

When the Helmers find Dr. Rank's letter that indicates he has gone home to await death, Torvald says: "His suffering and his loneliness seemed almost to provide a background of dark cloud to the sunshine of our lives. Well, perhaps it's all for the best. For him at any rate. And maybe for us as well, Nora. Now there's just the two of us." Most actors portray Dr. Rank as soft-spoken and well-meaning—he does not mean to be vulgar but instead confesses his feelings for Nora mainly because he only has a few days left to live. When students first read the play, some feel immense sympathy for Dr. Rank. (Act Three) It doesn't sound like they will miss him too much.