

1. Nora Xs to DL table and sets down shopping bags.
2. Messenger Xs DC w/tree; Helene follows
3. Helene exits R w/tree
4. Messenger Xs to DL table, takes money from Nora

A DOLL'S HOUSE

ACT ONE

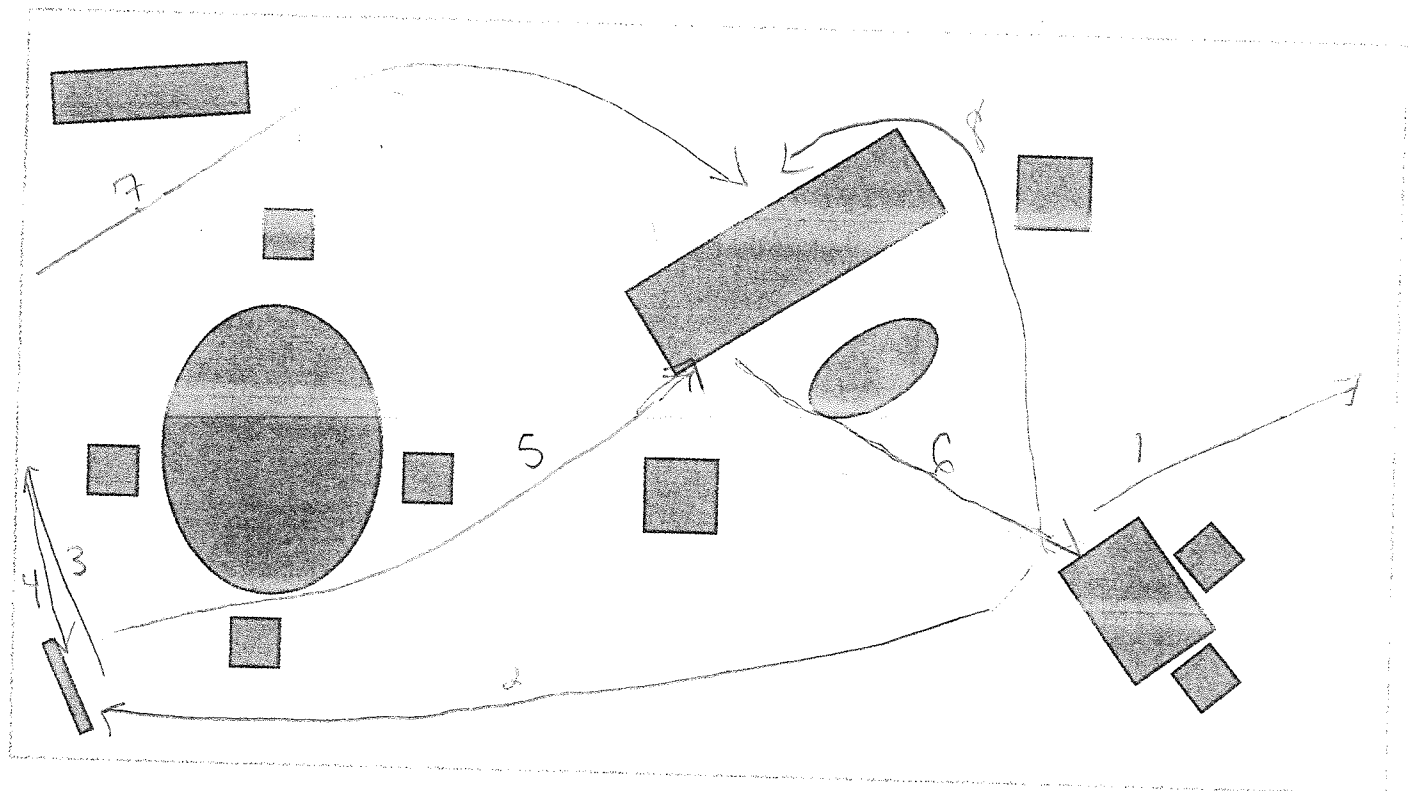
A warm, well-furnished room, reflecting more taste than expense. At stage right, a door leads to a hall. Another door, stage left, leads to Helmer's study. There is a piano between these two doors. There is a door in the middle of the wall, stage left, and a window further downstage. There is a round table near the window, with armchairs and a small sofa. Somewhat towards the back in the side wall stage right, there is a door, and further downstage on the same wall a stove covered in white tiles with a couple of armchairs and a rocking chair in front of it. Between the stove and the side door there is a small table. There are engravings on the walls. There is a what-not with china pieces and other little knick-knacks on it. There is a small bookcase with expensively bound books in it. The floor is carpeted, and there is a fire burning in the stove. It is a winter's day.

A bell rings in the hall and we hear the door open shortly afterwards. Nora enters the room, humming cheerfully to herself.

She wears outdoor clothes and carries a number of packages. She puts them on the table stage right. She has left open the door to the hall and we can see a messenger carrying a Christmas tree. He has given a basket to the Maid, Helene, who opened the door to them.

The Christmas Spirit

- 2 NORA: The Christmas tree, hide it away safely, Helene. Until this evening. Don't let the children see it until it's been decorated. 3
(She takes out her purse.) How much —
4 MESSENGER: A fifty ~~ore~~ ^{dollars}
NORA: A hundred, take it. Keep the change. Merry Christmas.



1. Messenger exits L
2. Nora Xs DR to hang coat
3. Nora Xs R & listens to Torvald's door
4. Nora Xs to mirror and fixes hair & outfit
5. Nora Xs to couch and fluffs pillow
6. Nora Xs to desk
7. Torvald en. UR & Xs to couch
8. Nora Xs to Torvald

MESSENGER: Merry Christmas. *(The messenger thanks her and leaves. Nora closes the door. She keeps laughing, quietly, cheerfully, as she takes her coat off. She takes out a bag of macaroons from her pocket and eats a few. She then walks cautiously towards her husband's door and listens.)* 2-3 4

NORA: Yes, he is at home. *(Nora hums again as she goes to the table stage R. Helmer calls from his study.)* An Imperfect Pet

HELMER: Is that skylark chirping out there, is that who's out there? *(Nora is busily opening some of the parcels.)*

NORA: Yes, yes. 5

HELMER: Squirrel, squirrel is that who's out there?

NORA: Yes, yes. 6

HELMER: When did squirrel scamper home?

NORA: Just now. *(She puts the bag of macaroons in her pocket and wipes her mouth.)* Torvald come and see what I've bought. Money Preoccupied

HELMER: I can't be disturbed. *(After a while he opens the door, 7 looks out, pen in hand.)* Did you say bought? All of this? I've a little bird who likes to fritter money, has that little bird been frittering again?

NORA: But darling, we can spend a little more can't we?

HELMER: You know very well we can't spend a fortune.

8 NORA: I didn't say that, did I. I just said a little bit. Anyway you're going to get a big salary and you will earn pots and pots of money.

HELMER: After New Year yes, but it will be a full three-months before the salary is due.

NORA: So what? We can borrow till then.

HELMER: Nora! *(He goes and playfully pinches her ear.)* Are you being a silly girl? Say I borrowed a thousand and you let it slip through your fingers during Christmas, and then a tile falls off the roof, hits me on the head, and flattens me. *(Nora puts her hand over his mouth.)*

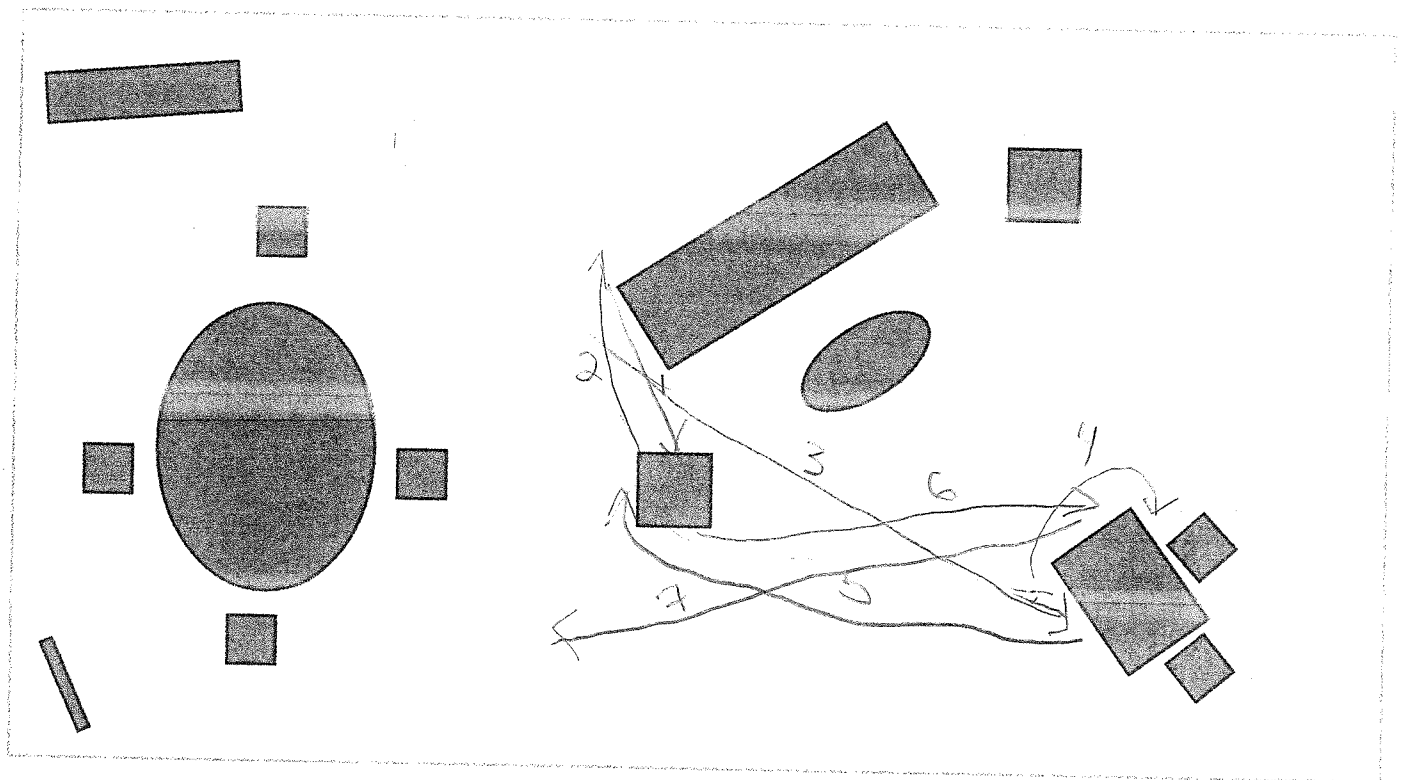
NORA: Don't. Don't say such horrible things.

HELMER: What if something horrible happened, Nora?

NORA: If something that horrible did happen, I wouldn't care if we had debts or not.

HELMER: The people I've borrowed from would care.

NORA: Them? They're strangers. Who cares about strangers?



1. Nora Xs to L R chair + plops down
2. Nora turns to Torvald, then runs to the money, almost dancing
3. Nora Xs DL to table, Torvald follows
4. Torvald Xs around the table to peek into VS bag
5. Nora snatches bag, Xs to R chair, hides bag
6. Nora Xs to desk
7. Torvald Xs C, Nora follows

HELMER: Now, be serious, Nora. You know what I think. Look, the two of us have managed well enough up to now. We still have to manage for a short while, and we will, because we must. *(Nora goes towards the stove. He follows her.)* Who's hanging her head, is it my little skylark? She mustn't. *(He takes out his wallet.)* Nora, look, what have I here? *(Nora turns briskly.)* 2

NORA: Money!

HELMER: Yes. *(He hands her some notes.)* I know how much money needs to be spent in a house at Christmas. *(Nora counts.)*

NORA: Ten ~~hundreds~~ ^{hundreds} twenty — thirty — forty. Torvald, thank you. I will stretch it out, I promise.

HELMER: Yes, do that. You must do that.

NORA: I will, I promise. Now please let me show you what I've bought. For virtually nothing. New clothes, here for Ivan — and a sword. A horse for Bobby, and here, a trumpet. A doll and a cradle for Emmy. Nothing much! She'll soon rip it to ribbons anyway. I got some material for the maids — make dresses and scarves. Old Anne-Marie should get something better really. 4

HELMER: What lurks in that particular parcel? *(Nora screams.)*

NORA: No, Torvald, you're not to see that until this evening. 5

HELMER: I see. What have you dreamt up for yourself? Well, tell me, you little spendthrift?

NORA: For me? I don't want anything.

HELMER: You most certainly do. Tell me what you'd like — something sensible.

NORA: I don't know. Yes, I do. Torvald, listen to me. 6

HELMER: What? *(Without looking at him, Nora fingers his buttons.)*

NORA: If you could give me something, could you — could you —

HELMER: Say it, say it.

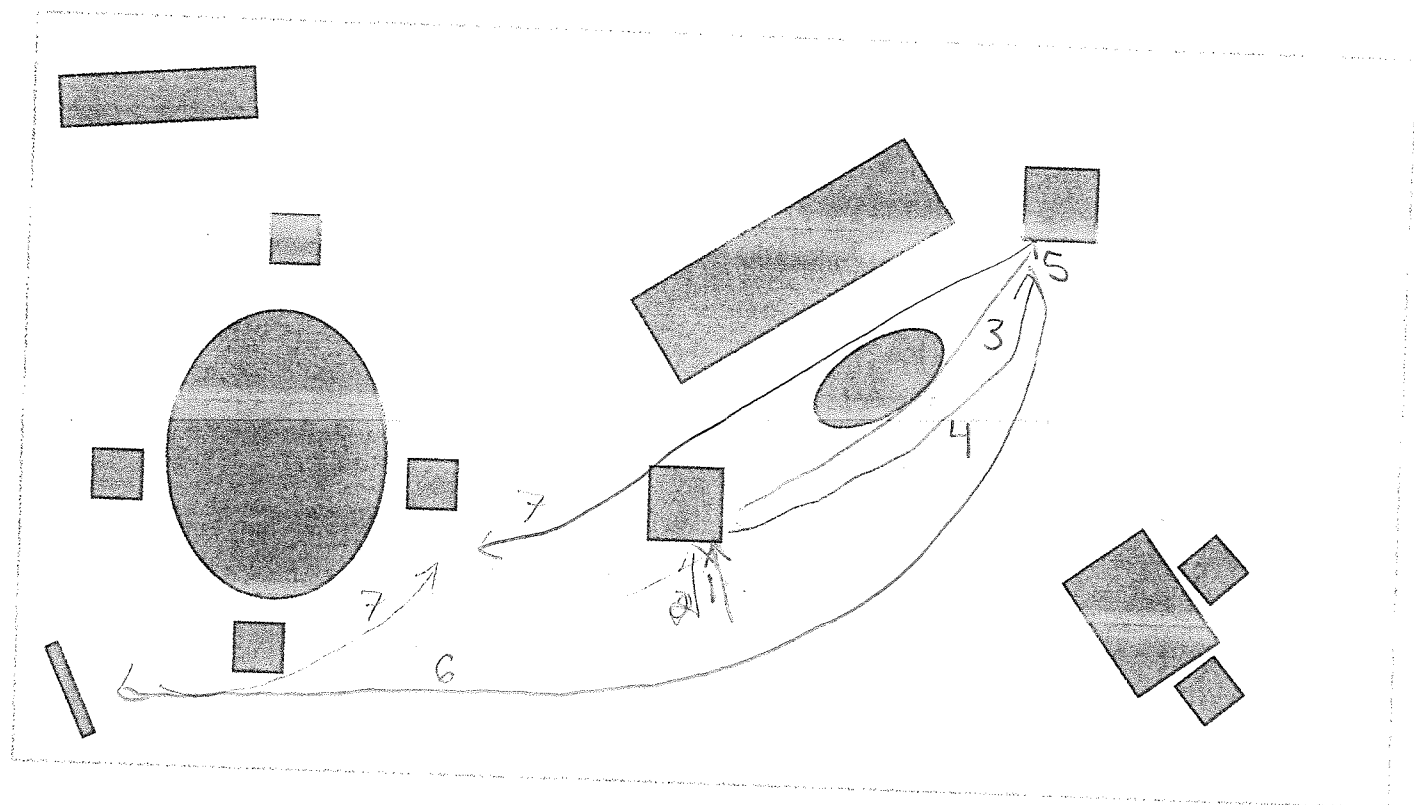
NORA: Money. Give me money, Torvald. As much as you think you can spare. I can buy something with it one of these days.

HELMER: No, Nora, really — 7

NORA: Oh darling, please. I've asked you ever so prettily. I know what, I could hang it on the Christmas tree, wrapped in beautiful gold paper. That would be fun, wouldn't it? *A Husband's Scolding*

HELMER: What do we call little birds that like to fritter money.

NORA: Little fritter birds, yes, I know them well. Let's do as I say,



1. Torvald Xs to SL chair + sits
2. Nora Xs to Torvald
3. Nora Xs to SR chair + sits
4. Torvald Xs to Nora + pats her head ↓*
5. Torvald turns her face towards him, he stands
6. Nora Xs DSR to Mirror
7. Nora Xs Tr @ center

Torvald. I'll take time to think what I need most. That would be sensible, yes? *(He smiles.)*

HELMER: Sensible, yes. If you could only hold on to my money and buy something you really need. But it goes on the house and so many useless odds and ends and then I've to put my hand into my wallet all over again.

NORA: But Torvald —

HELMER: But nothing, my lovely, little Nora. *(He puts his arms around her waist.)* My little bird that fritters is so very sweet, but she does waste an awful lot of money.

NORA: How can you say that? I do try to save up all that I can. *(Helmer laughs.)*

HELMER: You do, you do. All that you can. But you can't. *(Nora turns and smiles, quietly pleased.)* 2

NORA: Honestly, Torvald, if you only knew how many expenses singing birds and squirrels have. 3

HELMER: You're a fascinating little creature. So like your father. You try every trick to get at money. When you do get it, it slips through your fingers. You never know how you spent it. Well, I have to take you as you are. 4

NORA: I wish I were more like my ^{father} Papa. *Diet Management*

HELMER: But I wouldn't want you any other way. Stay as you are, my lovely little singing bird. But you, Nora, you look quite — quite — devious today — 5

NORA: I do?

HELMER: You do, yes. Look into my eyes. *(Nora looks at him.)*

NORA: What? *(He wags his finger.)*

HELMER: Was a sweet tooth indulged in town today by any chance?

NORA: No.

HELMER: Did a sweet tooth stroll into a pastry shop?

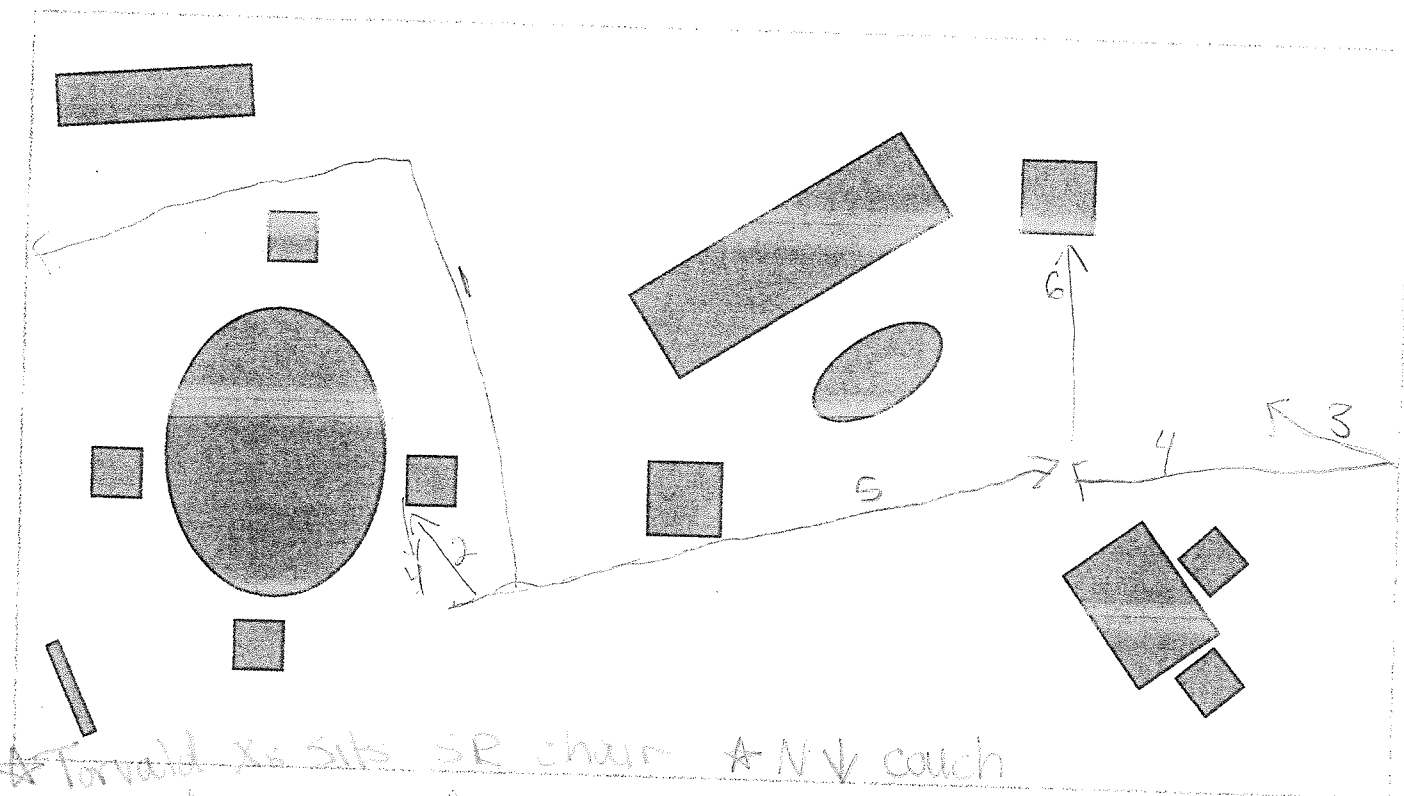
NORA: No, honestly, Torvald — 6

HELMER: Helped itself to a macaroon or two?

NORA: No, honestly.

HELMER: All right! You know, I'm only joking — *(Nora goes to the table stage R.)*

NORA: Honestly, darling, I wouldn't do anything you didn't want me to. 7



* Torvald xs sits SR chair * N V couch

1. Torvald exits UR.

2. Nora xs to table + sits

3. Helene en. SL

4. Helene shows Kristine in Kris. en. L

5. Nora runs to Kristine and hugs her

6. Nora offers couch to Kristine she sits

7.

Christmas Sermon

HELMER: You've given me your word. So, my dearest Nora, keep your little festive secrets all to yourself. All will be revealed when the Christmas tree is lit. I have ordered wonderful wines. Nora, you can't imagine how much I'm looking forward to this evening.

NORA: Me too, and the children.

*HELMER: It is so good to know that one has a secure, respectable position. And an ample salary. Isn't that so? It is a great pleasure to know that, yes?

NORA: Yes, it is wonderful!

HELMER: The hard times have all gone.

*NORA: I know. Darling, I want to tell you how I think we can arrange things. Once Christmas is over — *(A bell rings in the hallway.)*

An Unexpected Guest

HELMER: I'm not at home. Remember that.

NORA: It's Dr. Rank. *(The Maid stands in the hall doorway.)* 2

MAID: Mrs. Helmer, there is a lady here to see you — a stranger. 3

NORA: Show her in. *(Helmer enters the study. The Maid shows Mrs. Linde into the room and closes the door behind her. Mrs. Linde is dressed in travelling clothes. She speaks timidly and a little reluctantly.)* 4

MRS. LINDE: Nora, hello. *(Nora is uncertain.)*

NORA: Hello —

MRS. LINDE: Oh, you don't recognize me. Merry Old Friends

NORA: No, I'm afraid I — *(She cries out.)* Wait a minute . . .

Kristine! I don't believe you.

MRS. LINDE: Yes, it is me. 5

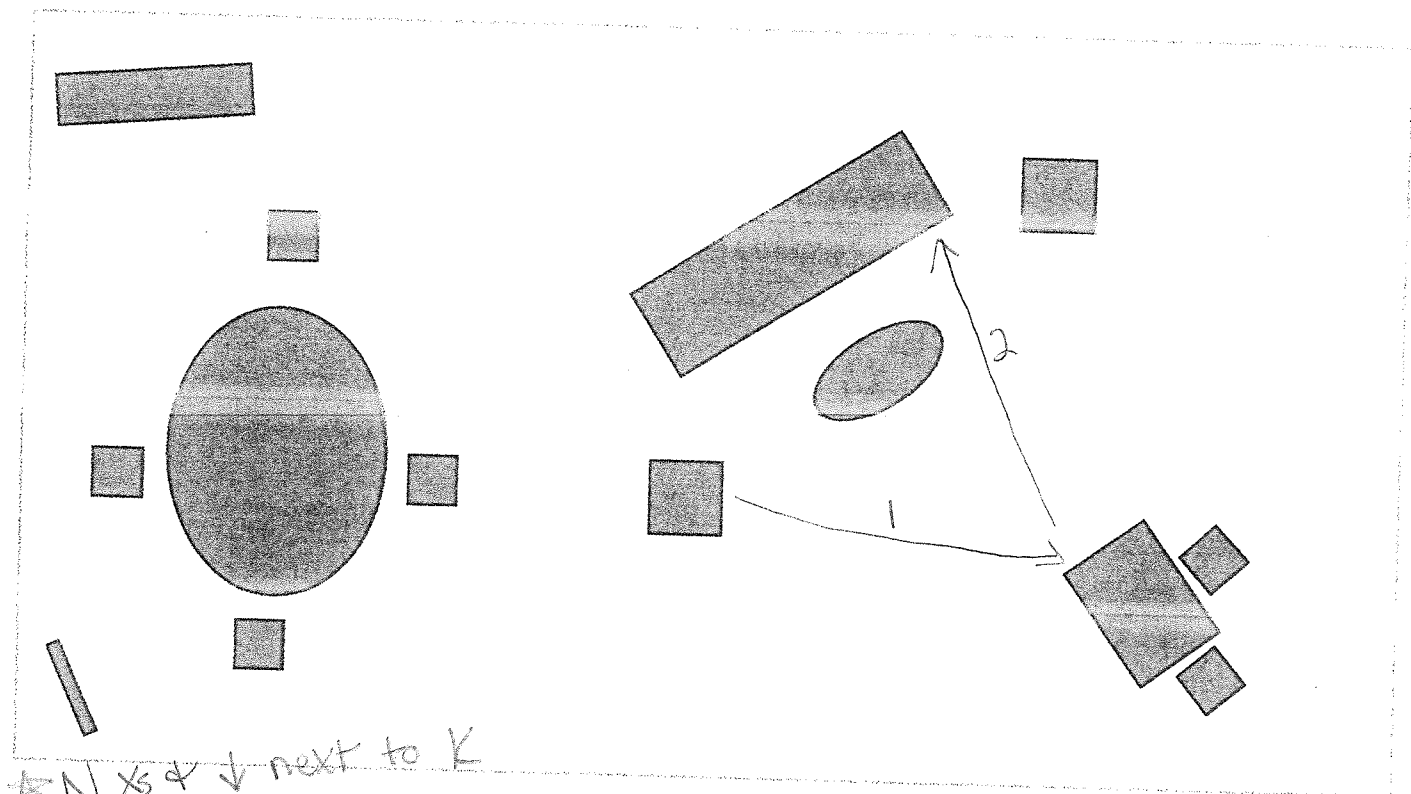
NORA: Kristine! I did not recognize you. I didn't. How could I — *(She speaks more quietly.)* Kristine, you've changed so much.

MRS. LINDE: I believe I have, yes. Nine, ten years, long years.

NORA: Is it that long since we last saw each other? It is, so it is. Did you make that long journey in winter? How brave of you.

MRS. LINDE: I arrived on the ~~steamer~~ ^{amtrak} this morning.

NORA: Oh for Christmas, of course, to have a good time. How lovely. We will have such fun. Oh my word, you're freezing. *(Nora helps her.)* 6 Now, sit down ~~by the warm stove~~ ^{that}. Shall I take your coat? No, you take the ~~comfy chair~~ ^{that}. I'll take the rocking chair. That's better, now you look more like you used to look. It was just at first — you do look paler, Kristine, and perhaps a little thinner.



* N X & ↓ next to K

1. Nora Xs to DL table to get gifts
2. Nora Xs back to couch and begins to wrap gifts

MRS. LINDE: And older, Nora, much older.

NORA: A little older, yes, perhaps, a tiny little bit. Not much, not much. *(She stops suddenly and looks serious.)* Oh, Kristine, I'm so sorry. Forgive me. *Death & Emptiness*

MRS. LINDE: Forgive you? Why, Nora?

★ NORA: You lost your husband.

MRS. LINDE: Three years ago, yes.

NORA: I read it in the newspapers. Kristine, do believe me, I meant so often to write to you then, but I just kept putting it off and things kept getting in the way.

MRS. LINDE: My dear Nora, I understand perfectly.

NORA: No, it was very bad of me. Didn't he leave you anything to live on?

MRS. LINDE: Nothing.

NORA: And no children?

MRS. LINDE: None.

NORA: Nothing at all then?

MRS. LINDE: He left me nothing, not even an ounce of grief.

NORA: Kristine, that's not possible. *(Mrs. Linde smiles sadly and strokes Nora's hair.)*

MRS. LINDE: These things do happen sometimes, Nora. *Unsuccess*

NORA: All on your own then. All on your own. *That's awful. I* have three such lovely children. Oh I didn't mean it like that. You can't ~~see~~ ^{meet} them just yet. The Nanny's taken them out. But tell me everything — *Unsuccess*

MRS. LINDE: No, no, no, you talk to me.

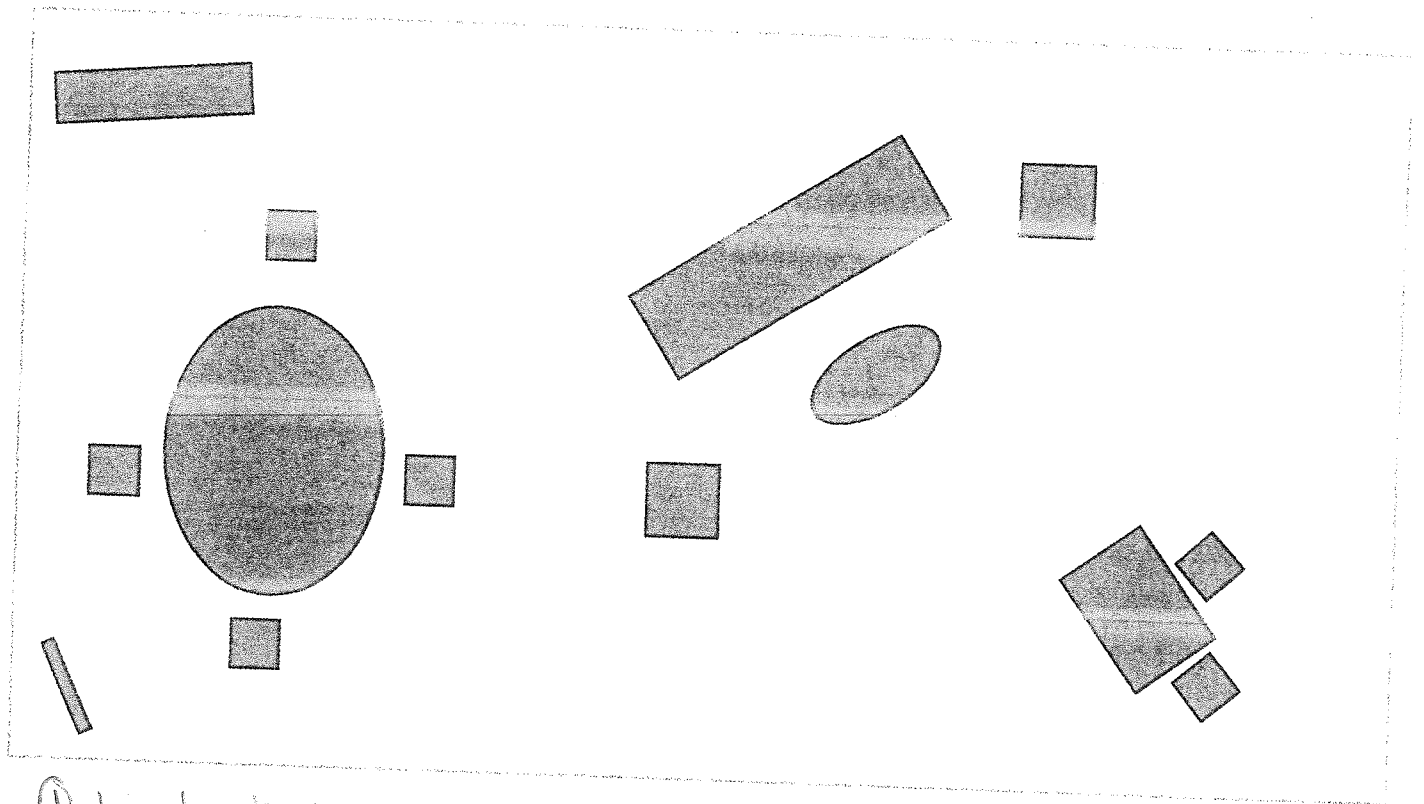
NORA: No, you start. I am not going to be selfish today. Today I will think only about you. Oh, I do have to tell you one thing. Have you heard our wonderful news?

MRS. LINDE: No, what?

NORA: My husband has just been made the new manager of the Joint Stock Bank.

MRS. LINDE: Your husband — that is wonderful —

NORA: Yes, I know. Being a lawyer is such an insecure profession. Oh I can't tell you how happy we are. When he starts work at the bank in the New Year he gets a huge salary and a fair share of bonuses. From then on we can live quite differently. We can do



① Linde begins to help wrap

as we like. Oh Kristine, it is gorgeous to have pots and pots of money. Isn't it?

MRS. LINDE: Yes indeed, it must be lovely to have the basics.

NORA: No, more than the basics, pots and pots and pots of money. (*Mrs. Linde smiles.*)

MRS. LINDE: Nora, Nora, haven't you got any sense yet? Even in school you spent money like water. *Nora's Trial*

NORA: I know, and Torvald says I still do but our life together hasn't been that easy. We've had very little money. We have both had to work hard.

MRS. LINDE: You as well?

NORA: Oh yes. Bits and pieces. Needlework, crocheting, embroidery — that sort of thing. Other things as well. The thing is, when we first got married obviously Torvald had to earn more money than before but in that first year he took on so much extra work he just couldn't take it and he became ill. Terribly, terribly ill and the doctors said it was absolutely necessary that we travelled south *abroad*.

MRS. LINDE: Oh yes, you spent an entire year in Italy, didn't you?

NORA: We did. And it saved his life, Torvald's life. It was a wonderful year but it cost an awful lot of money.

MRS. LINDE: I would imagine so.

NORA: Four thousand, eight hundred ~~kroner~~ — a lot — a lot of money. *\$40,800*

MRS. LINDE: You were very lucky that you had it.

NORA: Well, we had it from ~~Papa~~ *father*, you know.

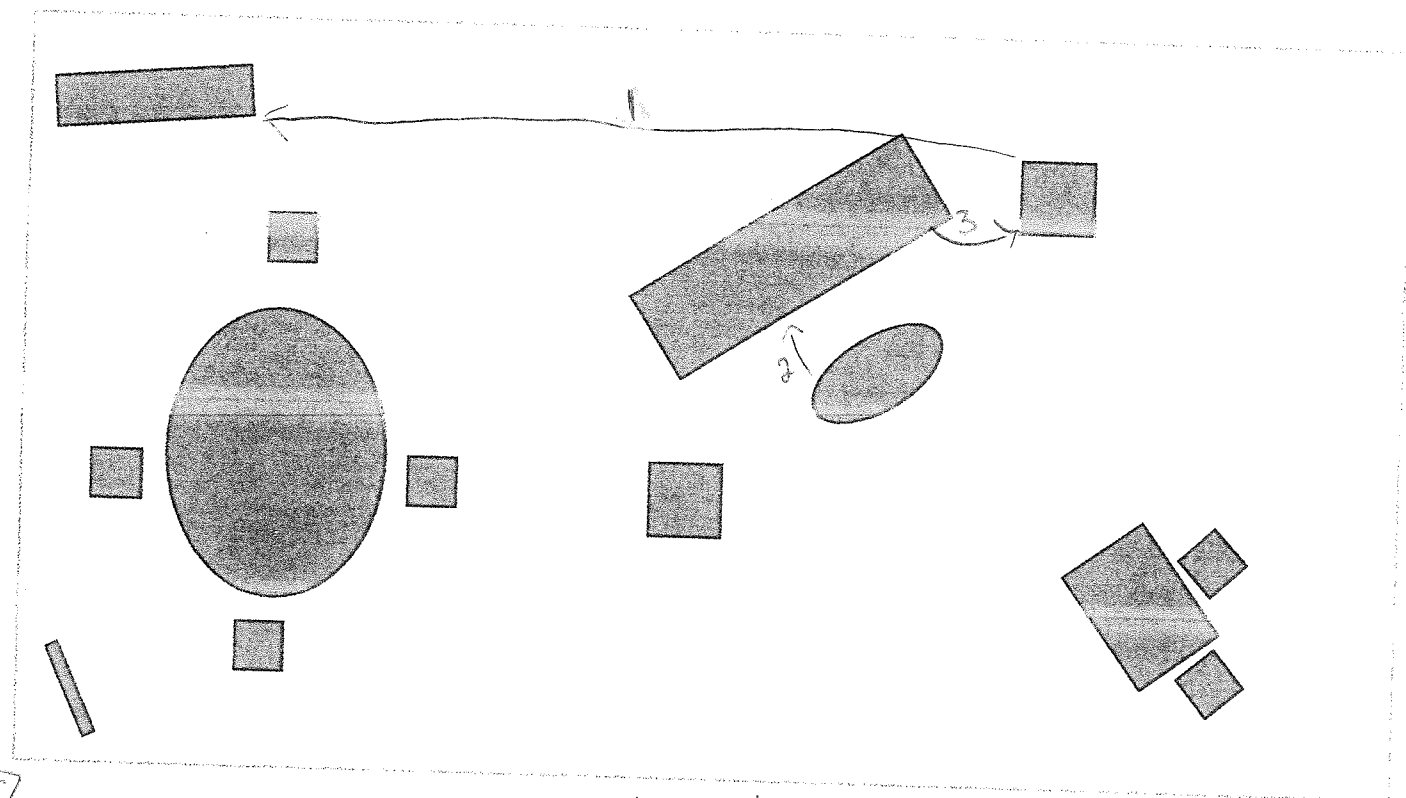
MRS. LINDE: I see. It was around the time your father died.

NORA: Yes, that's right. Can you believe it — I couldn't go to nurse him. I was stuck here, I was expecting Ivar to be born any day and I had Torvald to look after, and he was so ill, so ill. Do you remember my ~~Papa~~ *father*? He was so dear to me, so kind — I never saw him again. That's the worst thing that's happened to me since I got married.

MRS. LINDE: I remember how fond you were of him. So then you left for Italy?

NORA: Yes, we left a month later.

MRS. LINDE: And your husband came back in good health?



1. Kristine xs to bookshelf + thumbs through
2. N sits on couch
3. Kristine xs to SL chair ↓

NORA: Fit as a fiddle.

MRS. LINDE: But — the doctor?

NORA: I'm sorry?

MRS. LINDE: The gentleman who arrived at the same time as me? I thought the maid said....

2 NORA: Oh, Dr. Rank, yes. Oh no, this isn't a professional visit. He's Torvald's best friend. He drops by at least once a day. No, Torvald has not been ill for one moment since then. And the children are well, they're very healthy, and I am too. Oh Kristine! It is so wonderful to be alive and to be happy³ Oh, that was so thoughtless of me — listen to me rabbiting on about myself. I'm so sorry. Don't be cross with me, don't. Would you tell me something? You know you said you didn't love your husband, why did you marry him? Tell me. Kristine's Survival

MRS. LINDE: My mother was alive then. She was bedridden. Helpless. I had two younger brothers. I had to take care of them. I could not refuse his offer. It wouldn't have been justifiable.

NORA: No, I don't suppose it would have, really. So he was rich, then?

MRS. LINDE: He did have money, but the whole business was shaky. Then he died, and everything collapsed. There was nothing left.

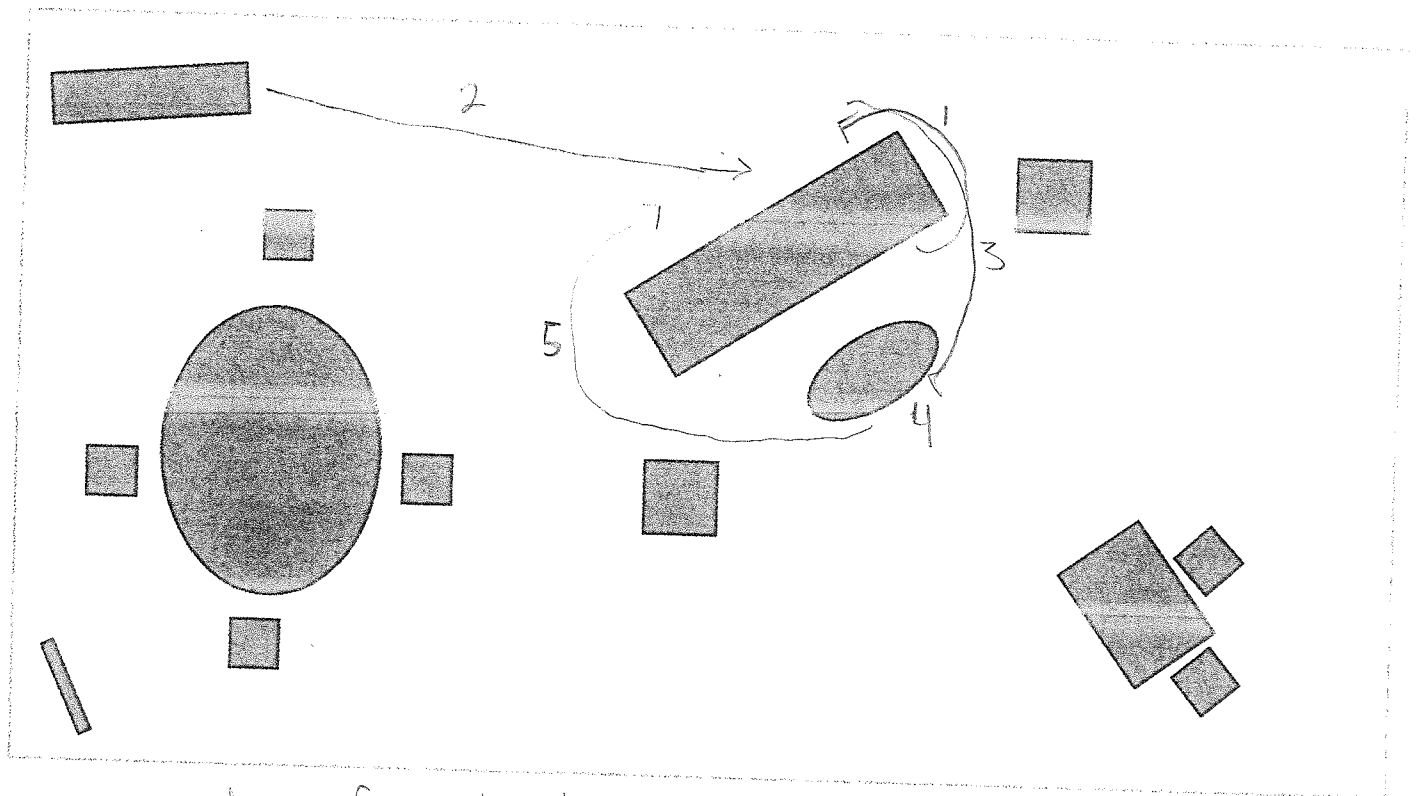
NORA: What happened?

MRS. LINDE: I managed a little shop. And then a little school. And anything else I could think of. These last three years, Nora, I haven't stopped working. That's over now, Nora. My poor mother's died, she doesn't need me. The boys don't either. They've found positions, they can look after themselves.

NORA: You must feel so relieved —

MRS. LINDE: No, empty. I cannot tell you how empty. Nothing to live for any more. *(She gets up uneasily.)* That's why I couldn't stay there any more. It must be easier to find work here. Something to keep me busy, to take my mind off things. I thought perhaps a job, some office job.

NORA: Kristine, no, it will wear you out and you look so exhausted already. Why don't you go for a holiday — *(Mrs. Linde goes to the window.)*



1. Nora stands + faces Kristine
2. Kristine Xs to Nora (stands behind couch)
3. Nora Xs to coffee table + sits (by)
4. Nora stands + turns to Kristine
5. N Xs Ys bag + goes to coffee table
6. K Xs SL chair ↓

father

Solutions, not sympathy

MRS. LINDE: Nora, I don't have a ~~Papa~~ to give me the money for the journey.

| NORA: Don't be cross with me, don't. (*Mrs. Linde goes to her.*)

MRS. LINDE: 2 I'm sorry, I've just become so bitter. I have to think about myself all the time. Do you know? When you told me of your good news I was happy not for you, but for myself.

NORA: What do you mean? Oh I see, you think Torvald might be able to help you?

MRS. LINDE: Yes, I do think that.

NORA: Well, he will, Kristine. Leave it to me. 3 I'll ask him. I'll think of something he really likes. And I would really like to be able to help you.

Still a child

MRS. LINDE: Nora, it's so kind of you, to help me — especially when you know so little of how difficult life can be —

NORA: Sorry? 4

MRS. LINDE: Dear God, you do some needlework, you embroider — you are a child, Nora.

NORA: Don't say that to me, don't talk down to me.

MRS. LINDE: I'm sorry.

6 NORA: You're as bad as the rest of them. You all think that I'm useless. Do you honestly think that I don't know how hard life can be —

MRS. LINDE: Nora dear, you've just told me about your troubles.

A Proud Confession

NORA: That was nothing. There's a big thing I've not told you.

MRS. LINDE: What do you mean?

NORA: You're proud that you worked so long and hard for your family, aren't you?

MRS. LINDE: Yes, I am.

NORA: Listen to me, Kristine. I've done something to be proud and happy about. I have.

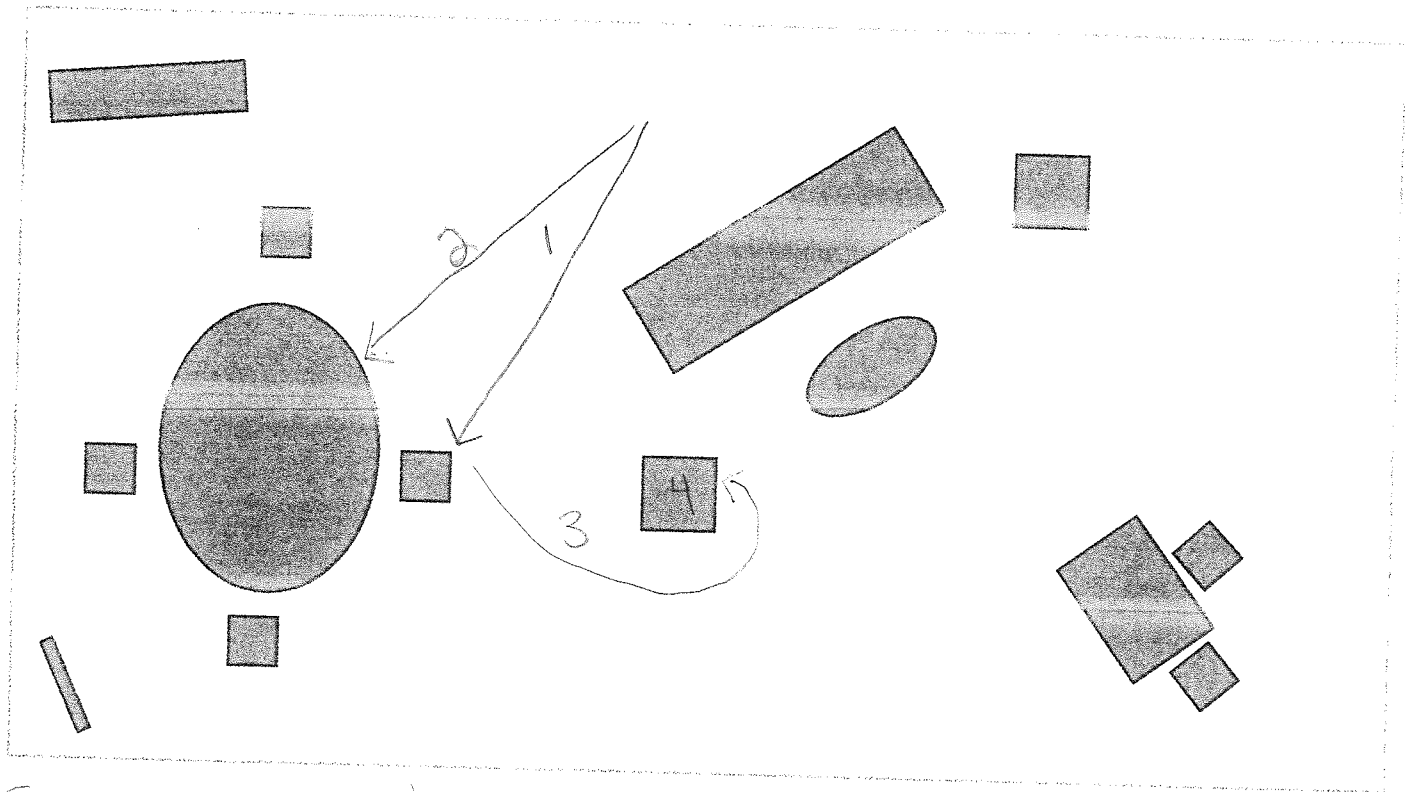
MRS. LINDE: I don't doubt it. What is it?

NORA: Torvald must not hear this. He must never hear this. No one must know, Kristine. No one but you.

MRS. LINDE: What?

NORA: It was me who saved Torvald's life. I saved his life.

MRS. LINDE: You saved his life? How did you save it?



- did not do this {
1. Nora xs to chair + sits
 2. Kristine xs to table
 3. Nora playfully xs to chair + sits on her knees facing Kristine
 4. Nora sits in chair

1*. Nora stands + faces Kristine

NORA: You know the trip to Italy I told you about — Torvald would be dead if he hadn't gone there —

MRS. LINDE: Yes, your father gave you the money you needed —

NORA: That's what Torvald thinks — that's what everyone thinks — but —

MRS. LINDE: But — ^{dad}

NORA: Not one penny from ~~Papa~~. I found the money. I did.

MRS. LINDE: You, so much money —

NORA: Four thousand, eight hundred kroner — what do you say to that? | ^{\$40,800}

MRS. LINDE: So where did you get it from? You couldn't have borrowed it.

NORA: Why not?

MRS. LINDE: A wife ^{shouldn't} is ~~not~~ allowed to borrow without her husband's consent, a wife — ²

NORA: What if the wife knows something about business? What if the wife knows how to use her brains, then —

MRS. LINDE: No, I do not understand — ³

NORA: Did I say I borrowed the money? I might have had an admirer, I might have been given it, I am quite attractive —

MRS. LINDE: You are mad —

NORA: And you're dying of curiosity, Kristine.

MRS. LINDE: Nora, my dear, have you done something foolish —

NORA: Foolish, to save your husband's life, is that foolish?

MRS. LINDE: I think it is foolish if you did something and didn't tell him about it —

NORA: No, no, you don't understand! He wasn't allowed to know how ill he was. The doctors told me. Nothing could save him, unless we travelled south. Honestly I did try and coax him at first. I tried everything. Nothing worked. Well then I thought, you have to be saved. I have to save you and I found a way out —

MRS. LINDE: You've never breathed a word since to your husband.

NORA: ⁴ Oh no. When it comes to money Torvald is very strict and he absolutely loathes debt, and anyway, Torvald is a man. He has a man's pride. He would be so ashamed and humiliated if he thought he owed me anything. It would spoil our lovely marriage. It would just spoil everything.

MRS. LINDE: Will you never tell him?

NORA: I might, yes, one day. Many years from now, when I've lost my looks a little. Don't laugh. I mean the time will come when Torvald is not as in love with me as he is now, not quite so happy when I dance for him, and dress for him, and play with him. It might be useful then to have something up my sleeve — I'm talking nonsense, nonsense, that time will never come. So what do you think of my big secret? I am good for something, aren't I. But the whole affair caused me such a lot of worry. I've all these repayments and they're so hard to find. You see I couldn't really put any of the housekeeping money aside because Torvald has to live well, and I couldn't let the children go badly dressed. Whatever I got for them I had to spend it on them. Mummy's little angels.

MRS. LINDE: So the money came out of your own allowance, Nora?

NORA: Yes. When Torvald gave me money for new dresses and things, I never spent more than half. Bought the cheapest of materials. Thank goodness everything looks good on me, Torvald never even noticed. But Kristine, it was a bit hard on me. It is nice 2 being beautifully dressed, isn't it?

MRS. LINDE: Isn't it, yes? 3

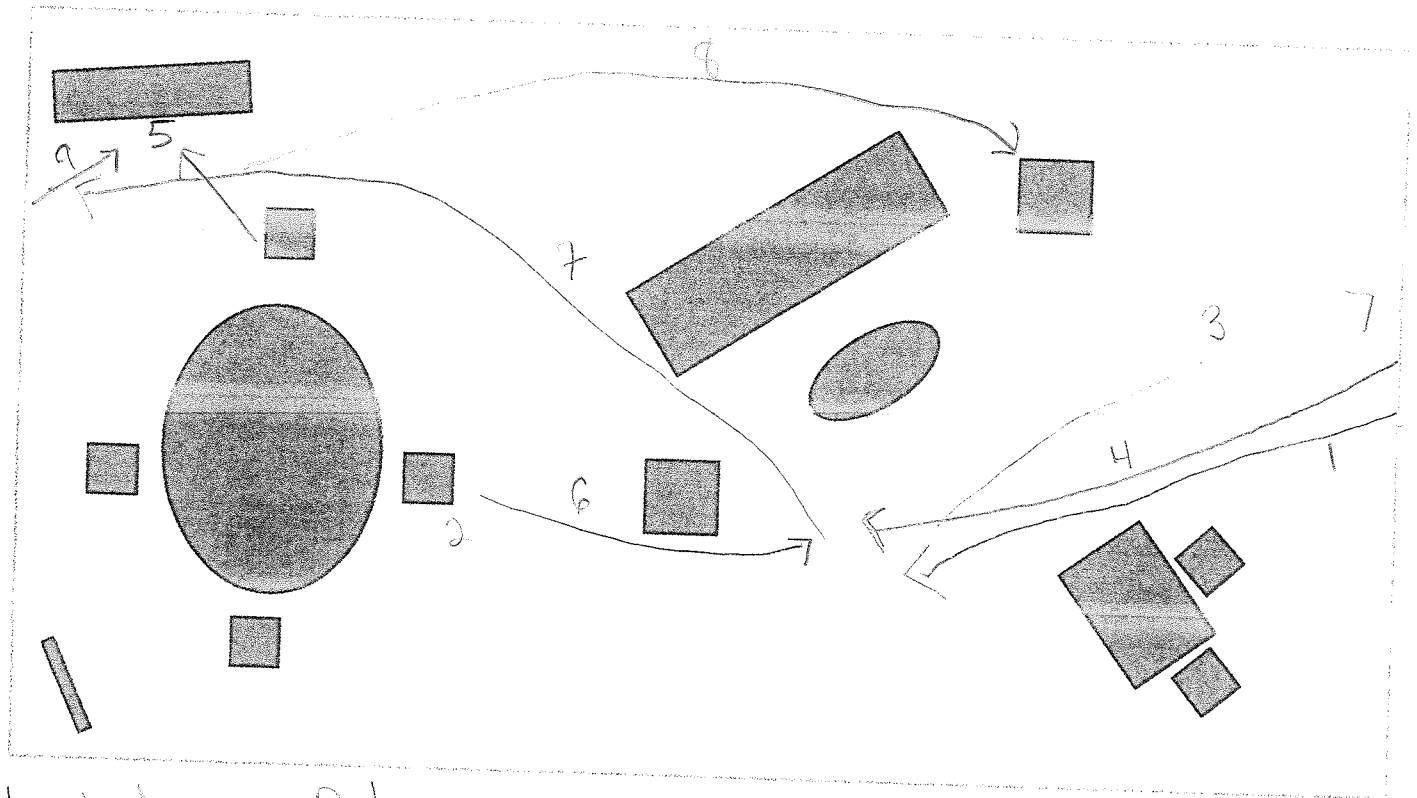
NORA: I found other ways of making money, as well. Last Christmas I was lucky enough to get a lot of copying to do. Can you believe that? I locked myself in my room every evening for three whole weeks, and I wrote till late at night. I was tired. So tired. I did get such a lot of pleasure from sitting and working and earning money. I felt like a man.

MRS. LINDE: How much have you paid off doing this?

NORA: I can't tell you exactly. I do know that what I've scraped together, I've paid it all. So many times I've been at my wits' end. But that's all over now. I'm free, and I can't tell you how good that feels. I can spend all my time playing with the children. I can have the house just the way Torvald likes it. Really beautiful. *(The bell is heard in the hall and Mrs. Linde gets up.)* 4 An Unwelcome Visitor

MRS. LINDE: Visitors. I'd better leave.

NORA: Stay, please. I'm not expecting anybody. It'll be for Torvald — *(The Maid is in the doorway to the hall.)* 5



1. Maid xs DL
2. Nora stands
3. Maid exits L
4. Krogstad enters Lt xs C
5. Kristine stands + xs to bookshelf
6. Nora xs C to Krogstad
7. Nora xs R + leads Krogstad to UR, Krogstad exits
8. Nora xs to US chair + sits
9. Rank enters UR + runs into Kristine

MAID: | Excuse me, Mrs. Helmer, a gentleman wants to go into the lawyer's office —

NORA: The bank manager's office, you mean.

MAID: Yes, the bank manager's office, but the doctor is still in there —

NORA: ³ Ask him in. I'm sorry. (*Krogstad is in the doorway to the hall.*)

KROGSTAD: ⁴ It's just me, Mrs. Helmer. (*Mrs. Linde frowns, starts, and half turns towards the window. Nora takes a step towards him, tense, and lowers her voice.*) ⁵

NORA: ⁶ What do you want to talk to my husband about?

KROGSTAD: Bank business, you might say. I've got a position in the Joint Stock Bank. I now hear your husband is to be our manager.

NORA: That's right —

KROGSTAD: Yes, I merely wish to bore him with bank business. Nothing else.

NORA: Please use the study door. ⁷ ⁸ (*She takes her leave of him indifferently as she closes the door to the hall and goes to see to the stove.*)

MRS. LINDE: Who was that, Nora?

NORA: Mr. Krogstad. A lawyer.

MRS. LINDE: It was him then.

NORA: You know that man?

MRS. LINDE: I did — years ago. He was clerk to our local solicitor.

NORA: Yes, that's what he was.

MRS. LINDE: He's changed an awful lot.

NORA: He had a very unhappy marriage, I believe.

MRS. LINDE: Is he a widower now?

NORA: With lots of children.

MRS. LINDE: I've heard he has some dubious business interests.

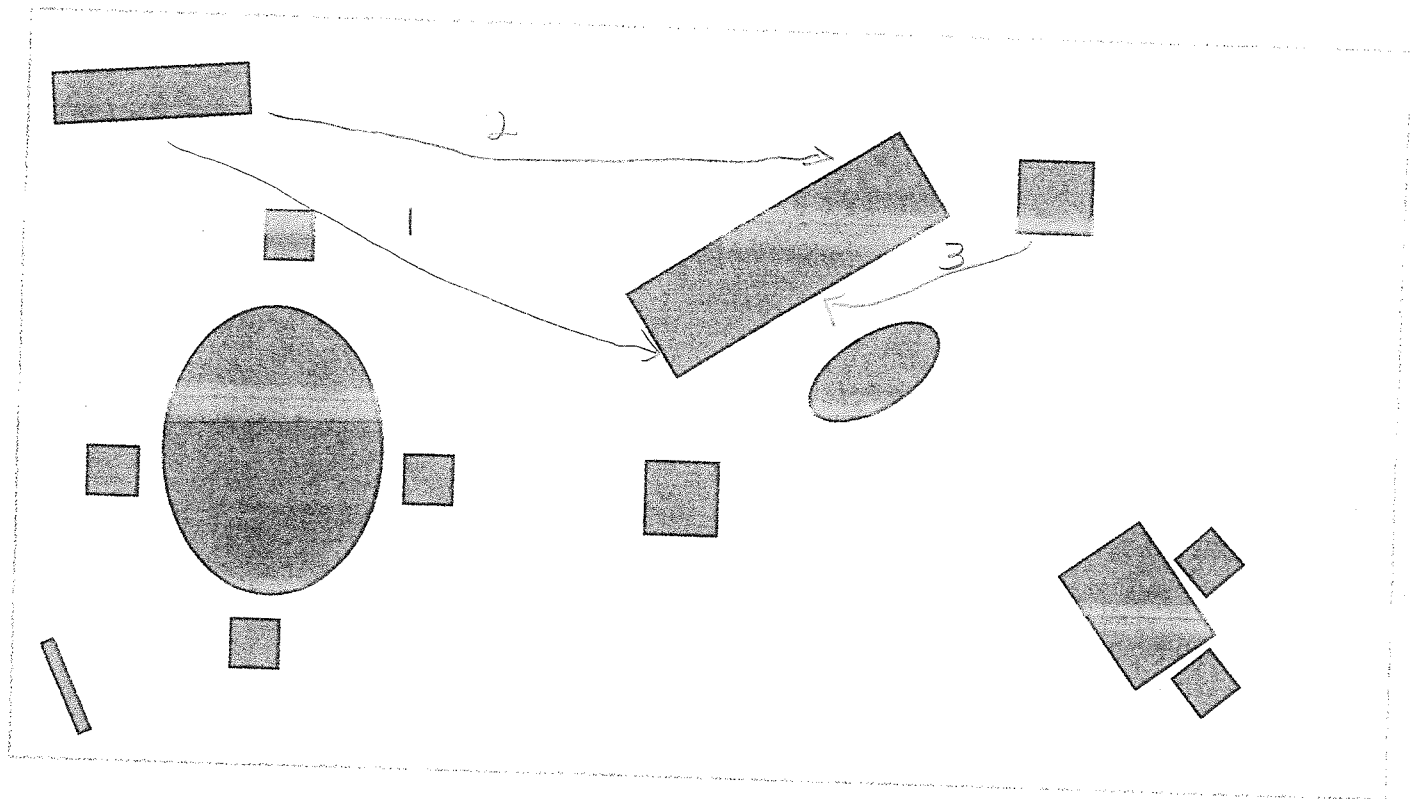
NORA: Really? Well business is so boring, let's not talk about it. (*Dr. Rank enters from Helmer's study. He speaks in the doorway.*)

RANK: ⁹ I won't disturb you, my friend. I'll pop in and see your wife. (*He closes the door and remarks to Mrs. Linde.*) I'm so sorry, I'm disturbing you as well.

NORA: You are not. Dr. Rank, this is Mrs. Linde.

RANK: I see. I've heard that name often in this house. Didn't I pass you on the stairs coming up?

MRS. LINDE: You did. I walk slowly. Stairs tire me.



1. Rank xs to couch + sits
2. Mrs. Linde xs to back of couch
3. Nora xs + sits next to Rank

RANK: You're not feeling well?

MRS. LINDE: Tired. Just tired.

RANK: Is that all? And you come to visit in town to get back your energy?

MRS. LINDE: To get work, that's why I'm in town.

RANK: Work is now a cure for tiredness?

MRS. LINDE: One has to live, Doctor.

RANK: Yes, that's the general opinion.

NORA: Come on, Dr. Rank, you must want to live as well.

RANK: I do, indeed. I may be a miserable fellow, but I'll go on being tormented for as long as possible. All my patients feel the same way. And people who are morally sick, they do as well. Right now one of them is in there with Helmer —

MRS. LINDE: What? 2

NORA: What do you mean?

RANK: Krogstad. A lawyer. A man you don't know. A man rotten to the core, Madam. But he too is insisting he has to live, as if it mattered so much, his life.

NORA: What's he talking to Torvald about?

RANK: I do not know. Something to do with the Savings Bank.

NORA: Does Krog — does this lawyer, Krogstad, have anything to do with the bank?

RANK: He works there, yes, in some manner of description. You're laughing, why?

Glee of Power

NORA: Tell me, Dr. Rank. Will everyone who works at the Savings Bank, will they all now be under Torvald?

RANK: Yes, I suppose so. Why is that so very amusing?

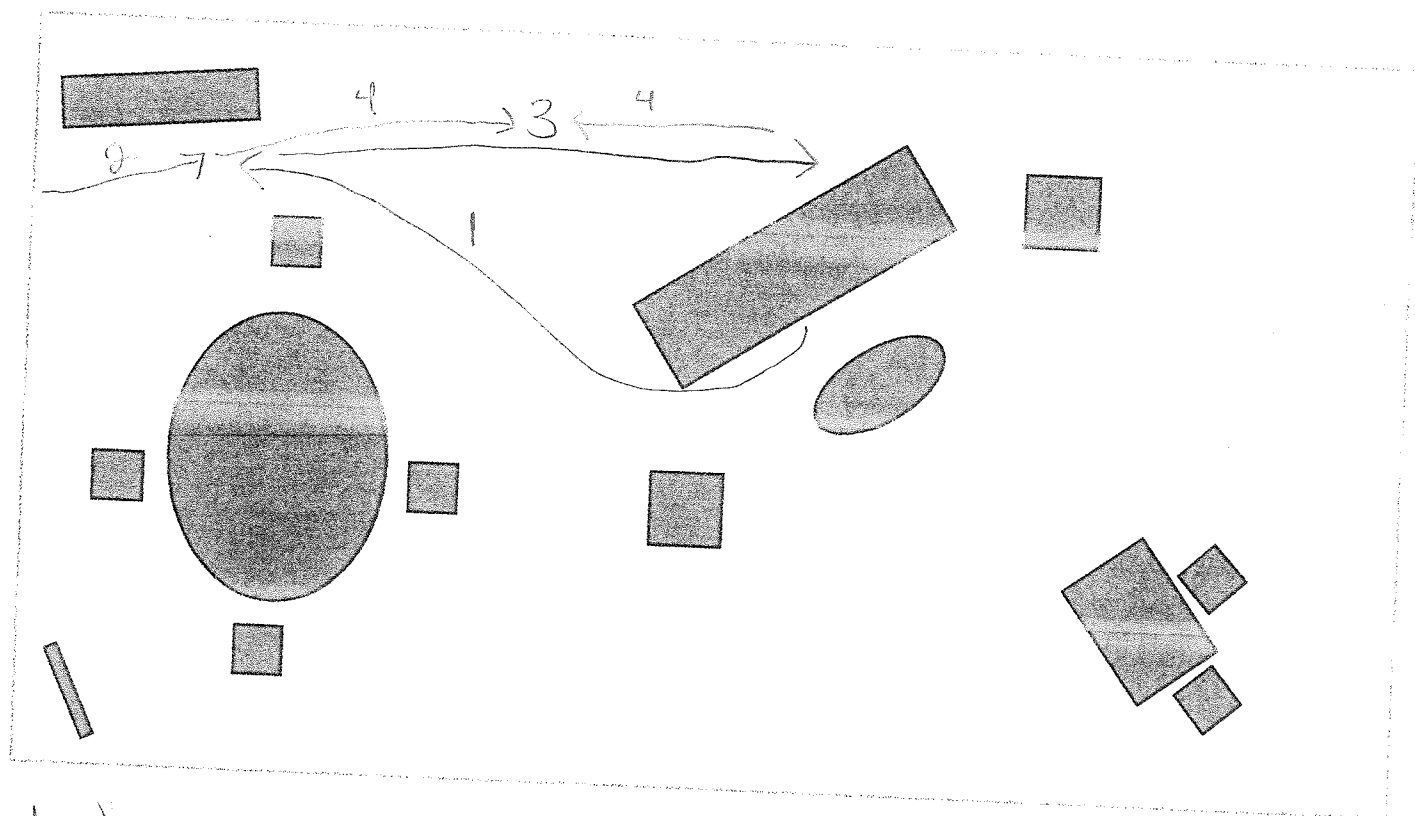
NORA: It gives me such pleasure to think that we — that Torvald has so much power over so many people. *(She takes a bag out of her pocket.)* A little macaroon, Dr. Rank? 3

RANK: What is this? Macaroons? Aren't they illegal in this house?

NORA: They are, but Kristine gave me these.

MRS. LINDE: Me — what —

NORA: Now, now don't get hysterical. You didn't know that Torvald's banned them. No. He thinks they're very bad for my teeth. Never mind — just a little one. Yes, Dr. Rank? Here you are. *(She puts a macaroon into his mouth.)* You too, Kristine. And one for



1. Nora Xs UR
2. Torvald enters R
3. Nora crosses to Kristine
4. Torvald X's to meet Kristine, shakes hands
JK! ← He dumb

me. Just a little one. Two, at most. Oh, I'm such a happy woman. There is only one thing that I want to do.

RANK: What is it?

NORA: I'd really like to say something to Torvald —

RANK: Then say it.

NORA: I daren't. It's vulgar.

MRS. LINDE: Vulgar?

RANK: Then don't. But say it to us — you can surely. What do you want to say to Helmer?

NORA: Bloody hell.

RANK: Have you gone mad?

MRS. LINDE: Nora, God help us —

RANK: Say it, he's here. (*Nora hides the bag of macaroons.*)

NORA: Quiet. (*Torvald enters from his study with his coat over his arm and his hat in his hand.*) You got rid of him, did you, Torvald dear? 2

HELMER: He's gone now, yes!

Introductions

NORA: 3 Introductions. This is Kristine, who's come to town.

HELMER: Kristine? Forgive me, I'm not sure —

NORA: Mrs. Linde. Mrs. Kristine Linde, darling. 4

HELMER: I see. You and my wife were friends as children?

MRS. LINDE: Yes, we knew each other a long time ago.

NORA: And she has travelled a long way here just to speak to you, imagine that.

HELMER: What is that supposed to mean?

MRS. LINDE: It's not exactly —

NORA: You see, Kristine's very good at office work but she really wants to work with a clever man who will teach her much more than she already knows and direct her —

HELMER: A sensible decision, Madame.

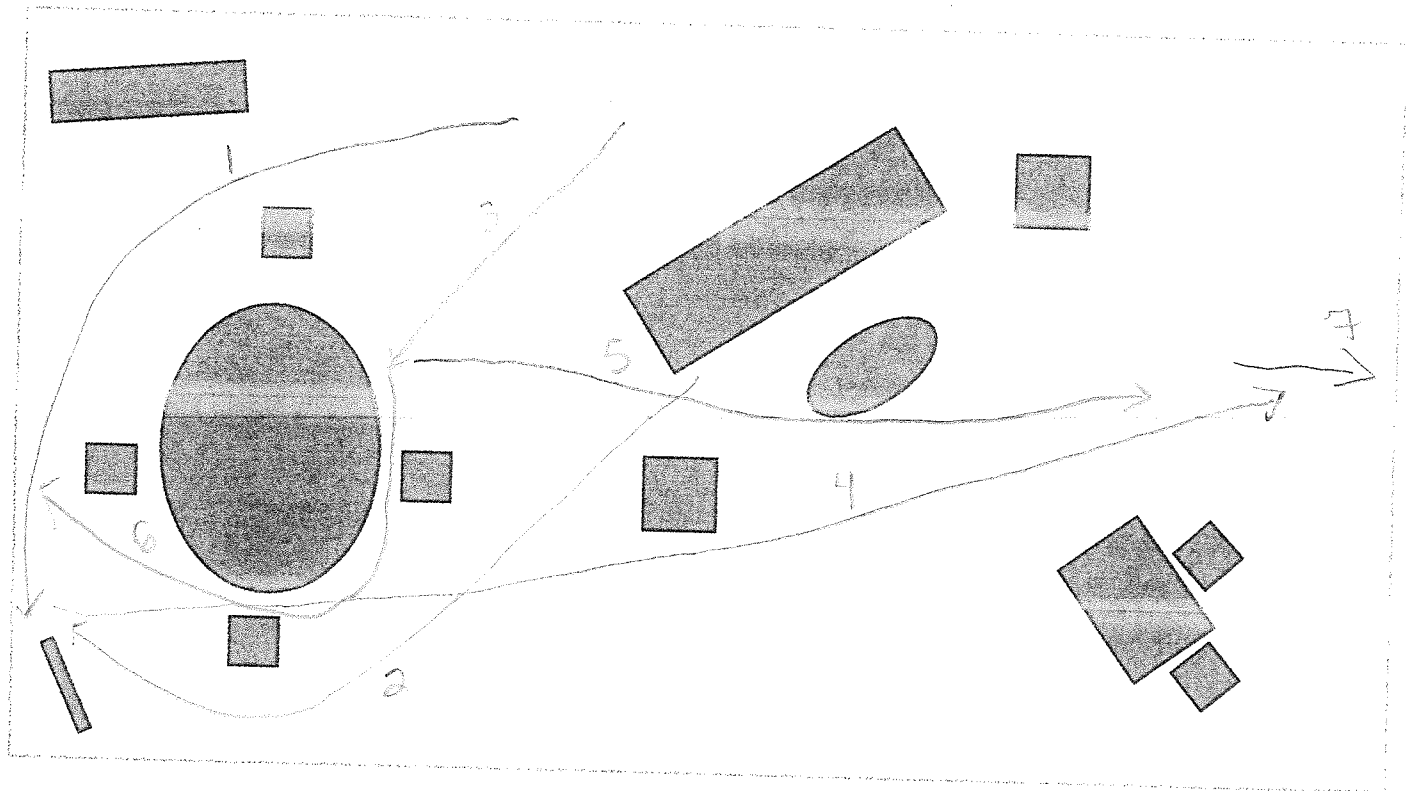
NORA: So when she heard, through a ^{my email} telegram, that you had become manager of the bank, she raced here as quickly as she could — please, Torvald, for my sake, could you do something for Kristine? Please, please?

HELMER: That is not impossible. I take it you are a widow?

MRS. LINDE: Yes.

HELMER: And have some experience of bookkeeping?

MRS. LINDE: A great deal, yes.



1. Torvald Xs DR to coat rack + gets coat
2. Rank Xs DR to coat rack
3. Kristine Xs to table + gets coat
4. Torvald + Rank X L to door
5. Kristine Xs L to door
6. Nora Xs to DR door, children enter R
7. R, T, K₆ exit L