

TORVALD. You left. You left me. You walked out this door and you left me and you left the kids and when I think back on what happened I think to myself that I have one big regret: I wish I left you.

NORA. ...

TORVALD. I should have left you long before you left me I should have—I think back to all these moments where I should have left you—there are so many—

NORA. are there—

TORVALD. —every time you chastised me for being too serious or being too worried about small things, never taking seriously the things that I cared about —and every time you asked me for money—and every time you asked me for money by first telling me how much you love me as if by telling me that you love me would make me give you the money—that's really manipulative by the way —every time you'd ask me to do a favor for a friend of yours—you had all of these friends, and always it became my responsibility to fix their problems as if the only value I had in your life was either my ability to give you money and find your friends a job or a place to live—never considering the possibility that maybe I didn't have time to help everyone you thought needed help, or— and you could tell that the favors you were asking me made me uncomfortable but you pushed and you pushed and you'd say things to make me feel like I was being a wimp or weak every time you talked down / to me—

NORA. you were the one who talked down to me

TORVALD. every time you flirted with other men—

NORA. I never—

TORVALD. yes, and every time you made fun of me in front of other men, every time you rolled your eyes at me or—

NORA. you did that to me too, all the time you—

TORVALD. and when you told me that I was kind but being kind wasn't enough to make you want to be with me —and the moment when you told me that your own needs were more important than taking care of your kids, your own kids who needed you, who missed you, who wanted you —and then the moment you told me you didn't love me anymore— that moment that was maybe a minute before you walked out of here—but I wish— I wish I didn't take it like I took it.

TORVALD. Then what is it? What is the difference between being condescending and standing up for myself? You won't say, even though I've asked you twice to show me—

NORA. so that you can just disprove me

TORVALD. so you can educate me

NORA. oh!

TORVALD. I would like to learn

NORA. you'd like to be right

TORVALD. I'd like you to stand up and take the lead and teach me something

NORA. I did. 15 years ago, right here, I did that

TORVALD. No. No. What happened 15 years ago—if you'd like to talk about that—okay let's talk about that— is that you stood here and had your big epiphany, and you know, I think—I thought then and I think now— that a lot of things you said had a lot of validity. You said that we never had a serious conversation in 8 years of marriage, and yeah, I think that there was some truth to that. We'd both been avoiding things, avoiding hurting the other, and all of that avoiding of stuff made us liars. And yes, we have to tell the truth. We have to stick our noses in some shit— we have to—you talk about a true marriage, you talked about how what we needed was a true marriage, well, I think sticking our faces in the shit is a really big part of that. But listen, Nora, here's where you're wrong. At the very moment that you realized the problem with our marriage

NORA. let's be real, there was more than one problem

TORVALD. no, I get that—I'm not saying there wasn't—but the moment you brought the problems to light, you walked out the door. That's shitty if you ask me—

NORA. how is it—?

TORVALD. shitty—? because having epiphanies is easy. But actually doing something about it is—

NORA. my “doing something” was leaving, that was “doing” and that sure as hell wasn't easy

TORVALD. easier than staying and trying to tough it out with me—us toughing it out together—instead you run off and pretend that this is the same thing as being strong. and I look at you and I...

...I think—

NORA. ...

TORVALD. I did so much for you. I loved you. And you threw it away.
