4. Children exit R

to be
improvised

moment. My little doll, my sweet baby. *(She takes the youngest from the nanny and dances with her.)* Yes, yes, Bob, Mummy will dance with you as well. What? Snowballs, I should have seen you throw them. Anne-Marie, I'll take off their coats myself, please don't — yes, let me please. It is great fun. You look frozen to the bone. Go in there and drink some hot coffee — it's on the stove in the nursery. *(The Nanny enters the room stage L. Nora takes off the children's coats and throws them anywhere while she lets them chatter simultaneously.)* I see, a big bad dog chased you. Did it bite? No, it wouldn't. Doggies don't bite lovely baby dolls. Ivar, leave those parcels. What's in them? You would like to know. Well, it's something horrid. So, what will we play? What do you want to play? Hide and seek? Yes, hide and seek. Bob hides first. Me, will I hide first? All right, I'll hide *(There is joy as Nora and the children laugh and play. Nora finally hides under the table. The children storm in, look, cannot find her, hear her giggling, rush to the table, lift up the cloth and see her. There is huge excitement. There is a knock on the front door but no one notices. The door* ^{Interu} *half-opens and Krogstad appears. He waits a little and the game continues.)* ^{Play}

1 KROGSTAD: I beg your pardon, Mrs. Helmer — *(With a stifled*
2 *scream Nora starts and turns.)*

NORA: What? What do you want?

KROGSTAD: I'm sorry, the front door was open, someone must have forgotten to shut it — *(Nora gets up.)* 3

NORA: My husband is not at home, Mr. Krogstad.

KROGSTAD: I know.

NORA: So what do you want here then?

KROGSTAD: A word with you.

NORA: With — *(She speaks to the children who have grown quiet.)*
Let's go and find Nanny shall we?

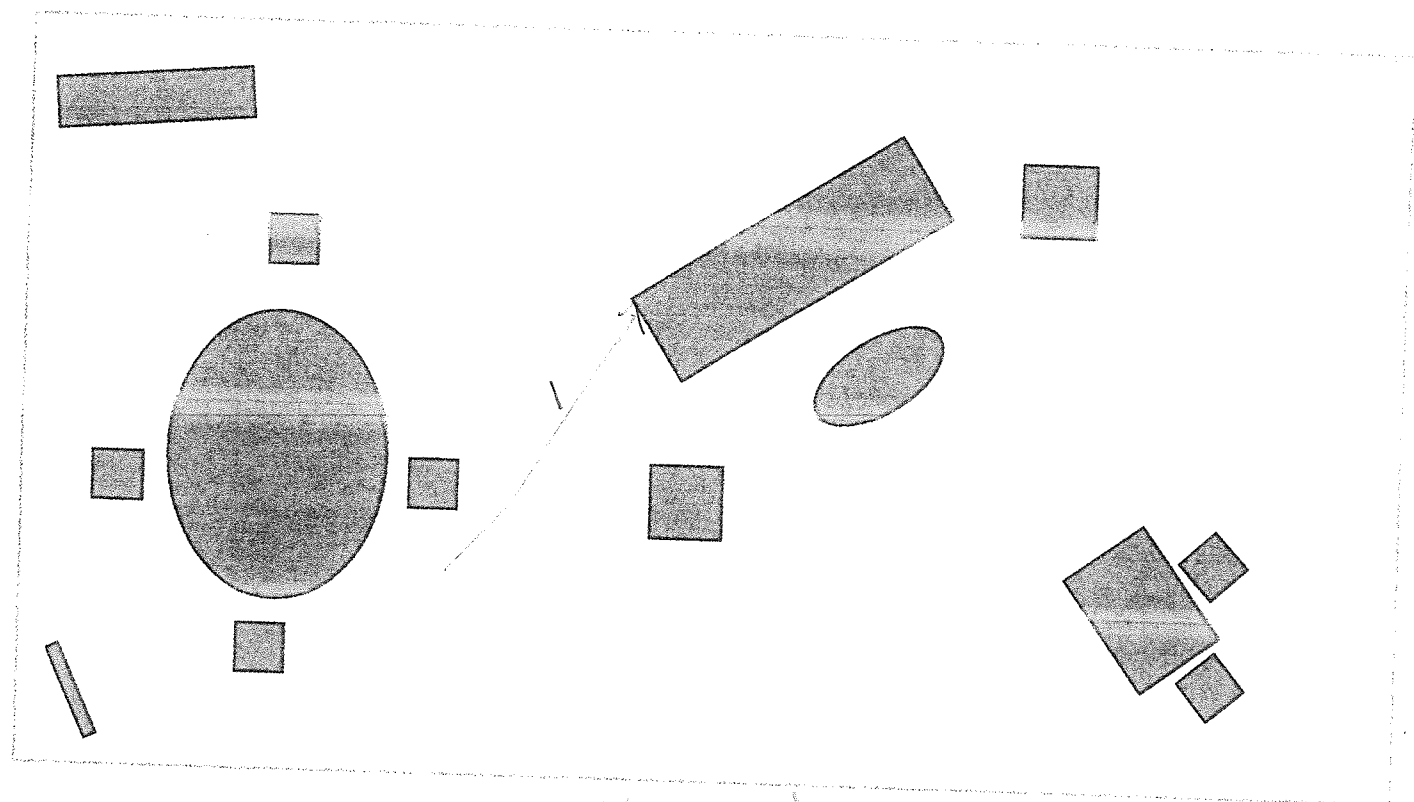
IVAR: Mummy who is that gentleman?

4 NORA: Just somebody who works at Daddy's new bank. *(She leads the children into the room stage L. and shuts the door. She is tense and uneasy.)* You want to talk to me?

KROGSTAD: Yes, I want to talk to you.

NORA: Why? Today isn't the first of the month —

KROGSTAD: No, it's Christmas Eve. It all depends on you whether or not you have a happy Christmas.



~~X~~ Nora moves away from Krogstad, Xs to couch

1. Nora Xs SR chair + st

NORA: Today I can't possibly — *Favor of Influence*

KROGSTAD: Leave that aside. I want something else. Have you a moment to spare?

NORA: Yes, I do, I believe, but —

KROGSTAD: Good. I was sitting in Olsen's cafe and saw your husband go down the street —

NORA: Yes.

KROGSTAD: With a lady.

NORA: So?

KROGSTAD: May I ask if that lady was a Mrs. Linde?

NORA: Yes.

KROGSTAD: Just come to town?

NORA: Today, yes.

KROGSTAD: Isn't she a good friend of yours?

NORA: She is yes, but why —

KROGSTAD: I thought so. All right, so I'll ask you straight out — will Mrs. Linde have a position in the Joint Stock Bank?

NORA: Mr. Krogstad, how dare you question me? You are an employee of my husband. But since you've asked, I'll answer. Yes, ² Mrs. Linde will have a position. And Mr. Krogstad, I spoke up for her. Now you know.

KROGSTAD: I was right then.

NORA: I do have a little bit of influence. Just because I'm a woman, it doesn't mean — that — Mr. Krogstad, you should be careful — people in a junior position should be careful not to offend people who ... who....

KROGSTAD: Who have influence —

NORA: Exactly. (*Krogstad changes his tone.*)

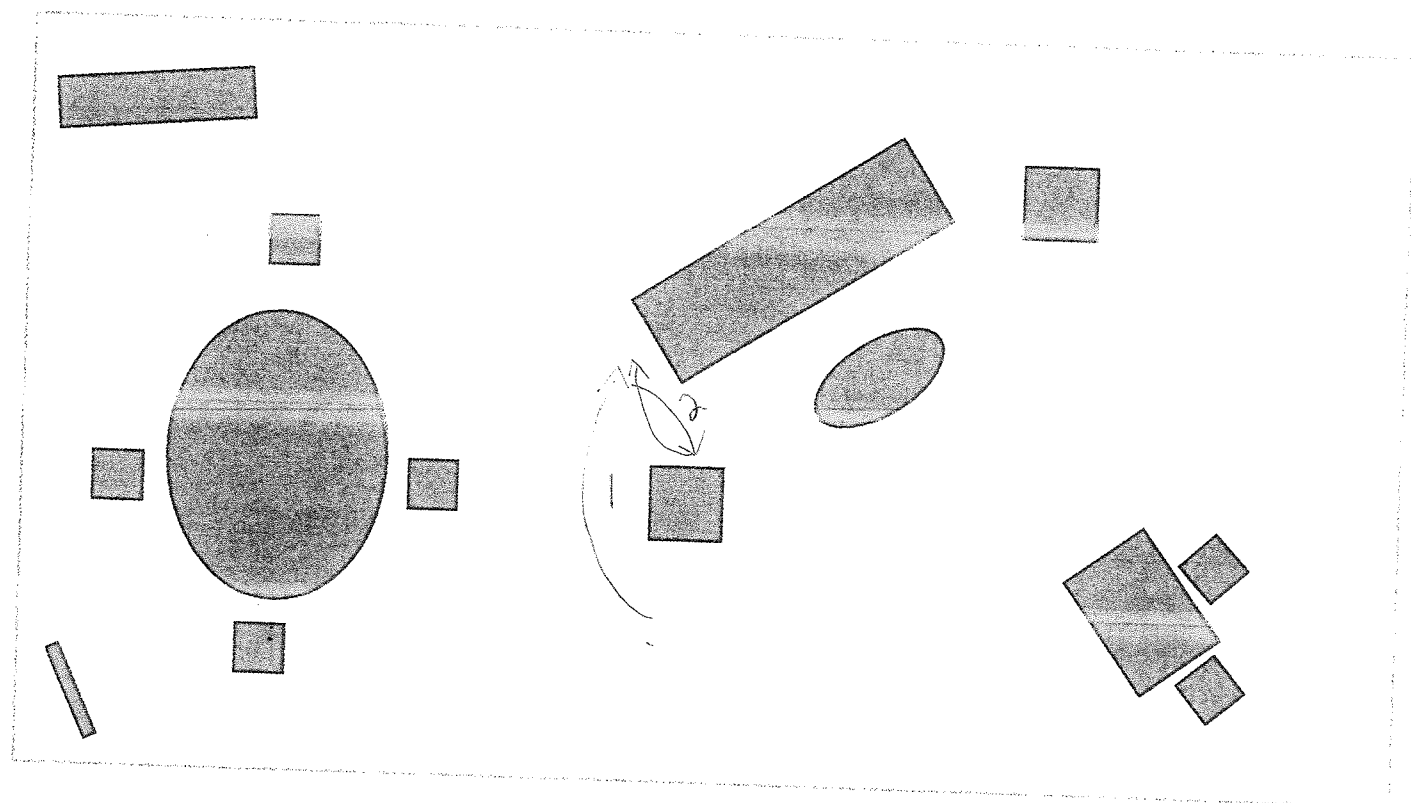
KROGSTAD: Mrs. Helmer, would you please be good enough to use your influence on my behalf?

NORA: What do you mean? |

KROGSTAD: Would you be kind enough to make sure that I keep my junior position in the bank?

NORA: What are you talking about? Who's thinking of taking it from you?

KROGSTAD: You don't need to pretend that you don't understand.



- X {
1. Krogstad Xs to Nora
 2. Krogstad sits
 3. Krogstad stands threateningly
-

1. N ↑
2. N Xs dining Room table

NORA: I assure you —

KROGSTAD: While there is still time, I advise you to use your influence to stop this. |

NORA: Mr. Krogstad, I have no influence —

KROGSTAD: Have no influence? I thought you said —

NORA: I didn't mean it in that way. How can you think I have influence like that over my husband?

KROGSTAD: I know your husband, we were students together. I think the bank manager is like all married men, he can be swayed.

NORA: Mr. Krogstad, if you insult my husband, I'll have to ask you to leave.

KROGSTAD: You are a brave lady.

NORA: I am not afraid of you any longer. After New Year, I will be free of the whole thing. (*Krogstad grows more controlled.*)

KROGSTAD: Mrs. Helmer, please listen to me. If push comes to shove, I will fight with my life to keep my little job at the bank.

NORA: Yes, I can see that.

KROGSTAD: It's not just for the money. That's the least important thing about it. There's another reason. I suppose you know, everyone does, that many years ago I made a bad mistake.

NORA: I've heard something like that, yes.

KROGSTAD: It never went to court, but after that it was as though all doors were closed to me. So, I took to the business that you know about. I had to live somehow, and I honestly don't think I've been as bad as many in my trade. But now I want to get out of it. My sons are growing up. I need to win back what respectability I can in the town. That position in the bank was my first step on the ladder. Now your husband is going to kick me off that ladder back into the gutter.

NORA: But honestly, Mr. Krogstad, I don't have the power to help you.

KROGSTAD: You don't have the inclination to help me, but I have the power to force you. *The Threat*

NORA: You wouldn't tell my husband I owe you money?

KROGSTAD: And if I did?

NORA: That would be a shameful thing to do. (*She is about to cry.*) I'm so proud of my secret. If he heard from you in such an

ugly, crude way, you would put me in such an unpleasant position.

KROGSTAD: Unpleasant? Is that all? *(Nora grows angry.)*

NORA: [Do it then, go on do it. See what happens then. My husband will see what a bad man you are. You certainly won't keep your job at the bank.

KROGSTAD: I've just asked you if it's only domestic unpleasantness you're worried about?

NORA: If my husband's told, he'll immediately pay what I owe you. Then we won't have anything more to do with you. *(Krogstad takes a step closer.)*

KROGSTAD: Mrs. Helmer, listen. When your husband was ill, you came to me to borrow ~~four thousand eight hundred kroner —~~ *\$40,800*

NORA: I knew no one else.

KROGSTAD: I promised to get you the money.

NORA: And you did.

KROGSTAD: I promised to get you the money on certain conditions in a contract which I drew up.

NORA: You did, and I signed.

KROGSTAD: Good, but then I added another clause in which your father was to guarantee the debt. Your father was meant to sign this clause.

NORA: Meant to? He did sign.

KROGSTAD: I left the date blank. So that when your father signed the contract he could fill in the date himself. Do you remember?

NORA: I, I think so —

KROGSTAD: The amount was then paid to you.

NORA: Yes. Well, haven't I kept up the repayments?

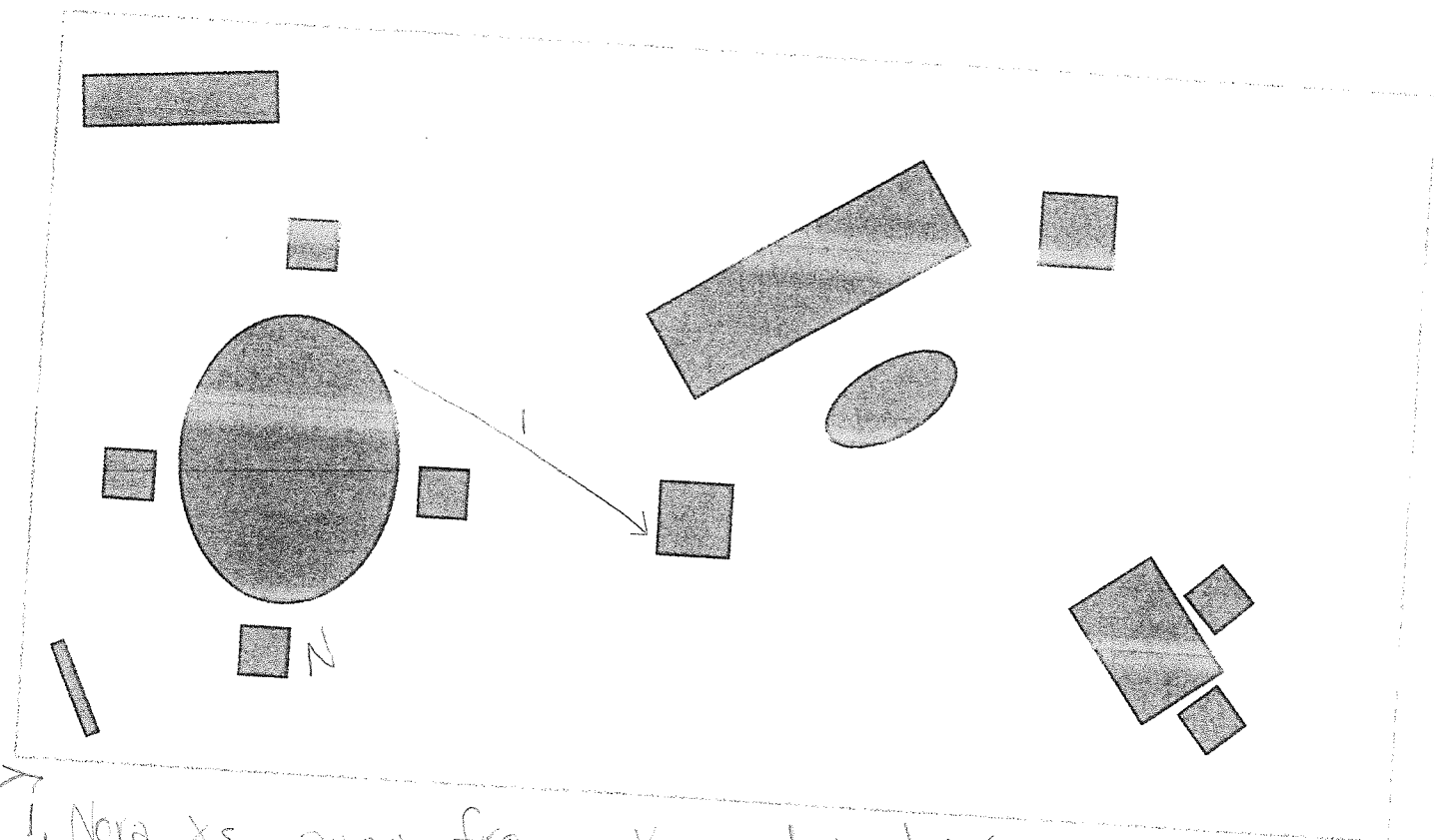
KROGSTAD: More or less. But let's return to that date, Mrs. Helmer. Do you remember the day your father died, the day of the month, I mean?

NORA: Papa died on the twenty-ninth of September.

KROGSTAD: That's right, I checked it. *(He takes out a piece of paper.)* Which leaves us with a little problem, a problem I can't solve.

NORA: ~~What little problem. I don't know —~~ *A Big Mistake*

KROGSTAD: The problem is Mrs. Helmer, that your father signed this contract three days after his death.



1. Nora xs away from Krogstad to chair
2. Nora stands facing Krogstad

NORA: I don't understand.

KROGSTAD: Your father died on the twenty-ninth of September. But look at this. Your father has dated his signature the second of October. That is curious, isn't it? *(Nora is silent.)* Can you explain that to me? *(Nora remains silent.)* What is also remarkable is that the words "the second of October" and the year are not in your father's writing, but in writing which I seem to recognize. Nothing criminal in that. It is the signature that's important. Mrs. Helmer, that signature, is it genuine? It really was your father himself who signed his name here? *(After a brief silence Nora tosses her head and answers him defiantly.)* Deluded Defiance

NORA: No, he didn't. I signed Papa's name.

KROGSTAD: Do you realize how dangerous this admission is?

NORA: Why? You'll soon get your money.

KROGSTAD: Why didn't you send the contract to your father?

NORA: I couldn't. Papa was ill. How could I possibly tell him that my husband's life was in danger when he was so ill himself?

KROGSTAD: It would have been advisable to abandon your trip abroad.

NORA: That trip was to save my husband's life. I couldn't abandon it.

KROGSTAD: Didn't it occur to you that you were defrauding me?

NORA: I couldn't worry about that. I didn't love you. |

KROGSTAD: Mrs. Helmer, I don't think you have any idea of what it is you're guilty of. But, let me tell you, my one mistake that destroyed my entire reputation was nothing more or nothing worse than what you have done.

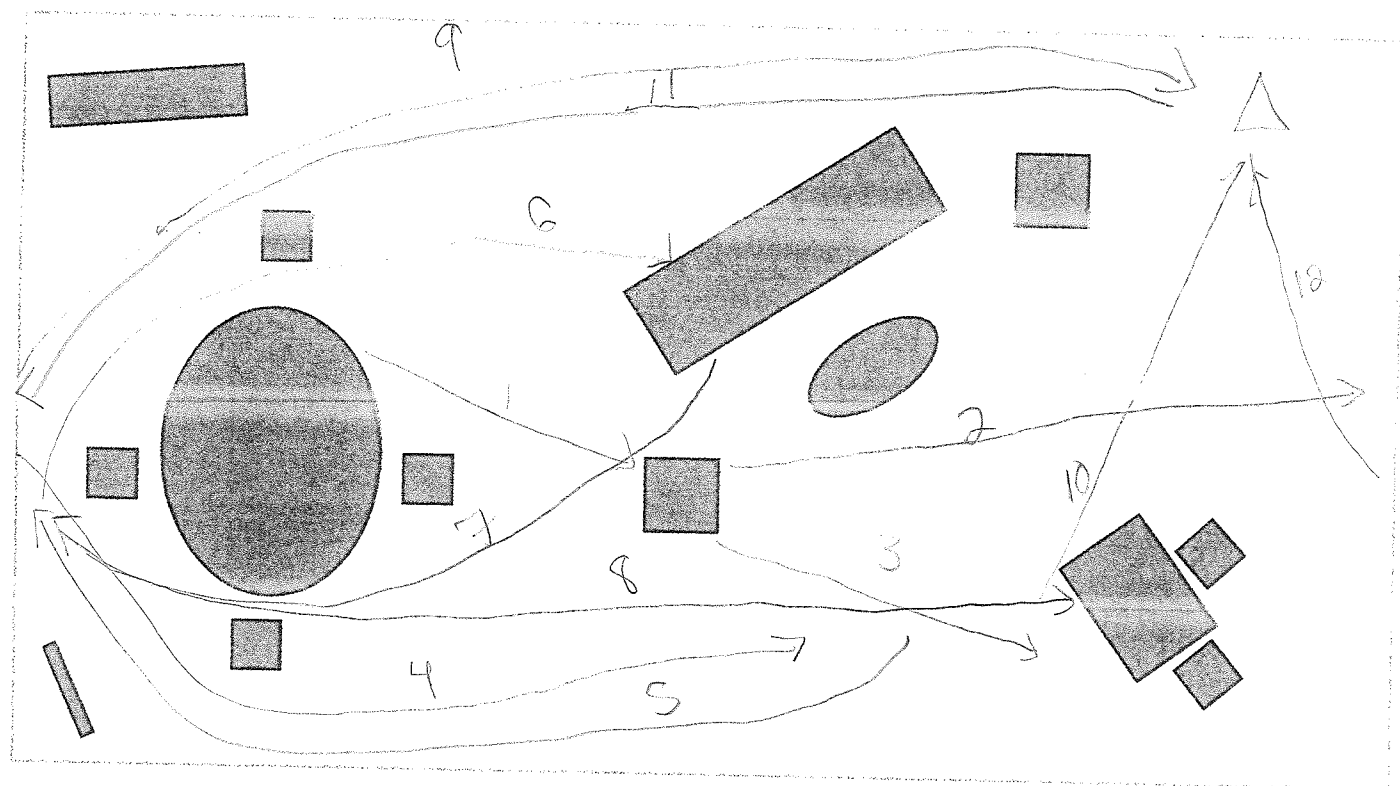
NORA: Are you — you trying to make me believe you did something brave to save your wife's life?

KROGSTAD: The law has no interest in motives.

NORA: Then the law is very foolish.

KROGSTAD: Foolish or not, if I were to present this paper to the court, you would be judged by that law.

NORA: I don't believe that. A daughter can't protect her old, dying father? A wife can't help save her husband's life? I don't know the law very well, but I'm sure it must say somewhere that



1. Krogstad Xs to Nora + whispers to her
2. Krogstad exits L
3. Nora Xs to fold children's coats
4. Children X to Nora DL
5. Nora takes children out, children exit
6. Nora Xs to sofa + sits, taking a selfie (instead of embroidery)
7. Nora Xs to exit + shouts
8. Nora Xs to table + pulls out pills ^{from purse}, takes one
9. Maid Xs to UL corner w/ tree
10. Nora Xs to UL tree
11. Maid exits R
12. Torvald Xs to Nora + kisses her head

this is allowed. And if you don't know that, Mr. Krogstad, you must be a very bad lawyer.

KROGSTAD: Be that as it may, but I do know about business, / and you know that. And I'll tell you one thing. You have everything to lose, your entire future, everything. If I am hurled back into the gutter a second time, I will take you with me. *(He exits through the hall. Nora, pensive for a while, tosses her head.)* 2 *2*

NORA: Rubbish. Trying to frighten me. I'm not that simple. 3 *(She starts folding the children's clothes but soon stops.)* But — no, it is impossible. I did it for love. *(The children are in the doorway stage L.)* 4

CHILDREN: The strange man has left now, Mummy.

NORA: Yes, I know, yes. Now don't tell anyone about the strange man. Not even Daddy.

CHILDREN: No Mummy, will you play with us again?

NORA: No! No. Not now.

CHILDREN: Mummy, you promised.

NORA: Yes, but I can't now. I have so much to do. Go along, dar- 5
lings, go along. *(She urges them gently out of the room and closes the door behind them. She sits down on the sofa, takes up her embroidery and sews a few stitches but soon stops.)* No. *(She throws the embroidery aside, gets up, goes to the hall door and shouts.)* Helene, could you bring in the Christmas tree, please. *(She goes to the table stage L. and opens the drawer but stops again.)* No, it is all quite impossible. *(Helene enters with the Christmas tree.)* 9

MAID: Where will I leave it, Madame?

NORA: The middle of the floor.

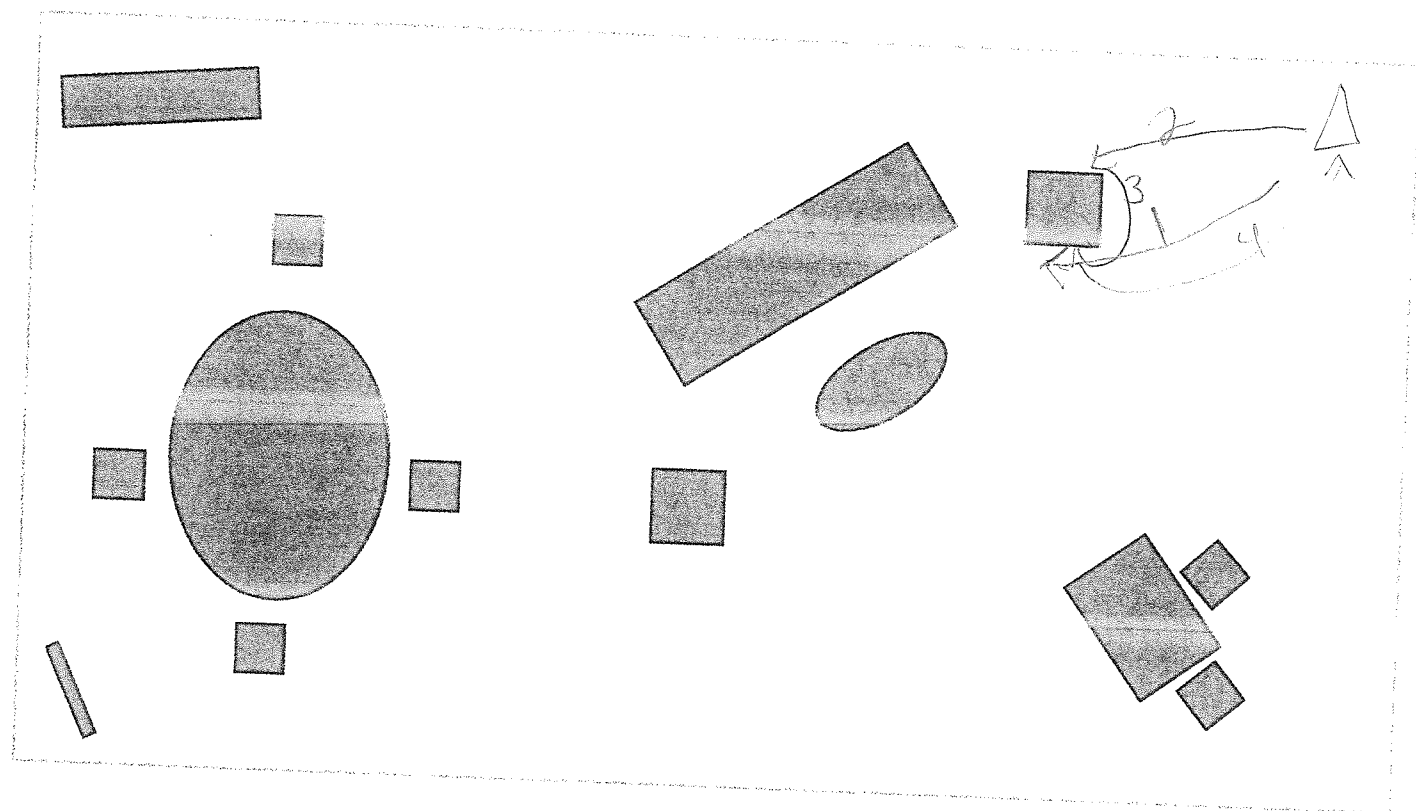
MAID: Shall I fetch anything else? 10

NORA: No, thank you, I have what I need. *(The Maid exits and Nora starts to decorate the tree.)* Candles, and flowers, here and here. That horrible man. Nonsense, all nonsense. Nothing is wrong. The Christmas tree will be lovely. Anything you want, Torvald, I will do. I will sing for you, dance — *(Helmer enters from the hall with a bundle of papers under his arm.)* Oh, you're back then? 12

HELMER: Yes. Did anyone call?

NORA: Here? No.

HELMER: Strange. I saw Krogstad coming out the front door downstairs.



1. Torvald xs to US chair + sits
2. Nora xs to back of Torvald's chair
3. Nora sits on his lap
4. Nora xs back to tree

NORA: Oh? Yes, that's true, Krogstad was here for a moment.

HELMER: Nora, I can read you like a book, he was here asking you to put in a good word for him.

NORA: Yes.

HELMER: And you were told not to tell me he'd been. That's what he's asked you to do, yes?

NORA: Yes, Torvald, but —

HELMER: Nora, how could you agree to that? How, Nora? You talk to a man like that, and make him promises. Then, to top it all, you tell me a lie.

NORA: Lie?

HELMER: Didn't you say no one had been here? *(He wags his finger.)* My singing bird must never again do that. This little bird must keep its voice pure. No false notes. *(He puts his hands around her waist.)* That's so, yes? Yes, I thought so. *(He lets her go.)* So, no more about it. *(He sits down in front of the stove.)* It's so warm and cozy in here. *(He leafs through the papers. Nora busies herself with the tree. There is a short pause.)* 2

NORA: What are those papers?

HELMER: Bank business.

NORA: Already?

HELMER: I've persuaded the retiring manager to give me authority to change staff and policy. By New Year I want everything in order.

NORA: So that's why this poor Krogstad —

HELMER: Hmm. *(Nora is still over the back of the chair, slowly messing up his hair.)*

NORA: Well, if you hadn't been terribly busy, I would have asked you a really, really big favor, Torvald?

HELMER: Spell it out, what is it?

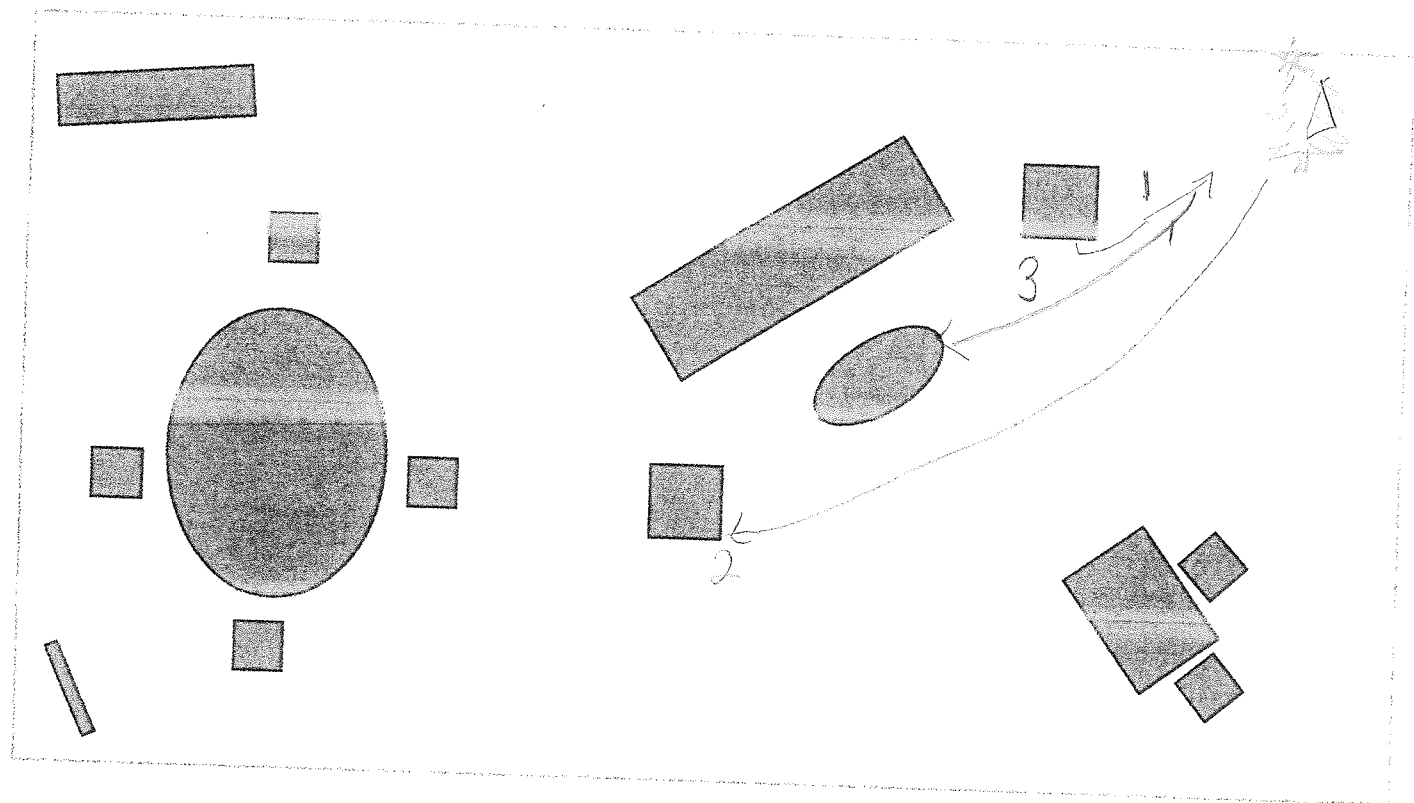
NORA: No one has better taste than you. I so want to look good at the fancy dress party at the Sternborgs tomorrow night. Torvald, would you tell me what my costume should be?

HELMER: Little Miss Stubbornshoes needs to be helped? 3

NORA: I do, Torvald, I can't get anywhere without your help.

HELMER: All right, I'll think about it. We'll come up with something.

NORA: You are kind. 4 *(She goes back to the Christmas tree. There is a*



1. Torvald Xs to Nora
2. Nora Xs to DS chair
3. Torvald Xs to table + gathers papers

①. Nora Xs to Christmas tree

Tainting the Home

pause.) Tell me, this Krogstad, was what he did so terribly bad?

HELMER: He forged a signature. Have you any idea what that means?

NORA: Perhaps he did it because he desperately needed to?

HELMER: He could have, or because he was reckless, like so many others. That's not the point, Nora. I'm not heartless, I condemn no man outright for one mistake.

NORA: No, you wouldn't, Torvald.

HELMER: Anyone can save himself if he admits his guilt and takes the punishment.

NORA: What punishment?

① HELMER: Forgery is punishable by imprisonment. But Krogstad tricked his way out of it with lies and deceit. A guilty man has to lie to everyone. Absolutely everyone, his nearest and his dearest, his wife and his children. Nora, they have never seen the real man, behind that mask. And the children, Nora, that's what makes it so terrible.

NORA: Why?

HELMER: Every breath those children take must be filled with the germs of something evil because an atmosphere of lies infects and poisons an entire house.

NORA: Are you sure?

HELMER: I know it. I know it as a lawyer. Nearly all the young criminals I've dealt with have mothers that lied.

NORA: Just the mothers?

HELMER: No, of course not, but the mothers spend far more time with the children. Fathers can have the same effect. Krogstad has gone home for years and poisoned his children with lies and deceit, and that's why I call him an immoral man. That's why my lovely Nora must promise me now, not to plead his case any more. Give me your hand on this. What is this, Nora? Give me your hand. There, it's settled. I assure you, it would have been impossible to work with him. I honestly feel sick, sick to my stomach, in the presence of such people. *(Nora withdraws her hand and goes to the other side of the Christmas tree.)* 2

NORA: So hot in here — so much to do, I have — *(Helmer gets up and gathers his papers together.)* 3

HELMER: Yes, I'm thinking of reading some of this before dinner. I'll have to give your costume a bit of thought. And I might

have to wrap something in gold paper on the Christmas tree. *(He puts his hand on her head.)* It's going to be a beautiful Christmas with the children. *(He enters the study, closing the door behind him. Nora speaks quietly after a pause.)* 2

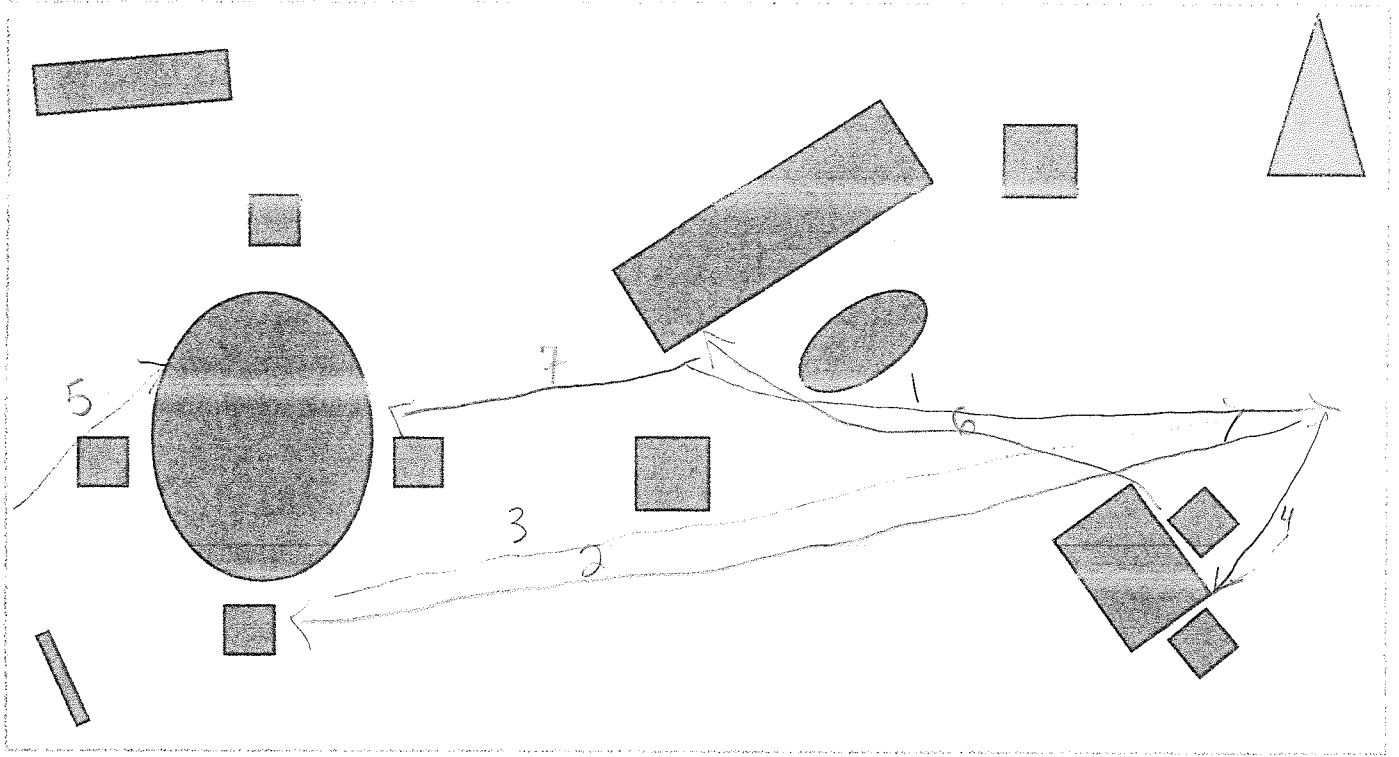
NORA: No, it's not possible. It isn't. *(The Nanny appears in the doorway stage L.)* 3

NANNY: Your little ones ask very sweetly if they can come to Mummy.

NORA: No, absolutely no, don't let them near me. Keep them away from me.

NANNY: Very well, Mrs. Helmer. *(She closes the door. Nora pales from fear.)* 4

NORA: Poison my children — poison my home — poison them — *(There is a brief pause. She raises her head.)* It is not true. Never, never, never ever could it be true.



1. Nora Xs to door
2. Nora Xs to table
3. Nora Xs to door
4. Nora Xs to desk + takes out pills + takes them
5. Nanny enters R + Xs to table
6. Nora Xs to couch to get coat
7. Nora Xs to the table

ACT TWO

The same living room. In the corner by the piano the Christmas tree stands, stripped of presents, dishevelled, and with the remains of burned down candles. Nora's coat lies on the sofa.

Nora is alone, pacing the living room floor uneasily, until she finally stops by the sofa and picks up her coat. She lets go of her coat.

Separating from the Children

NORA: Somebody's coming. *(She turns towards the door and listens.)* Nobody & nobody. Christmas Day, no one will come today. Nor tomorrow either. *But maybe — (She opens the door and looks out.)* Nothing in the post box. Nothing. Empty. *(She walks the floor.)* You're being ridiculous. *He won't do it of course. Something like this, it can't happen. It's impossible. I have little children. (Nanny enters from the room stage L. with a big cardboard box.)*

NANNY: *5* Well I've come across the box with the costumes at last.

NORA: Thank you. Put it down there. *(She does so.)* I'll go out and get Mrs. Linde to give me a hand. *6*

NANNY: Go out again, you? In this bad weather? You'll get a cold, you'll end up in bed, Mrs. Helmer.

NORA: Worse could happen. How are the children?

NANNY: The poor darlings are playing with their Christmas presents, but —

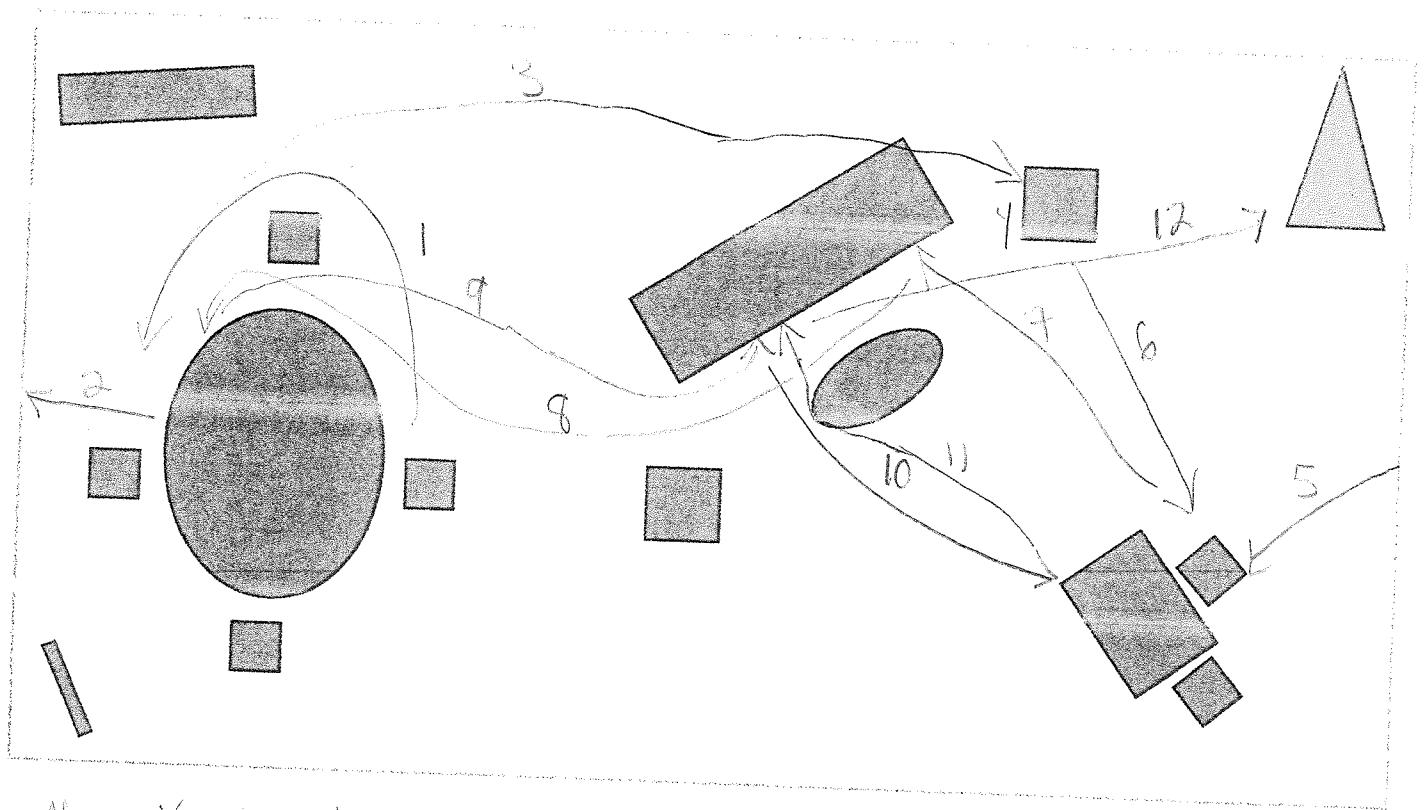
NORA: Are they still asking for me?

NANNY: They're so used to having their Mummy with them.

NORA: Yes, but Anne-Marie, from now on I can't be with them as much as I have been.

NANNY: Little children, they get used to nearly everything.

NORA: *7* Do you think so? Do you think they would forget their mother if she went away forever?



1. Nora Xs to Nanny
2. Nanny exits R
3. Nora Xs to chair + sits
4. Nora stands
5. Kristine enters L
6. Nora Xs to Kristine
7. Nora + Kristine X to couch, K sits
8. Nora Xs to table to get costume
9. Nora Xs back to sofa + sits
10. Nora Xs to desk for needle + thread
11. Nora Xs to sofa + sits
12. Nora Xs to tree + paces

NANNY: Dear me, forever?

NORA: Dear Anne-Marie, you were such a good nanny to me when I was a child. /

NANNY: Poor child, little Nora had no other mother but me.

NORA: And if the children had no one else, I know that you — you — this is not making sense, I'm talking nonsense, nonsense. *(She opens the box.)* Go to them. Now I have to — Tomorrow, you'll see how beautiful I'll look.

NANNY: Yes. Mrs. Nora will be the loveliest lady at the party. *(She exits to the room stage L. Nora starts to unpack the box but soon throws everything down.)* 2

NORA: Maybe if I dared go out. I'll brush this ^{coat} ~~muff~~. Gorgeous, gorgeous. Don't think about it, forget — one, two, three, four, five, six — *(She screams.)* They're coming ⁴ *(She wants to move towards the door but stands indecisively.)* 5 Mrs. Linde enters from the hall where she's left her outdoor clothes. 6 Kristine, is that you? Is there anyone else out there? I'm glad that it's you who came. ^{sewing if together}

MRS. LINDE: I heard you'd come by asking for me.

NORA: 7 Yes, I was just passing. You must help me with something. Sit ⁷ down on the sofa. Look. There is a fancy dress party at the Sternborgs tomorrow evening. Torvald wants me to go as a fisher girl from Naples and dance the tarantella. I learnt it in Capri.

MRS. LINDE: I see. You're going to give a real performance?

NORA: 8 Torvald wants me to. 9 Here's the costume, look — it's falling to pieces and I just don't know —

MRS. LINDE: We'll soon mend it. The trimming is hanging down in a few places. Needle and thread? Right, we have what we need. ¹⁰

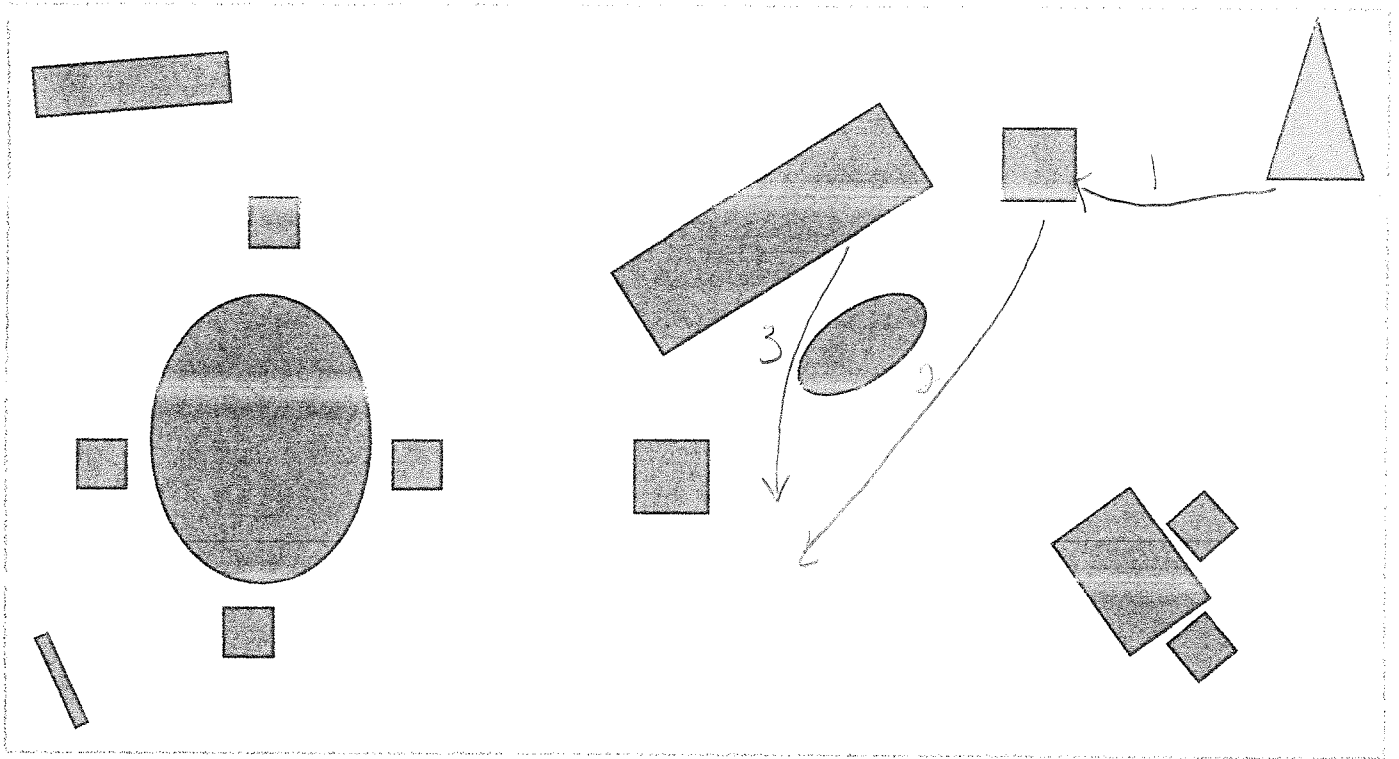
NORA: 11 This is kind of you. *(Mrs. Linde sews.)* ^{Dr. Rank's Dislike}

MRS. LINDE: But I'm forgetting to say thank you for the lovely evening last night. *(Nora gets up and walks across the floor.)*

NORA: 12 It wasn't quite as lovely here last night as it usually is.

MRS. LINDE: Tell me, is Dr. Rank normally as miserable as he was last night?

NORA: No. Yesterday, it was very noticeable. You see, he suffers from a very serious illness. Poor man, his spine is wasting away:



1. Nora xs to chair + sits
2. Nora jumps up + paces, landing C
3. Kristine xs to Nora

his father was a brute of a man. He had mistresses — things of that nature. So the son was infected from boyhood, inherited — if you follow me. (*Mrs. Linde lets the sewing drop.*)

MRS. LINDE: My darling Nora, how did you come to know such things? (*Nora strolls.*)

NORA: [When you have given birth to three children, you get visits from — from ladies who possess some medical knowledge. They can tell you a thing or two, I can tell you. *A Secret Admirer*]

MRS. LINDE: Nora, listen, you're still a child in many ways. I'm a bit older than you and have a bit more experience. I want to tell you something. You must stop all this business with Dr. Rank.

NORA: Stop what business?

MRS. LINDE: Nora, stop pretending. Don't you realize I've guessed who loaned you the money?

NORA: Have you gone mad? How could you think of such a thing? He is a friend, who comes here every single day. That would be terribly embarrassing. Mind you I'm certain if I were to ask —

MRS. LINDE: You won't though, naturally.

NORA: No, naturally. I don't think it would be necessary. But I'm sure if I told Dr. Rank —

MRS. LINDE: Behind your husband's back?

NORA: This other thing was behind his back too, and I have to get out of it. I have to get out of it! 2

MRS. LINDE: That's what I said to you yesterday, but — (*She stops.*) *Confession to Kristine*

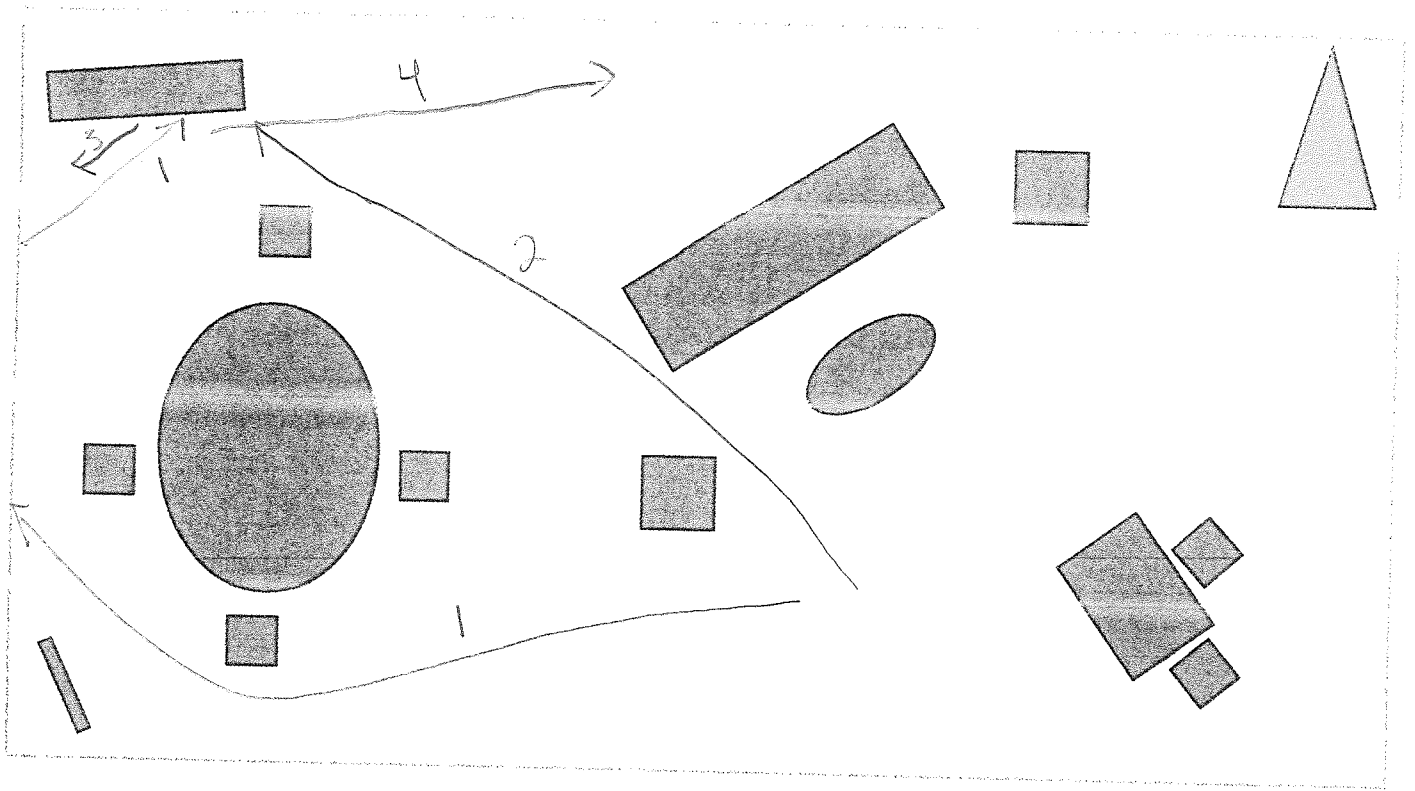
NORA: When you pay up what you owe, you get your contract back, don't you?

MRS. LINDE: That's correct, yes.

NORA: Then you can tear it up into a hundred thousand pieces and burn it — that nasty, disgusting piece of paper. (*Mrs. Linde puts down the sewing, gets up slowly, and looks at Nora sternly.*) 3

MRS. LINDE: What is it, Nora? Something's happened to you since yesterday morning. (*Nora goes towards her.*)

NORA: Kristine. (*She listens.*) Ssh. Torvald's come home. Kristine, would you mind taking the sewing in there? Torvald hates the sight of sewing. Let Anne-Marie help you. (*Mrs. Linde gathers up some items.*)



1. Kristine exits R + Torvald enters UR, Xing to bookcase
2. Nora Xs to Torvald
3. Torvald begins to exit UR
4. Nora leads Torvald. L

MRS. LINDE: All right, but I'm not leaving until we've spoken honestly. *(Mrs. Linde exits stage L. at the same time as Helmer enters from the hall. Nora goes to meet him.)* 2 *The Plea*

NORA: Torvald, I've missed you so much.

HELMER: Was that the dressmaker?

NORA: No. Kristine, she's helping me mend my costume. Don't worry, I'll look beautiful for you.

HELMER: Yes, that was a rather clever idea of mine.

NORA: Wonderful. But aren't I good to give in to you? *(Helmer lifts her chin.)*

HELMER: Good — because you give in to your husband? You funny little thing. I know you didn't mean it like that. Go on, I won't trouble you. I imagine you want to try it on.

NORA: And I imagine you need to work?

HELMER: Yes. *(He shows her a bundle of papers.)* Look, I've been to the bank — *(He is about to enter his study.)* 3

NORA: Torvald. *(He stops.)*

HELMER: Yes.

NORA: ⁴ Say your little bird were to ask you for something very prettily —

HELMER: What?

NORA: Would you do it?

HELMER: I would have to know what it is first.

NORA: Your skylark would sing in all the rooms —

HELMER: So? My skylark does that anyway.

NORA: I'd work magic in the moonlight and dance for you, Torvald.

HELMER: Nora, surely this hasn't anything to do with what you mentioned this morning? *(Nora moves closer.)*

NORA: Yes. I beg you with all my heart, Torvald.

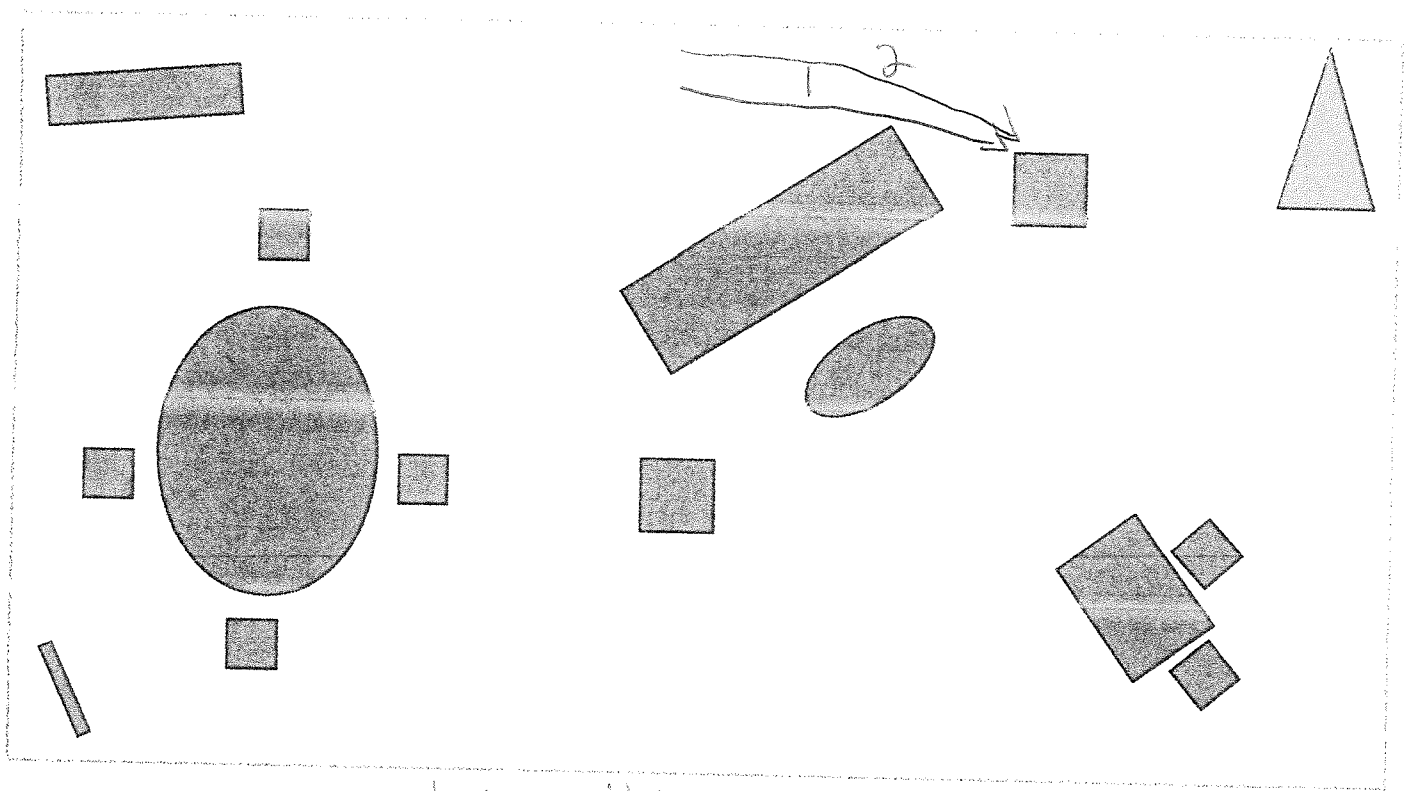
HELMER: You really have the nerve to bring this up again?

NORA: Yes, you must do as I ask, please, you must let Krogstad keep his job at the bank.

HELMER: I've decided to give his job to Mrs. Linde, dear Nora.

NORA: That is very, very kind of you. But couldn't you get rid of another clerk instead of Krogstad?

HELMER: I do not believe how stubborn you are. Just because you've made him a foolish promise, you are making me —



1. Torvald xs to chair + sits
2. Nora xs to back of chair

NORA: That's not the reason, Torvald.

HELMER: What is it then?

NORA: I'm only thinking about you. The man writes in the most dreadful newspapers. You've said that yourself. He can do you untold harm. I'm frightened to death of him.

HELMER: You're frightened by old memories. Your father — that's who you're thinking about.

NORA: I am, yes. I am. People wrote such wicked things about Papa in the papers. Remember that. They slandered him so viciously. I'm sure he would have been dismissed if they hadn't sent you to look into it. You were so kind, you helped him so much.

HELMER: My little Nora, there is a very big difference between your father and myself. As a civil servant your father's reputation was not beyond reproach. Mine is. And I hope it will remain so, for as long as I hold my position.

NORA: But you never know what harm people can do. We could be so comfortable now, so content, so happy in our peaceful home — you and me and the children, Torvald. That is why I really do beg you —

Unmovable Man

HELMER: The more you plead for this man, the more impossible it is for me to keep him. Everyone in the bank knows I'm going to get rid of Krogstad. If word got about that the new bank manager let his wife change his mind —

NORA: So, what then, yes?

HELMER: I'll tell you what then. If little Miss Stubbornshoes gets her way, I'd be made a laughing stock before the entire staff. People would start to think I didn't have a mind of my own. Believe you me, I'd soon have to face the consequences. Anyway, there is another reason why it is quite impossible for Krogstad to stay in the bank while I am manager.

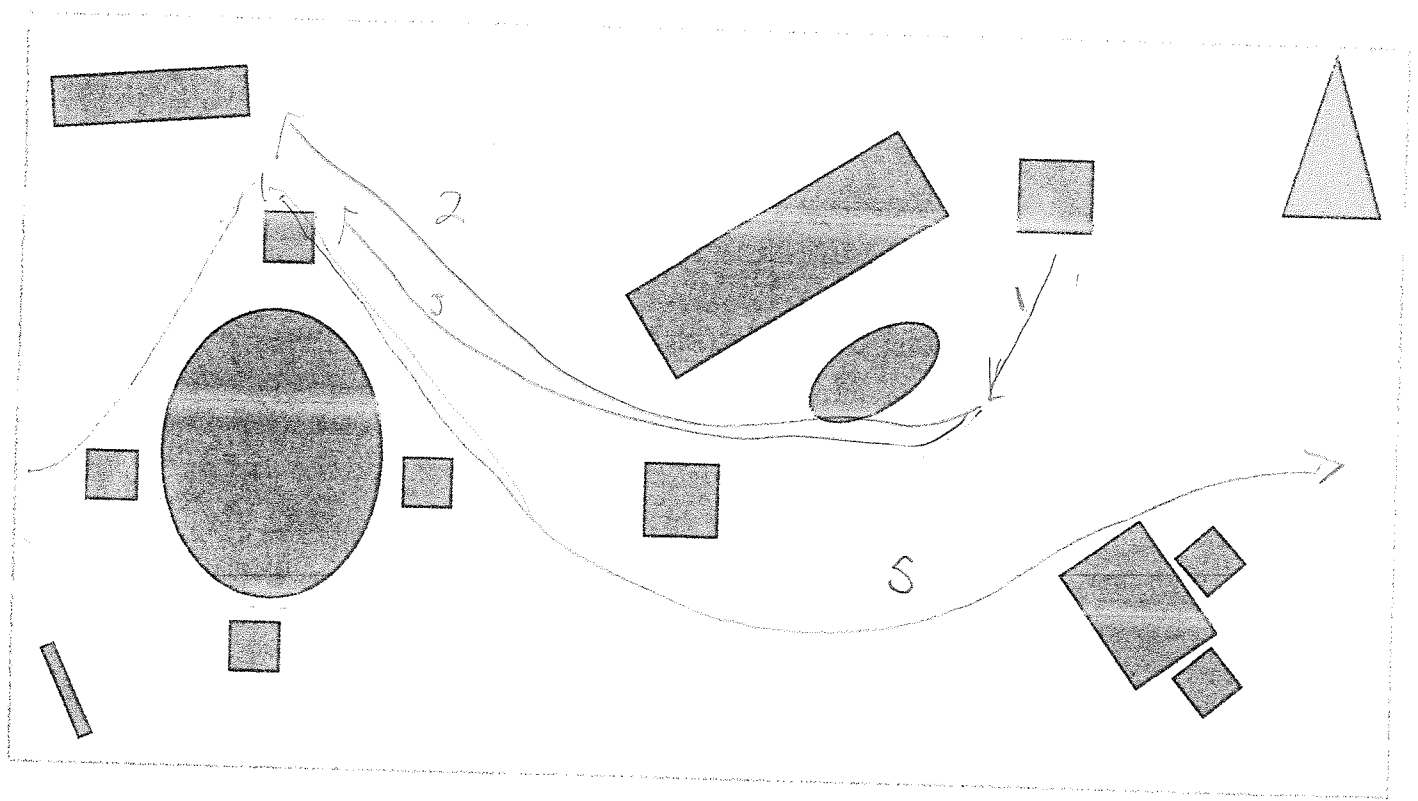
NORA: What? 2

HELMER: If I were pushed to it, I could overlook his moral failings —

NORA: Yes, you could, Torvald.

HELMER: I'm told he could be quite useful. But we've known each other from being students together. It's one of those ill-judged friendships that so often come back to haunt you. I'm telling you the truth now. We call each other by our ~~christian~~

first



1. Torvald paces
2. Torvald Xs UR
3. Nora Xs UR to Torvald
4. Helene enters + Xs to Torvald + takes letter
5. Helene exits L

names. But this man has no tact, he continues to do so even when other people are present. In fact, he thinks he has a right, to be very familiar with me. He keeps interrupting all the time with "Torvald this," "Torvald that." It's so embarrassing. He would make my position at the bank absolutely impossible.

NORA: You can't mean this, Torvald.

HELMER: Why can't I?

NORA: Because it's such a petty reason.

HELMER: Petty? What are you saying? You think I'm petty?

NORA: I don't, Torvald. Darling, this is precisely why — 1

HELMER: Never mind that. You just said my reason is petty, that means I am petty too. Petty. Never — I — I can put an end to all 2 of this. *(He goes to the hall door and shouts.)* Helene.

NORA: What are you going to do? *(Helmer looks through his papers.)* 3

HELMER: To settle this once and for all. *(The Maid enters.)* 4 This letter, take it. Go downstairs, find a messenger, and tell him to deliver it. Do it quickly. The address is on the envelope. Here's some money.

MAID: Yes, sir. *(The Maid leaves with the letter. He tidies up his papers.)* 5

HELMER: There you have it, little Miss Stubbornshoes. *(Nora speaks breathlessly.)* It is Done

NORA: Torvald — what was that letter?

HELMER: Krogstad's dismissal.

NORA: Torvald, get it back. There's still time. You don't know what this could do to our family.

HELMER: It's too late.

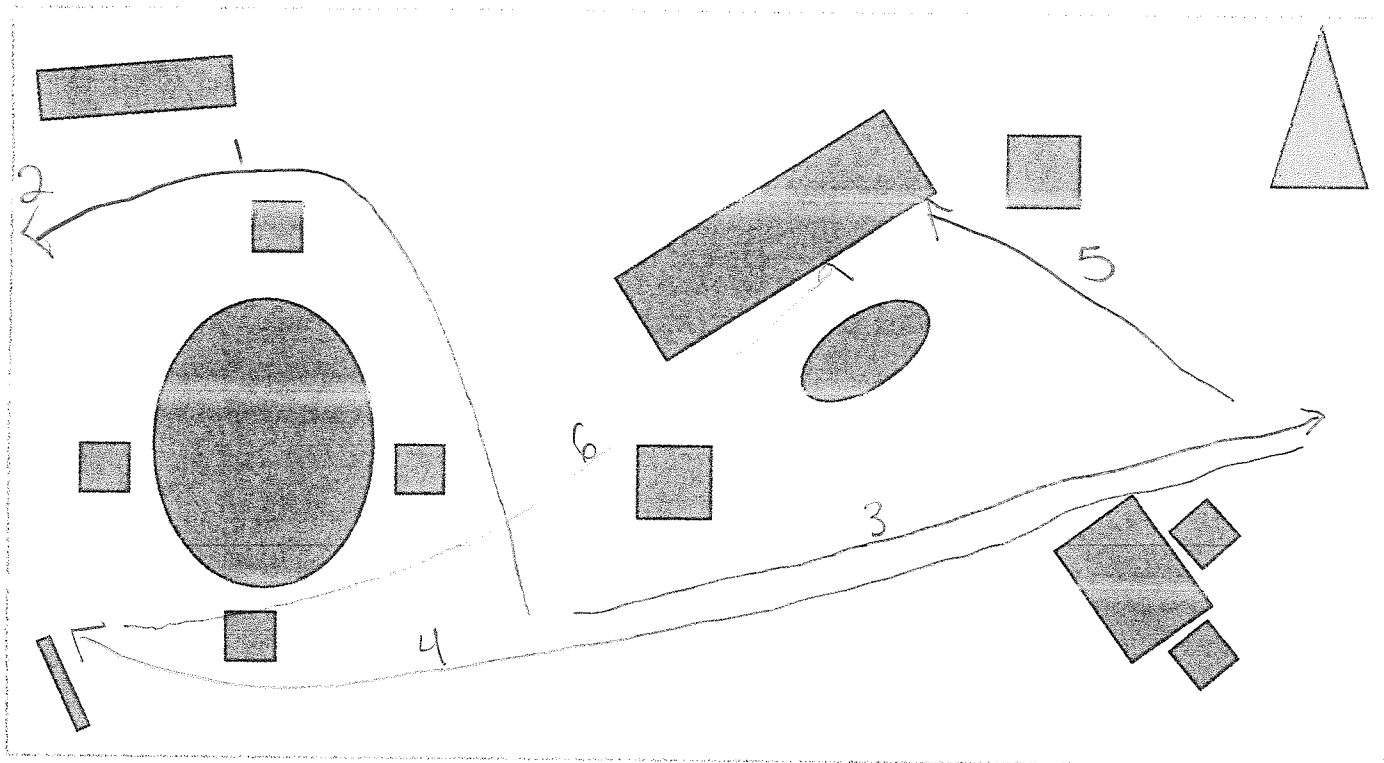
NORA: Too late, yes.

HELMER: Dear Nora, I can forgive you because you are frightened, though actually it's an insult to think I would be frightened because some failed, depraved hack wants revenge against me. But I forgive you, anyway, because this shows me, how beautifully, and how bravely you love me. *(He takes her in his arms.)* Whatever happens, when a real crisis comes, you'll see, I have strength and courage for both of us. You'll see that I'm man enough to deal with everything myself. *(Nora is terrified.)*

NORA: What do you mean by that?

HELMER: Everything I say. *(Nora grows composed.)*

NORA: You will never, ever have to do that.



1. Torvald Xs to UR exit
2. Torvald exits
3. Nora Xs to L entrance + Rank enters
4. Rank Xs to coat rack + hangscot
5. Nora Xs to couch + sits
6. Rank Xs to couch + sits beside Nora

HELMER: Good. Then we'll share everything, Nora — as man and wife. As it should be. *(He caresses her.)* Happy now? There, there, there, don't show me those frightened eyes, my dove. It's all in your imagination. Now you ought to practice the tarantella, with the tambourine. *(I'll go to the study and close the door, so I won't hear anything. You can make as much noise as you like. (He turns around in the doorway.)* When Rank comes, tell him where I am. *(He nods to her, goes with his papers to his study and closes the door. Nora stands rooted to the floor, despairing with anxiety, and whispers.)* 2

NORA: He is capable of doing it. He will do it. He will do it, no matter what. No, never, never ever. Never, never. Save me — a way out — *(The bell rings in the hall.)* Dr. Rank! Anything rather than that — I won't let you take the blame for me. *(She wipes her face, pulls herself together and goes to open the door to the hall. Dr. Rank stands outside and is hanging up his fur coat. During their conversation it begins to grow dark.)* Dr. Rank, it's you. Don't go into Torvald yet, I believe he's busy. 4

Downhill for the Doctor

RANK: And you? *(He enters the room and she closes the door behind him.)*

NORA: Me? You know I always have time to spare for Dr. Rank. 5

RANK: Thank you. I'll enjoy that for as long as I can. 6

NORA: As long as you can? What do you mean?

RANK: Does that frighten you?

NORA: It's a curious expression. What could happen?

RANK: I've long been prepared for what could happen. I simply didn't think it would happen so soon. *(Nora clasps his arms.)*

NORA: What have you been told? Tell me, Dr. Rank. *(Rank sits down by the stove.)*

RANK: I'm going downhill, and nothing's to be done. *(Nora breathes a sigh of relief.)*

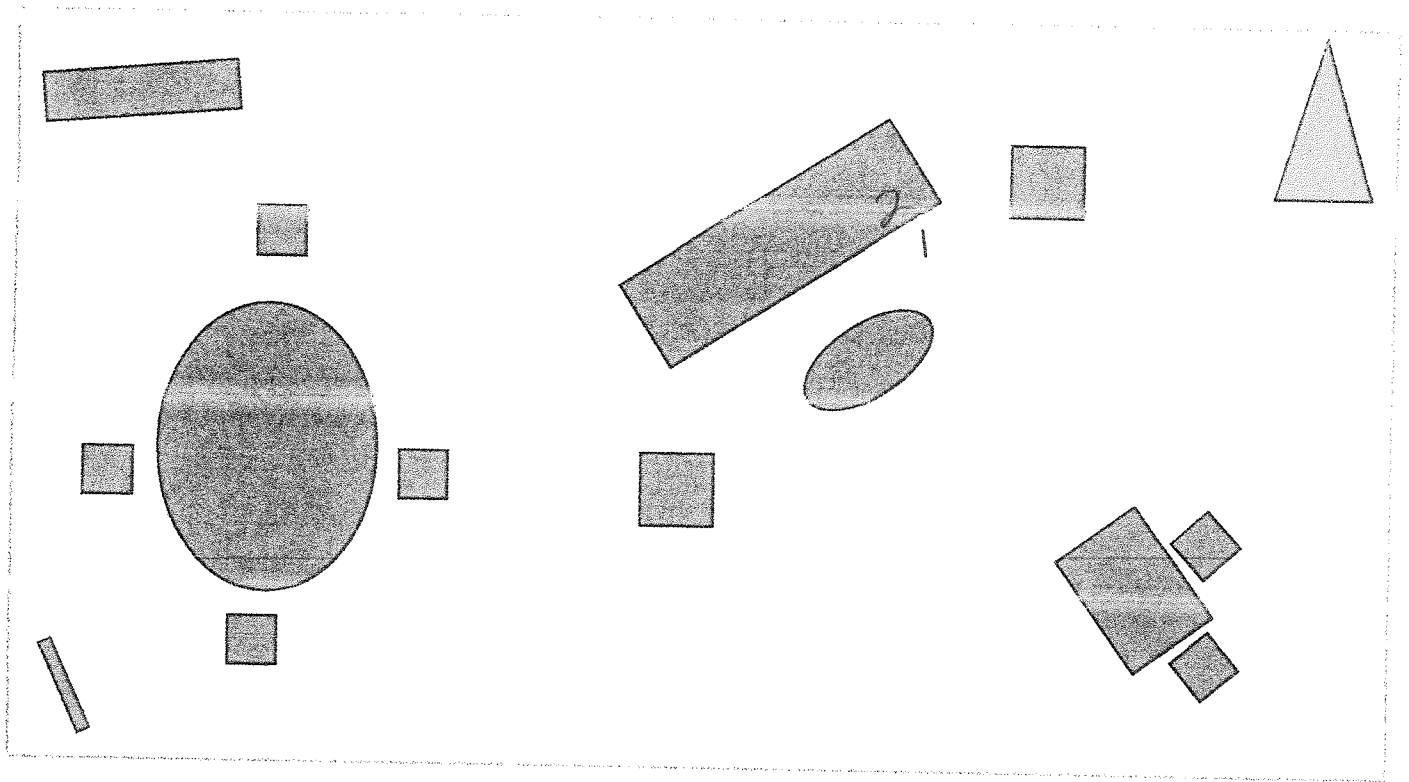
NORA: So it's you —

RANK: It's pointless lying to myself. Within a month I may be rotting in the churchyard. I've a few more tests to do. When I've done that, I should know when the disintegration begins.

NORA: That's a hideous thing to say.

RANK: There is something I want to tell you. Helmer cannot face up to anything ugly. I don't want him in my sick room —

NORA: Dr. Rank, please —



1. Nora stands + places her foot on the coffee table, showing off her leg
2. Nora sits

RANK: I don't want him there. Absolutely not. I'll lock my door to him, as soon as I know the very worst. When I send my visiting card to you, with a black cross on it, you'll know then that my terrible death has come calling. You'll soon get over the loss. Those out of sight are soon out of mind.

NORA: Good heavens, you are being unreasonable. (*Nora sits down on the sofa.*) Dr. Rank, please be nice. You'll see, tomorrow how beautifully I can dance. You must imagine I dance only for you — and for Torvald as well — that goes without saying. (*She takes various items from the box.*) Dr. Rank, ~~sit down.~~ I've something to show you. (*She sits down.*) / *Flirtation*

RANK: What is it? Silk stockings.

NORA: Lovely, aren't they? The color of flesh. No, no, no. Only the foot. Well, I'll allow you to look a little higher.

RANK: Well.

NORA: You look so disapproving — why? Do you think they may not fit?

RANK: I do not know, I don't possess that information. (*She looks at him for a moment.*)

NORA: Shame, shame. (*She hits him lightly on the ear with the stockings.*) That will teach you. (*She packs them away again.*) 2

RANK: What other beauties shall I get to see?

NORA: You won't get to see anything more, because you are a bold boy. (*She hums a little and searches among the items. There is a short pause.*) *A confession of love*

RANK: When we sit like this, like intimates, I cannot understand — cannot comprehend what would have become of me if I had never entered this house. (*Nora smiles.*)

NORA: Yes, you like being with us, don't you? (*Rank looks away and speaks more quietly.*)

RANK: And to leave it all, to have to leave —

NORA: Nonsense, you won't leave. (*Rank continues in the same tone.*)

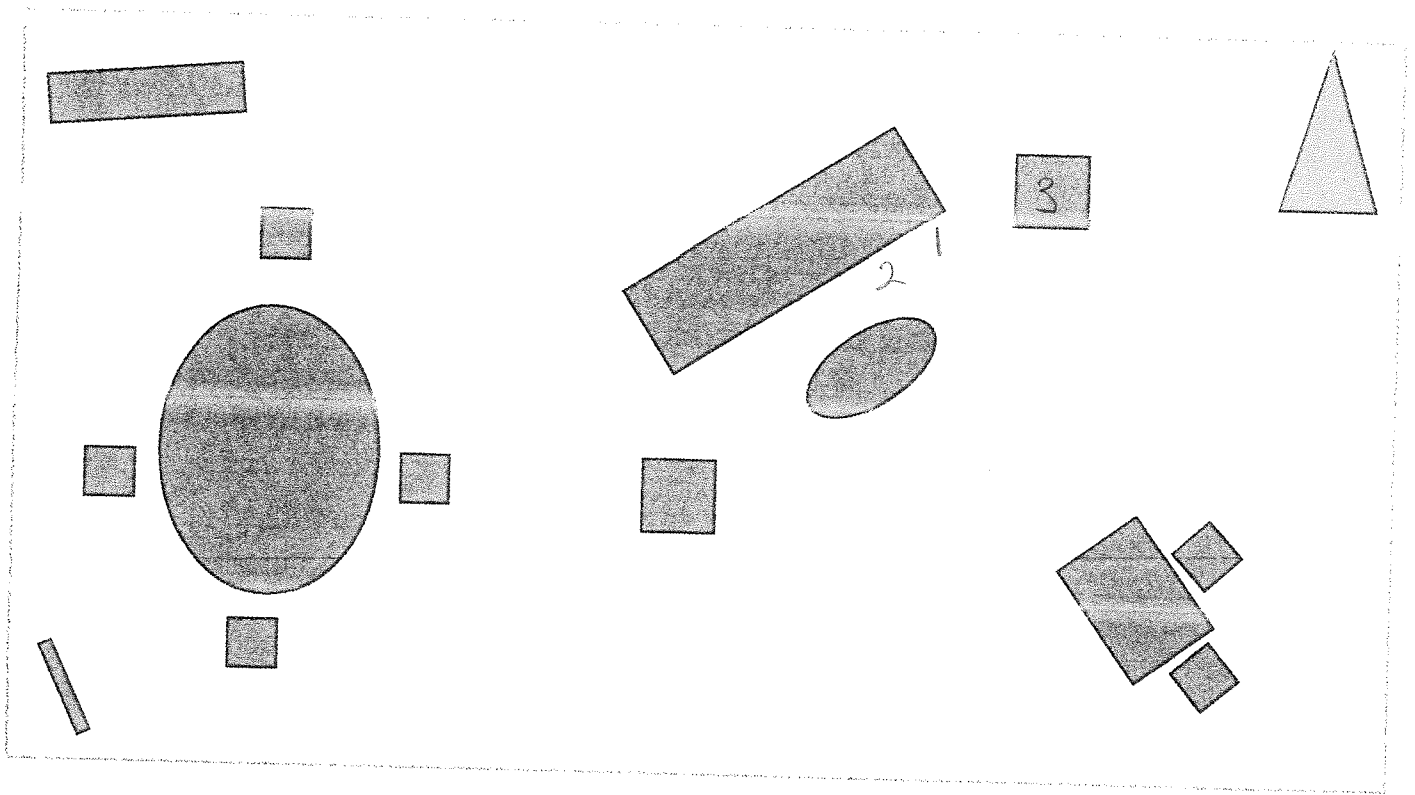
RANK: To leave no token of thanks behind. To be barely missed.

NORA: If I were to ask you — nothing.

RANK: What?

NORA: For a great proof of your friendship —

RANK: Would you really make me so happy?



1. Nora rises
2. Rank rises
3. Nora sits in armchair

NORA: You don't even know what it is.

RANK: Then ask it.

NORA: I can't. It's too much — far too much. I need advice and help, I need a favor —

RANK: All you ask for. Don't you trust me?

NORA: Of course I do. Dr. Rank, this is something you must help me stop happening. You know how much Torvald loves me — how unbelievably much he loves me. There isn't a moment when he wouldn't give his life for me. *(Rank leans towards her.)*

RANK: Nora, do you think he is the only one — *(Nora jolts lightly.)*

NORA: What?

RANK: Who would gladly give his life for you? I swore to myself that you would know this before I'd go away. I will never find a better opportunity. Yes, now you know, Nora. And now you always know that you can trust me as you can trust no one else. *(Nora rises. Rank remains seated but makes room for her.)* Nora — *(Nora stands in the door to the hall.)*

Rejection of Rank

NORA: Helene, are you back?

HELENE: *(Off.)* Yes, Mrs. Helmer. *(Nora goes to the stove.)*

NORA: Can you ^{turn on the lights} bring in the lamp? That was extremely wicked of you, Dr. Rank. *(He gets up.)*

RANK: Wicked? To have loved you as deeply as any other —

NORA: Wicked to have gone and told me. It was not necessary —

RANK: What do you mean? Did you know — *(The Maid enters with the lamp, puts it on the table and exits.)* I'm asking you, Nora, Mrs. Helmer, did you know something?

NORA: Did I know, did I not know — what of it?

RANK: At least you know now for sure that I'm absolutely yours, body and soul. And will you now ask? *(Nora looks at him.)*

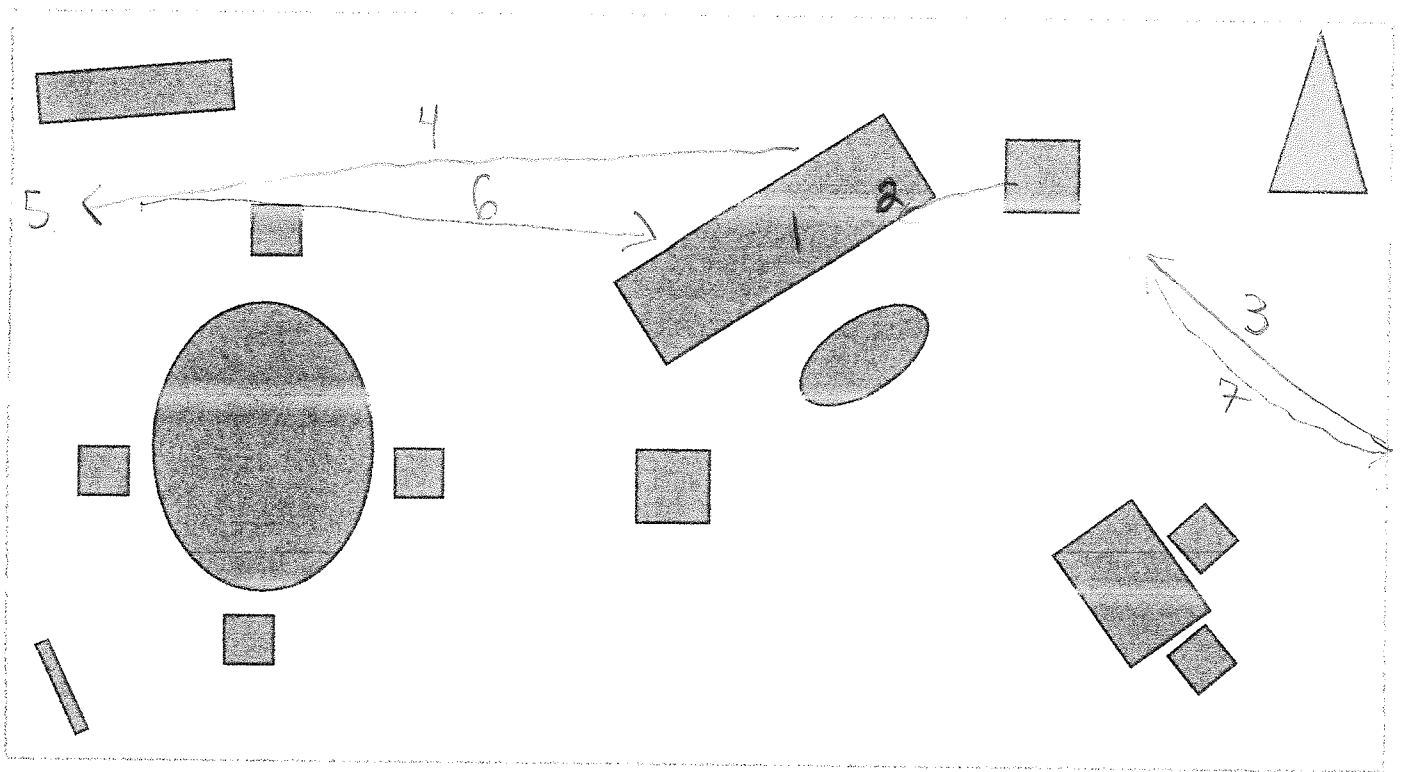
NORA: After this?

RANK: Don't punish me like this. I'll do what is humanly possible, if you'll let me.

NORA: What can you do for me now? Nothing. Anyway, it's all in my imagination. All in my imagination. Naturally. *(She sits in the rocking chair, looks at him and smiles.)* Well, Dr. Rank, aren't you just a little bit ashamed, now the lamp has come in?

RANK: I'm not, no. Should I leave — for good?

NORA: You mustn't do that, no. You must come here every day



1. Rank sits on sofa
2. Nora Xs and sits by Rank
3. Helene enters L + Xs to Nora
4. Nora + Rank X R
5. Rank exits UR
6. N Xs to C, couch
7. Helene exits L

just as you always do. You know very well that Torvald can't do without you.

RANK: Can you?

NORA: I do think it is great fun when you're here.

1 RANK: That's exactly what I misinterpreted. You're a mystery to me. Often it seems to me you prefer my company almost as much as Helmer's.

NORA: You see, there are people who one loves and then there are others whose company one almost prefers.

RANK: There is something in that.

NORA: When I lived at home, I loved Papa more than anyone else in the world, but I always thought it great fun to hide downstairs with the maids. They didn't tell me what to do all the time, and they had such a good time together.

2 RANK: And I have now taken the place of the maids. *(Nora jumps up and goes to him.)*

NORA: Dear kind Dr. Rank, that was not what I meant at all. But you can imagine being with Torvald is a little bit like being with Papa. *(The Maid enters from the hall.)* Hiding an Unpleasant Surprise

3 MAID: Mrs. Helmer. *(She whispers and hands her a visiting card. Nora glances at the card.)*

NORA: Oh! *(She puts it in her pocket.)*

RANK: Is something wrong?

NORA: Nothing whatsoever. Something — something about my new costume —

RANK: Your costume's over there. *(on table)*

NORA: It is, yes. This is another I've ordered. Torvald mustn't know —

RANK: The great secret is revealed.

4 NORA: Yes. Would you do me a favor? He's in the study. Keep him busy for a while —

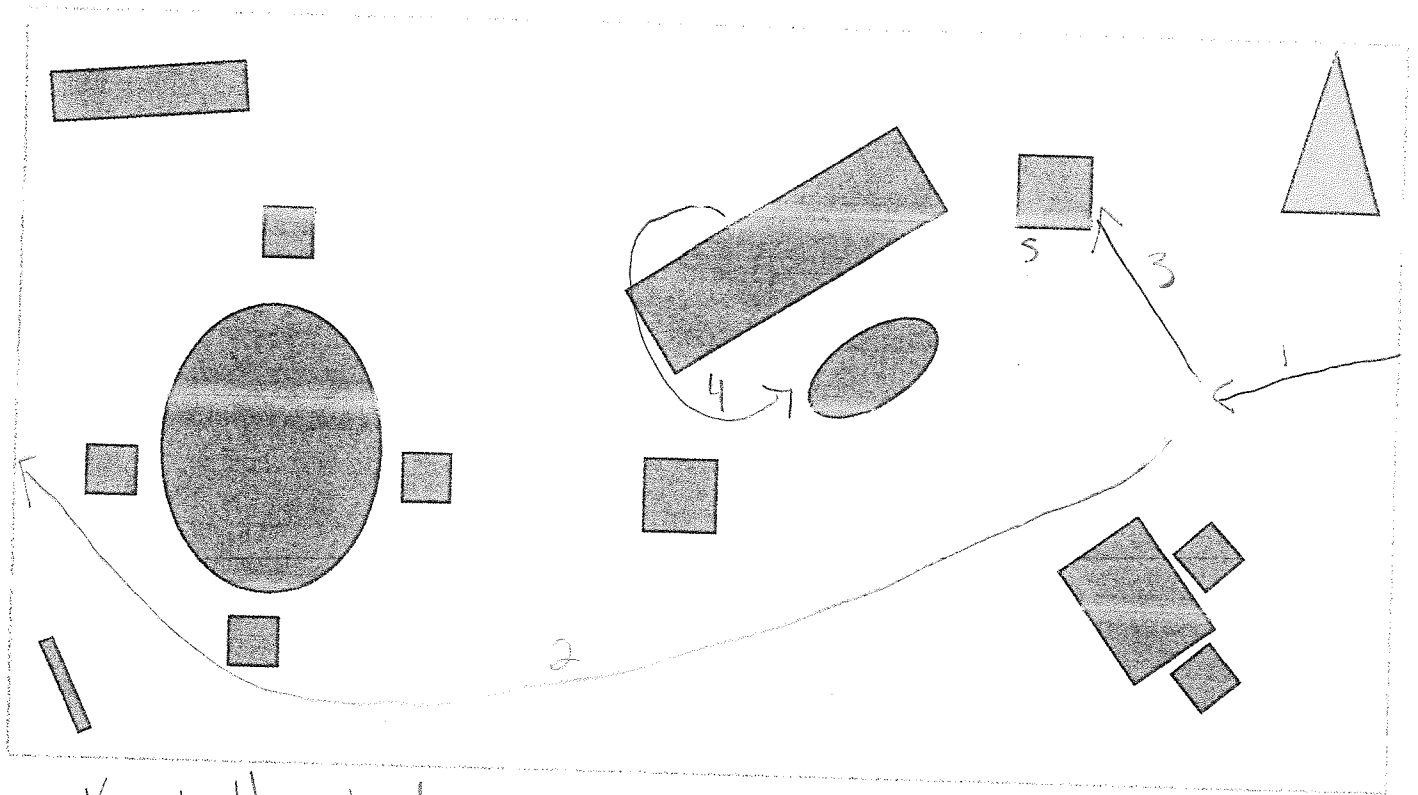
5 RANK: Worry not. He won't escape from me. *(He enters Helmer's study. Nora addresses the Maid.)*

6 NORA: Is he waiting in the kitchen?

MAID: And he won't leave until he's spoken to you, Mrs. Helmer.

NORA: Then show him in. Do it quietly. Helene, don't breathe a word of this. He's bringing a surprise for my husband.

7 MAID: I understand, yes. *(She exits.)*



1. Kr + H enter L
2. Helene exits R
3. Kr Xs to chair + sits
4. N Xs D of table
5. Kr stand