

ibsen an enemy of the people

Ibsen An Enemy of the People: Exploring the Timeless Drama of Truth and Society

ibsen an enemy of the people is a powerful play that continues to resonate with audiences worldwide due to its poignant exploration of truth, morality, and societal pressure. Written by the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen in 1882, this drama delves into the conflicts that arise when an individual's pursuit of honesty clashes with the interests of the collective. The themes embedded in the play are not only relevant to Ibsen's time but also echo strongly in today's world, making it a timeless piece that invites deep reflection on the dynamics between the individual and society.

The Core Plot of Ibsen An Enemy of the People

At its heart, Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* narrates the story of Dr. Thomas Stockmann, a well-respected doctor in a small Norwegian town. When Dr. Stockmann discovers that the local baths—an essential source of economic prosperity for the town—are contaminated with bacteria, he expects his revelation to be met with gratitude. Instead, he faces overwhelming opposition. The townspeople, including his own brother who is the mayor, view his findings as a threat to the community's livelihood and reputation. What follows is a gripping tale of courage, isolation, and the cost of standing up for truth.

Key Themes That Shape the Narrative

Understanding Ibsen *An Enemy of the People* involves unpacking several key themes that drive the drama forward:

- **Truth versus Popularity:** Dr. Stockmann's commitment to scientific truth puts him at odds with the popular opinion, highlighting the tension between what is right and what is convenient.
- **The Role of the Media:** The play comments on how the press can be manipulated or reluctant to publish inconvenient truths, a topic that remains highly relevant.
- **Individual Morality versus Collective Interest:** The conflict between personal ethics and societal benefit raises critical questions about democracy and leadership.
- **Corruption and Hypocrisy:** The story exposes how economic interests can corrupt public officials and citizens alike, emphasizing the dangers of complacency.

Why Ibsen An Enemy of the People Still Matters Today

Even though the play was written over a century ago, its messages are strikingly pertinent in the contemporary world. Issues such as environmental concerns, whistleblowing, media bias, and public health crises mirror the dilemmas faced by Dr. Stockmann. The struggle

between revealing inconvenient truths and maintaining social harmony is a recurring challenge in many societies.

Lessons on Whistleblowing and Social Responsibility

Dr. Stockmann's experience can be seen as an early portrayal of a whistleblower's journey. His determination to expose a health hazard despite personal and professional repercussions offers valuable lessons:

1. **Courage is Essential:** Standing up against the majority requires bravery, particularly when facing accusations of being an enemy.
2. **The Importance of Integrity:** Maintaining ethical standards often means facing isolation but preserves one's self-respect and long-term credibility.
3. **Community Resistance to Change:** People tend to resist information that threatens their comfort or economic stability, a factor that whistleblowers must navigate.

Character Analysis: The People Behind the Conflict

To fully appreciate Ibsen an enemy of the people, it's important to examine the characters who embody the play's conflicting ideologies.

Dr. Thomas Stockmann

He is the protagonist, a man driven by scientific truth and moral conviction. His idealism is both his strength and his weakness, as it blinds him to the social dynamics at play. Dr. Stockmann represents the voice of reason and the lone individual willing to challenge societal complacency.

Peter Stockmann

As the mayor and Dr. Stockmann's brother, Peter symbolizes political pragmatism and the prioritization of economic interests over public welfare. His efforts to suppress the truth reveal the darker side of leadership and the compromises made for the "greater good."

The Townspeople and the Press

The collective voice of the townspeople reflects fear, ignorance, and self-interest, while the local press embodies the tension between journalistic integrity and societal pressure. Together, they illustrate how communities can turn against truth-tellers.

Analyzing the Play's Structure and Dramatic Techniques

Henrik Ibsen's craftsmanship in *An Enemy of the People* lies not only in its thematic depth but also in its dramatic construction.

- **Realistic Dialogue:** Ibsen's use of natural speech patterns enhances the play's relatability and emotional impact.
- **Conflict-Driven Plot:** The escalating tension between Dr. Stockmann and the community keeps the audience engaged.
- **Symbolism:** The polluted baths serve as a metaphor for societal corruption and moral decay.
- **Moral Ambiguity:** The play avoids simplistic hero-villain dichotomies, instead presenting complex characters with conflicting motivations.

Impact of the Play's Ending

Unlike many traditional dramas, the ending of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* does not resolve neatly. Dr. Stockmann is left ostracized yet unbowed, symbolizing the ongoing struggle between truth and power. This open-ended conclusion encourages audiences to reflect on the costs and value of integrity in society.

How to Approach Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* in Study and Performance

For students, educators, and theatre practitioners, engaging with this play offers rich opportunities for discussion and interpretation.

Tips for Students

- **Focus on Character Motivations:** Understanding why characters act as they do unlocks deeper meanings.
- **Explore Historical Context:** Knowing the social and political environment of 19th-century Norway provides important background.
- **Connect to Modern Issues:** Drawing parallels with current events can make the themes more tangible and relevant.

Advice for Directors and Actors

- **Highlight the Moral Conflict:** Emphasize the tension between individual and community to captivate audiences.

- ****Use Setting Creatively:**** The baths can be represented symbolically to underscore the play's themes.
- ****Encourage Audience Reflection:**** Aim for a performance that sparks conversation about ethics and democracy.

Exploring Adaptations and Interpretations

Ibsen an enemy of the people has inspired numerous adaptations across various media, each bringing fresh perspectives to its enduring themes.

- Stage productions often update the setting or emphasize particular social issues.
- Film adaptations have highlighted the psychological and political drama.
- Some modern retellings focus on environmental activism or whistleblower narratives.

These adaptations demonstrate the play's flexibility and the universality of its message.

The enduring relevance of Ibsen an enemy of the people lies in its fearless confrontation with the uncomfortable truths that societies often prefer to ignore. It challenges audiences to consider the price of honesty and the complexities of communal life, making it a vital work for anyone interested in literature, ethics, or social dynamics.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central conflict in Ibsen's 'An Enemy of the People'?

The central conflict in 'An Enemy of the People' revolves around Dr. Stockmann's discovery that the town's spa waters are contaminated, leading to a clash between truth and public interest as the community rejects his findings to protect their economic interests.

How does Ibsen explore the theme of truth versus public opinion in 'An Enemy of the People'?

Ibsen explores this theme by portraying Dr. Stockmann's struggle to reveal the truth about the polluted waters, facing opposition from the townspeople and authorities who prioritize reputation and financial gain over honesty and public health.

What role does the character of Peter Stockmann play in the play?

Peter Stockmann, the town mayor and Dr. Stockmann's brother, represents the establishment and opposition to change. He prioritizes the town's economic stability and suppresses the truth to maintain social order and political power.

How is the concept of individual versus society depicted in 'An Enemy of the People'?

The play depicts the conflict between individual conscience and societal pressure through Dr. Stockmann's fight against the majority's denial and hostility, highlighting the challenges faced by those who stand up for truth against collective interests.

Why is 'An Enemy of the People' still relevant in today's context?

The play remains relevant as it addresses issues like whistleblowing, environmental concerns, censorship, and the tension between ethical responsibility and economic interests, themes that continue to resonate in modern societal and political debates.

Additional Resources

Ibsen An Enemy of the People: A Timeless Exploration of Truth and Morality

ibsen an enemy of the people is a phrase that immediately evokes the complex interplay between individual conscience and societal pressures, a theme masterfully explored in Henrik Ibsen's 1882 play, "An Enemy of the People." This play remains profoundly relevant today, serving as a critical examination of truth, democracy, and the power dynamics within communities. In this article, we delve into the essential facets of Ibsen's work, analyzing its thematic depth, historical context, and enduring influence on literature and socio-political discourse.

The Context and Genesis of "An Enemy of the People"

Henrik Ibsen, often hailed as the father of modern drama, wrote "An Enemy of the People" during a period of burgeoning social change in Europe. The play's narrative centers around Dr. Thomas Stockmann, a medical officer who discovers that the public baths, a vital source of income for his town, are contaminated and pose serious health risks. Upon revealing this truth, he faces fierce opposition from the town's authorities and residents who prioritize economic prosperity over public safety.

The play reflects Ibsen's critique of the hypocrisy and self-interest entrenched in political and social institutions. It raises questions about who truly holds power in a democratic society and the consequences faced by whistleblowers who challenge prevailing interests. The title itself—"An Enemy of the People"—ironically underscores how those who stand for truth can become marginalized and vilified.

In-depth Analysis of Themes

Truth versus Popular Opinion

One of the core conflicts in Ibsen's play is the clash between objective truth and the will of the majority. Dr. Stockmann embodies the moral idealist who insists on exposing the contamination despite overwhelming opposition. This tension highlights the uncomfortable reality that truth is not always embraced by society, especially when it threatens economic or political stability.

This theme resonates in contemporary contexts, where whistleblowers and activists often face backlash for revealing inconvenient truths. Ibsen's exploration encourages audiences to question the validity of majority opinion and consider the ethical responsibility individuals bear in upholding truth.

The Role of the Individual in Society

Ibsen's protagonist is a study in individual courage and isolation. Dr. Stockmann's journey from respected community member to outcast typifies the struggle faced by those who challenge societal norms. The play scrutinizes how communities respond to dissent and the mechanisms used to suppress dissenting voices.

This aspect of the play invites reflection on the balance between collective interests and individual rights, a debate that remains pertinent in democratic societies worldwide. The portrayal of Dr. Stockmann's steadfastness against communal pressure serves as a powerful commentary on personal integrity.

Corruption and Manipulation in Governance

"An Enemy of the People" also delves into corruption and political manipulation. The town's mayor and other authorities attempt to silence Dr. Stockmann to protect their economic interests, illustrating how governance can become compromised when leaders prioritize self-preservation over public welfare.

This portrayal aligns with real-world instances where political expediency trumps transparency, making Ibsen's work a timeless reminder of the vigilance needed to safeguard democratic principles.

Character Dynamics and Symbolism

The characters in Ibsen's play are carefully crafted to represent different societal archetypes. Dr. Stockmann symbolizes truth and moral conviction, while his brother, Peter

Stockmann, the mayor, embodies political pragmatism and authoritarian control. The townspeople's readiness to turn against Dr. Stockmann reflects mass conformity and fear of change.

The contaminated baths themselves function as a symbol of the town's moral decay beneath the surface of prosperity. This metaphor extends to the broader theme of societal blindness to inconvenient realities, further enriching the play's interpretative layers.

Comparative Perspectives: Ibsen's Play in Modern Adaptations

Across various adaptations—stage, film, and literature—"An Enemy of the People" continues to evoke debates about civic responsibility and the cost of truth-telling. For instance, Arthur Miller's 1950 adaptation in the United States reframed the narrative during an era marked by McCarthyism, emphasizing the dangers of ideological conformity and suppression.

Modern productions often emphasize the environmental and public health aspects, making the play especially relevant in the age of climate change and corporate accountability. This adaptability underscores the universality of Ibsen's themes.

Pros and Cons of the Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** The play's direct confrontation with ethical dilemmas invites critical thinking and moral introspection. Its characters are multidimensional, allowing audiences to engage with complex social issues on a personal level.
- **Cons:** Some critics argue that the play's idealism may oversimplify the challenges of effecting social change, and its somewhat didactic tone can feel heavy-handed in certain scenes.

Why "Ibsen An Enemy of the People" Remains Relevant

In an era characterized by information overload and polarized public opinion, the questions raised by "An Enemy of the People" about truth, leadership, and societal responsibility are more urgent than ever. The play encourages vigilance against complacency and challenges audiences to consider the ethical implications of silence and complicity.

Moreover, it serves as a reminder of the potential isolation faced by those who prioritize principle over popularity. This message resonates in journalism, politics, and activism,

where the stakes of truth-telling remain high.

The enduring appeal of Ibsen's work lies in its capacity to provoke dialogue across generations and cultures, making it a cornerstone in both literary and socio-political studies. By engaging with the play, readers and viewers gain insight into the perennial tensions that shape human communities.

In exploring "Ibsen an enemy of the people," one encounters a rich tapestry of ideas that transcend its 19th-century origins, offering a mirror to contemporary society's struggles with integrity, power, and justice. This complex narrative continues to inspire critical reflection on the costs and necessities of standing firm in the face of opposition.

Ibsen An Enemy Of The People

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, 2001 The strongest man in the world is the one who stands most alone. The plot of Ibsen's play is relevant more than 125 years after its 1882 publication. Natural springs found in a little Norwegian village are about to put the town on the map until a physician outs a powerful area business that is poisoning the water. Unfortunately, the media is complicit with local government in suppressing the study and when the scientist himself offers to lecture no one will rent him a forum. In short, when the scientist bucks local interests he becomes a pariah to the lightly-educated and easily-manipulated majority in the town, an enemy of the people. Handier than the free PDFs on the web, this you can hold, bookmark, highlight and shelve. An inexpensive imperative for any history-, economics-, or political- buff.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Arthur Miller, Henrik Ibsen, 1977-11-17 A Penguin Classic When Dr. Stockmann discovers that the water in the small Norwegian town in which he is the resident physician has been contaminated, he does what any responsible citizen would do: reports it to the authorities. But Stockmann's good deed has the potential to ruin the town's reputation as a popular spa destination, and instead of being hailed as a hero, Stockmann is labeled an enemy of the people. Arthur Miller's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's classic drama is a classic in itself, a penetrating exploration of what happens when the truth comes up against the will of the majority. This edition includes Arthur Miller's preface and an introduction by John Guare. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, 1998-02-26 An Enemy of the People concerns the actions of Doctor Thomas Stockmann, a medical officer charged with inspecting the public baths on which the prosperity of his native town depends. He finds the water to be contaminated. When he refuses to be silenced, he is declared an enemy of the people. Stockmann served as a spokesman for Ibsen, who felt that his plays gave a true, if not always palatable, picture of life and that truth was more important than critical approbation.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, 2009-07-01 Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen wrote An Enemy of the People in 1882 as a response to the public outrage over his play Ghosts. Part comedy, part serious drama, the play looks at Dr. Thomas Stockmann's struggle to uphold the truth in the face of intolerance and willful ignorance, as his entire community turns against him. Branded an Enemy of the People, Dr. Stockmann can only take solace in the idea that the strongest man in the world is the man who stands most alone.

ibsen an enemy of the people: Henrik Ibsen Henrik Ibsen, 2010-06-11 An Enemy of the People was one of Henrik Ibsen's more controversial works. In the play, Dr. Stockmann discovers that the new baths built in his town are infected with a deadly disease that requires they should be closed for repair. However, the mayor of the town (the Burgomaster), who is Stockmann's brother Peter, rejects the report and refuses to close the baths because it will bring about the financial ruin of the town. When Dr. Stockmann tries to make his case to the people of the town, the mayor counters by pointing out how expensive it would be to repair the baths and dismisses the doctor for having wild, fanciful ideas. At the public meeting Dr. Stockmann is declared an enemy of the people by the Burgomaster. As is the case with most of Ibsen's classic works, An Enemy of the People speaks to larger issues than those in conflict in the play. The debate is over the bad water pipes at the new baths, but the true conflict is over the clash of private and public morality. Both of the Stockman brothers are flawed. Dr. Stockman's idealism is at odds with the practical realities of the world in which he lives while the Burgomaster ignores ethical concerns. Still, in the end we have to favor the doctor over the mayor because his integrity is clearly stronger, while still recognizing that his idealism is tragically flawed.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People (a Classic Play) Henrik Ibsen, 2011-01 An Enemy of the People is an 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen wrote it in response to the public outcry against his play Ghosts, which at that time was considered scandalous. Ghosts had challenged the hypocrisy of Victorian morality and was deemed indecent for its veiled references to syphilis. An Enemy of the People addresses the irrational tendencies of the masses, and the hypocritical and corrupt nature of the political system that they support. It is the story of one brave man's struggle to do the right thing and speak the truth in the face of extreme social intolerance. The play's protagonist, Dr Stockmann, represents the playwright's own voice. Upon completion of the play, Ibsen wrote to his publisher in Copenhagen: I am still uncertain as to whether I should call it a comedy or a straight drama. It may have many traits of comedy, but it also is based on a serious idea.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People (Esprios Classics) Henrik Ibsen, 2022-05-02 An Enemy of the People an 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, followed his previous play, Ghosts, which criticized the hypocrisy of his society's moral code. Ibsen, Ellen Mortensen (Ibsen Studies v.7, 169) argues, wrote An Enemy of the People in response to the public outcry against Ghosts, which openly discussed adultery and syphilis. That response included accusations of both Ghosts and its author being scandalous, degenerate, and immoral. In An Enemy of the People, a man dares to expose an unpalatable truth publicly and is punished for it. However, Ibsen took a somewhat skeptical view of his protagonist, suggesting that he may have gone too far in his zeal to tell the truth.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Johan Ibsen, 2018-04-03

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, 2018-06 First performed in 1882, Henrik Ibsen's An Enemy of the People is the story of the animosity that can befall someone whose actions, while in the best interest of the public good, threaten the economic well being of a community. The story begins during an evening of entertaining at the household of Dr. Stockmann, the titular enemy of the people. When the mayor of the town, Dr. Stockmann's brother Peter, and the editor of the town newspaper, Hovstad, come to Dr. Stockmann's home, he is confronted over the rumors that the water of the town baths may be contaminated. The two brothers argue over the morality of concealing or falsely shaping the narrative in regards to the problem. When a letter arrives confirming the contamination, Dr. Stockmann convinces Hovstad that he must publish the report, which sets into motion a great conflict amongst the townspeople over the financial cost of dealing with the contamination. In this tensely dramatic work we find Ibsen at his best in addressing the economic consequences of doing the right thing. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper, follows the translation of R. Farquharson Sharp, and includes an introduction by Otto Heller.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, Rebecca Lenkiewicz,

2008 Power. Money. Morality. In a tight knit community a shocking discovery comes to light and threatens the lifeblood of the town. Truth and honour are pitched against wild ambition and corruption in Ibsen's emotional maelstrom.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People Henrik Ibsen, 2024-11-20 Amy Herzog's streamlined adaptation of the Ibsen classic is a vibrant and compelling theatrical experience. A small-town doctor considers himself a proud, upstanding member of his close-knit community. When he discovers a catastrophe that risks the lives of everyone in town, he raises the alarm. But he is shaken to his core when those in power, including his own brother, try not only to silence him, but to destroy him.

ibsen an enemy of the people: *The Enemy of the People* Henrik Ibsen, 1992-10-01

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen Henrik Ibsen, 2020-03-25 You see, the point is that the strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone. -Henrik Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People* *An Enemy of the People* is an 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen wrote it in response to the public outcry against his previous play, *Ghosts*, which challenged the hypocrisy of 19th-century morality. According to Ellen Mortensen, the words scandalous, degenerate, and immoral were hurled at both *Ghosts* and its author because it openly discussed adultery and syphilis. Therefore, *An Enemy of the People* tells the story of a man who dares to speak an unpalatable truth, and is punished for it.

ibsen an enemy of the people: *An Enemy of The People* Henrik Ibsen, 2024-02-02 Henrik Ibsen exposes the complexities of standing against the tide in '*An Enemy of The People*,' a riveting exploration of individual integrity in the face of societal discord. Challenge societal norms with *An Enemy of The People* by Henrik Ibsen, a timeless exploration of ethics, truth, and the complexities of standing against the tide. Immerse yourself in a narrative that questions the very fabric of society and the consequences of daring to be an individual. As the story unfolds, witness the protagonist's struggle against a society that values conformity over truth. Henrik Ibsen's compelling narrative not only challenges the status quo but also forces readers to confront the uncomfortable reality of being labeled an enemy for standing up for what is right. But here's a thought that lingers in the air: What if the enemy is not the individual who speaks the truth but the society that rejects it? Delve into the layers of moral ambiguity as Ibsen's masterpiece prompts you to question the very foundations of societal norms. Engage with the thought-provoking themes and compelling characters presented in *An Enemy of The People*. Short, impactful paragraphs guide you through the intricacies of the plot, inviting you to reflect on the timeless relevance of this classic. Are you ready to confront the uncomfortable truths that lie within *An Enemy of The People*? Join the protagonist in a journey that challenges conventions and sparks a conversation about the delicate balance between individual morality and societal expectations. Open the pages to a world where standing for the truth can make you an enemy. Purchase *An Enemy of The People* now and embark on a thought-provoking exploration of ethics, responsibility, and the price of dissent. Seize the opportunity to own a piece of literary rebellion. Dare to question and challenge the norms with *An Enemy of The People*, a classic that resonates with the courage of those who refuse to be silent.

ibsen an enemy of the people: An Enemy of the People: A play in five acts Henrik Ibsen, 2013-11-10 *An Enemy of the people* is an 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen wrote it in response to the public outcry against his play *Ghosts*, which at that time was considered scandalous. *Ghosts* had challenged the hypocrisy of Victorian morality and was deemed indecent for its veiled references to syphilis.

ibsen an enemy of the people: *An Enemy of the People* Henrik Ibsen, 2018-11-06 *An Enemy of the People*: Large Print by Henrik Ibsen Dr. Stockmann attempts to expose a water pollution scandal in his home town which is about to establish itself as a spa. When his brother, the mayor, conspires with local politicians and the newspaper to suppress the story, Stockmann appeals to the public meeting - only to be shouted down and reviled as 'an enemy of the people'. Ibsen's explosive play reveals his distrust of politicians and the blindly held prejudices of the 'solid majority'

ibsen an enemy of the people: *An Enemy of the People* Henrik Ibsen, 2020-11-12 *An Enemy of*

the People by Henrik Ibsen The city in which the work is taking place has built a huge bath complex that is crucial to the city's economy. Dr. Stockmann has just discovered that the bathroom drainage system is seriously contaminated. Alert various community members, including Hovstad and Aslaksen, and receive generous support, and thanks for making your discovery in time to save the city. The next morning, however, his brother, who is also the town's mayor, tells him that he must retract his statements, as the necessary repairs would be too expensive; Furthermore, the mayor is not convinced by Dr. Stockmann's findings. The brothers have a fierce argument, but Dr. Stockmann hopes that at least the Hovstad newspaper will support him. However, the mayor convinces Hovstad and Aslaksen to oppose Dr. Stockmann. The doctor holds a meeting in the city to give a lecture on the baths, but Aslaksen and the mayor try to stop him from speaking. Dr. Stockmann then begins a long tirade in which he condemns the foundations of the people and the tyranny of the majority. The audience finds his speech incredibly offensive, and the next morning the doctor's house is vandalized. He and his daughter are fired. The mayor hints that the doctor's actions were simply a plan to inherit more of Morten Kiil's money, and Kiil himself soon arrives to suggest that plan to Dr. Stockmann. However, the doctor rejects all those suggestions and decides to defy authority and stay in town. His family supports him and he says that the strongest man is the one who is alone.

ibsen an enemy of the people: *Ibsen Plays: 2* Henrik Ibsen, 2014-03-20 This volume contains Ibsen's two most famous and frequently read, studied and performed plays about women: *A Doll's House* (1879), his first international success, which 'exploded like a bomb into contemporary life', and *Hedda Gabler* (1890), now one of his most popular plays, but greeted at first with bewilderment and outrage ('The play is simply a bad escape of moral sewage-gas' *Pictorial World*). Also included is *An Enemy of the People* (1883), whose central character was the actor Konstantin Stanislavski's favourite role. Michael Meyer's translations are 'crisp and cobweb-free, purged of verbal Victoriana' (Kenneth Tynan)

ibsen an enemy of the people: *An Enemy of the People ; The Wild Duck* Henrik Ibsen, 1929

ibsen an enemy of the people: *Ibsen's Women* Joan Templeton, 2019-08-17 The first comprehensive study of the women in Ibsen's life and work, this landmark book provides a close reading of actual and fictional women as it re-examines the biographical and critical record. In clear, much praised writing, Templeton traces patterns of gender throughout Ibsen's plays, from the portrayals of women in the little known early dramas to the famous protagonists of *A Doll House*, *Ghosts*, *Hedda Gabler*, and the women of the "last quartet." Templeton offers a reappraisal of the debated question of Ibsen's relation to feminism, arguing against a false and demeaning critical tradition, and provides important new information on the young women of Ibsen's later years and their presence in his plays. The book has been praised as incisive, masterful, provocative, and — a rarity among scholarly books — accessible to the general reader. "Joan Templeton's *Ibsen's Women* is a book to contend with. Templeton is a major Ibsen scholar who has written a tonic evaluation of what a major dramatist actually wrought. A delight to read." — Arnold Weinstein, *Scandinavian Studies* "Ibsen's *Women* marks a paradigm shift in Ibsen scholarship, moving 'the woman question' from the marginal category of 'an aspect of' to the core of the dramatic oeuvre. This is dazzling close reading, sophisticated, rigorous, artful. Templeton's command of her material is masterly." — Mary Kay Norseng, *Ibsen News and Comment* "Why is *A Doll House* not dated? This is one of the questions Joan Templeton answers in this very important book. Her style is witty and graceful and blessedly free of jargon. Her text is aimed at a wide variety of readers." — Barry Jacobs, *The Boston Review of Books* "A goldmine of information... The scope and wide-ranging coverage of this book make it indispensable for anybody wishing to teach or write about Ibsen." — Toril Moi, *Ibsen Studies* "Rich and rewarding. The close textual analysis supports Templeton's thesis that Ibsen's plays and his women characters are quintessentially feminist. A strong argument for the connection between Ibsen's women and Ibsen's modernism. Recommended for all collections." — Choice

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