

TORVALD.

I think about dying.  
I uh think about how when I die  
which will be someday sooner than later –  
and I think what it is I'm leaving behind – what mark I've made –  
and I think about how this is it.

*(To the book.)*

This is the story that's told about me and that's it,  
and I don't want that to be it,  
and so –

I went to the clerk's office this morning  
told the clerk,  
"I'm here to file a divorce – "  
he thought I was crazy,  
he said, "Torvald, you think you've seen a ghost"  
I said no, I said, I've been lying,  
there's a pile of lies, I've been lying,  
and that's done, I won't lie,  
I'll face the consequences.

I even said, "If you don't believe me find the death certificate";  
and he said if there's no death certificate then  
he should go ahead and make one.

And here he is taking out the papers to write up a death certificate,  
and it was as if he was about to end your life in front my eyes –

I grabbed the pen from his hand,  
and in grabbing the pen, I knocked him to the ground,

and this clerk, he's not a small man –  
he's younger than me, stronger than me –

and he grabs me, he holds me down,  
and I – I'm just fighting back,  
trying to break free of him.

And this fight – it's now – it's bigger than itself,  
and I'm fighting for my life –  
and he pushes me, and I fall ...

my head hits the ground, where there's a bit of stone.  
It cut into my head, I could hear the skull crack –

and he's now horrified, he backs away, I think he's even crying,  
he says, "Torvald Helmer, what have you turned into,  
what are you?"

And I said to him, said to the clerk,  
"You will give me my divorce;"  
and he nodded his head,  
because he understood,  
that this was about more than it was about.

He could have had me locked up,  
but he understood, and –

*(Torvald takes out a paper.)*

This is it.  
I did this for you.  
I made everything right  
by ruining myself,  
by exposing a pile of lies that I've been hiding for 15 years,  
and I'll probably lose my job  
and lose my friends  
and lose my savings,  
but I did it  
so hopefully I won't be remembered  
the way you remember me  
when I'm gone.  
You can even go  
and write a new book  
where I'm a better man.

*(Nora looks at it.)*

Here. Take it.

*(Nora does not take it.)*