

ANNE MARIE.

I didn't know – no idea – if you'd ever come back around.
That first month, and those first six months – the first year or two or three even – there was the thought that maybe you'd show up, come back around, but then the more time that passed – you didn't even write, no letters, nothing –

15 years, 15 years, could've thought you'd gone off and died –
I, for the record, never thought you were dead – a lot of people thought you were dead, other people, not Torvald and the kids of course, but a lot of people think you're dead.

And I look at your clothes and it looks like you're definitely not destitute

it looks like the opposite of destitute

That's just so nice. I'm happy to hear that, I never wanted bad things to happen to you ...

But I had been thinking – I don't know how you feel about this – I know you're just briefly in town – I know you said in your letter that you were just going to be very briefly in town and so I shouldn't tell the kids I that you're here –

But what I was thinking is that maybe it wouldn't be a bad idea to see Torvald while you're here, just to say hi, just to, I don't know, see each other.
Given how much time has passed,
given how things ended,
given that you're just passing through,
no pressure, real easy, I just think
it could be helpful,
it could repair something...

...he's not broken, I didn't mean to make it sound –
but I do think he should get a dog.
I think if he had a dog he'd be happier,
not that he's not happy, I don't mean that but

he just likes dogs so much.
I see him – he'll see a dog
and he'll get so happy,
and likes to pet the dogs
and he lets them lick his face
and he holds them close.

I told him to get a dog and he said no and I said why,
and he said that dogs die.
Dogs die. They get sick, their bodies break, they hurt, and
when that happens he'd have to put the thing out of its misery:
cut its throat or break its neck or pelt its head with a rock,
and he doesn't want to come to love something
only to have to kill it.

I sort of wanted to say but didn't say but wanted to say that –
I think he's at a point where the dog will probably outlive him.
I think that's pretty optimistic to think that he'll be around to put
the dog down.

But what about you, tell me about you,
what's happened to you?