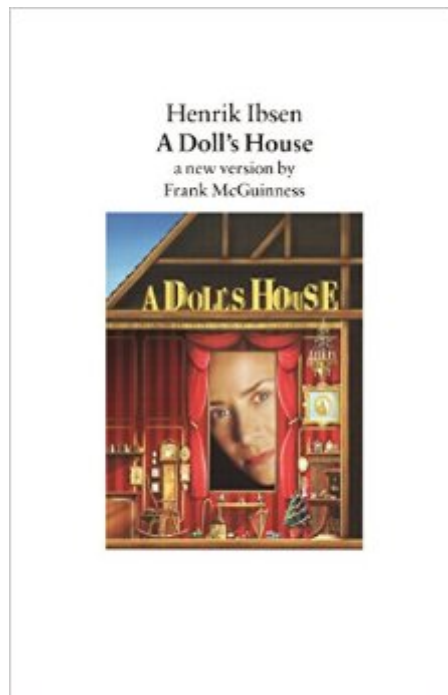


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A Doll's House: A New Version By Frank McGuinness (Faber Plays)



Synopsis

Nora Helmer, wife to Torvald and mother of three children, appears to enjoy living the life of a pampered, indulged child. But as her economic dependence becomes brutally clear, Nora's acceptance of the status quo undergoes a profound change. To the horror of the bewildered Torvald, himself caught in the tight web of a conservative society which demands that he exert strict control, Nora comes to see that only possible true course of action is to leave the family home. Frank McGuinness's version of *A Doll's House* received its London premiere in October 1996 and opened on Broadway in 1997, where the production won four Tony Awards.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This edition of the play was apparently cut for acting purposes, something I found out only after using it to prepare for a group reading of the play aloud. It does not contain the full text of the play; nor does it have the character of the original. I wish that had been made clear before I purchased it.

Ibsen's best known play about the strictures imposed on women by society. It may be from a hundred years ago, but the plight of Nora and her world is a cautionary tale about life now. Nora is simple and yet there is a complexity about her. Her naiveté is both her charm and her undoing. Torvald, her husband, is prominent and she is to be showy--a living doll. Nora is to be a mirror that reflects her husband beautifully. The plot concerns financial woes in the marriage--and secrets kept

and broken--in these, the story is not unlike most stressful marriages. We can speculate about what Nora could or should have done but the die is cast. This play is good for helping younger readers understand that assumptions about roles in marriage are still there, and have to be understood and discussed in order to help a marriage thrive. If you have a place where you can read this aloud, try it. Plays were meant to be spoken. The translation is superb.

Henrik Ibsen's classic play about a woman's attempt at self-actualization is still vital more than a hundred years after it was first produced. The particulars of Nora's endeavor to separate herself from her husband's infantilizing view of her, such as an attempt to control her own finances, may not resonate strongly with today's readers, who likely view such things as equally valid for either sex, but it was revolutionary in Ibsen's day. Keeping this in mind, we can see this drama as the courageous and moving piece of art that it has always been.

In this play by Ibsen Nora loses the ability to make Torvald love her any longer. This is the epiphany. Nora is the protagonist, she is a "doll" living within Helmer's house. Nora is strictly to look good and to keep her husband happy. In this play beauty is the motif that is recognized throughout. To Helmer Nora is an object, a trophy. When Nora's epiphany is finally realized by the reader she is in the middle of her awakening. Here we find the climax of the play. Nora is looking for Torvald to correct her wrong doing, and in doing so Nora sees the failure of her marriage. And now knows she must leave the false society she has known for so long and start a new.

This book is hailed for giving females a voice. Although it does speak for women, it really speaks for society as a whole. Just what is happiness? Living in a comfortable house with not a care in the world? Or, defining who you truly are by working hard at whatever you're good at? The story will seem slow at first. There's just character development/background and an introduction to the "troubling" dilemma of Nora in the early parts of the story. The perfect pacing builds up so much until the big devastating end, where the characters make huge life changing revelations. I started questioning what happiness was after reading what the characters went through. Are people so caught up at trying to maintain the ideal image of the "good" life that they forget to find out what they truly want? Real good book, I read the whole thing in one sitting.

Having first read this play in college, I must say that I was captivated by its characters and writing style. Nora was truly a character who was ahead of her time and Ibsen is a wonderful writer. When

Nora finally voiced herself to her husband, I felt the same liberation she was fighting for. I don't think that there is an Ibsen play that I have not read, but none are as inspirational as A Dolls House. Anyone who hasn't read it is missing out on a great work of literature.

This Play is not only a valued addition to Feminism, but to theater in general. Ibsen bravely challenges the "laws" of theater which most playwrights feel they must follow, by giving the lead role to a woman. All of her life Nora is treated by men as a mere play thing, a thing of beauty that is to be looked at but not heard. When she tries to rebel from this idea society rejects her. Nora has sacrificed her social status so that she may be free. A classic.

Fit the bill. Needed this play for my college granddaughter.

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