Hedvig nods to her parents and goes out. Hjalmar walks around without looking up.

Hjalmar Gina.
Gina Yes?
Hjalmar From tomorrow – or let us say from the day after tomorrow – I want to keep account of our household expenses myself.
Gina Do you want to do the household accounts as well?
Hjalmar At least keep an eye on the income.
Gina That’s as soon as done.
Hjalmar Really? I think you manage to make the money go a remarkably long way. (He stops and looks at her.) How is that?
Gina Hedvig and I don’t need very much.
Hjalmar Isn’t it because Father’s paid so handsomely for his copying for Mr Werle?
Gina I don’t know if it’s handsome. I don’t know how much he should be paid for work like that.
Hjalmar What is he paid roughly, then? Tell me!
Gina It varies. It’s roughly what he costs us and a little bit more on top.
Hjalmar What he costs us? You haven’t told me that before!
Gina How could I? You were happy because you thought you provided everything for him.
Hjalmar And it’s from Mr Werle!
Gina Well, Mr Werle has plenty of money.
Hjalmar Put the lights on!
She does so.

Act Four

Gina We don’t know if it’s Mr Werle, it might just as well be someone else –

Hjalmar What are you talking about?
Gina I don’t know – I thought –

Hjalmar Hum!

Gina It wasn’t me who got the old man copying work. It was Berta.

Hjalmar Your voice is trembling.
Gina Is it?
Hjalmar Your hands are shaking.
Gina Out with it, Ekdal, what’s he been saying about me?
Hjalmar Is it true – might it be true – that there was a relationship between you and Mr Werle when you were working there?
Gina No, it isn’t true – not then, anyway. Mr Werle was after me, but Mrs Werle thought there was something more to it and she made a fuss. She hit me and she beat me and so I left.

Hjalmar And after that?
Gina My mother wasn’t as decent as you thought, Ekdal. She nagged me because Mr Werle was a widower then.

Hjalmar And after that?
Gina He didn’t give up until he’d had his way with me.

Hjalmar You’re the mother of my child? How could you keep something like that from me?
Gina It was wrong of me. I should have told you a long time ago.

Hjalmar You should have told me right at the beginning, and then I’d have known what sort you were.

Gina Would you have married me?
Hjalmar  What do you think?
Gina  And that's why I didn't dare say a word. I'd become very fond of you and I couldn't make myself that unhappy...

Hjalmar  passes.

Hjalmar  And this is my Hedvig's mother! Everything I can see before my eyes -- my entire home -- (he kicks a chair) I owe that to that seducer Mr Werle!
Gina  Do you regret the life we've had together?

Hjalmar stands in front of her.

Hjalmar  Tell me if you haven't regretted every hour of every day the web of deceit and lies -- like a spider -- you've spun around me. Answer me that. Haven't you tormented yourself with remorse and doubts?
Gina  I've had plenty to do here and with the day-to-day running --

Hjalmar  You never look back over your past?
Gina  No, I'd almost forgotten it, thank God.

Hjalmar  The complacency! This is what's making me angry! You don't even repent!
Gina  What would have become of you if you hadn't found a wife like me?

Hjalmar  Like you?
Gina  I've always been more practical than you. Which is understandable -- I'm older.

Hjalmar  What would have become of me?
Gina  Because you were a mess when you first met me -- there's no denying that.

Hjalmar  You don't understand how a man feels when he's grieving and despairing -- especially someone like me with a fiery nature.

Gina  I'm not taunting you. You became such a good man once you had a house and a home. It's cosy here and Hedvig and I were just beginning to think about spending a bit more on food and clothes for ourselves.

Hjalmar  In the swamp of deceit!
Gina  Why did that disgusting man have to come into this house?

Hjalmar  I thought this was a good home. It was a delusion. Where will I get the strength to make my invention in the real world now? It'll die with me and it'll be your past, Gina, which killed it.

Gina (close to tears)  You mustn't say things like that, Ekdal. All I've wanted to do was what was best for you!

Hjalmar  When I lay there thinking about my invention I knew it would kill me. I've known all along that the day I had the patent in my hands -- that day would be my... day of release. And you would sit there a wealthy widow.

Gina  dries her tears.

Gina  You mustn't say things like that!

Hjalmar  What does it matter? It's all over, anyway. Everything!

Gregers  opens the front door slowly and looks in.

Gregers  Should I come in?

Hjalmar  Come in.

Gregers  goes to them, his face beaming, delighted, wanting to shake their hands.

Gregers  My dear friends -- (Looks from one to the other and back again and whispers to Hjalmar.) Have you said anything yet?

Hjalmar  It's happened.

Gregers  Has it?