Gregers  And what if I do?
Relling  Then you’ll go down the stairs head first.
Hjalmar  gets up.
Hjalmar  Relling, no!
Gregers  Go on, throw me out.
Gina  comes between them.
Gina  No, Relling! Mr Werle, considering the nasty mess
you made in your stove, you really shouldn’t come in here
talking to me about a stench.
There’s a knock on the front door.
Hedvig  Mama, there’s a knock at the door.
Hjalmar  This is the last thing we need!
Gina  goes and opens the door. Baffled, she starts and retreats.
Gina  Ugh!
Håkon  Werle  takes one step inside. He’s wearing a fur coat.
Werle  I beg your pardon. I believe my son’s living in this
house?
Gina  Yes.
Hjalmar  Mr Werle, please –
Werle  No, thank you. I’d just like to speak to my son.
Gregers  What is it?
Werle  I’ll speak to you in your room.
Gregers  Well – (He moves to go.)
Gina  Not in that state.
Werle  In the hallway then – I want to speak to you in
private.
Hjalmar  You can do that here, Mr Werle. Come into the
parlour, Relling.
Gregers  Yes, I do.
Werle  We'll see.
Gregers  If I'm going to continue, I've got to face up to my conscience.
Werle  Do you think it will ever get better? Your conscience has been plagued since you were a boy. It's from your mother, you know, Gregers. The only legacy she ever left you.
Gregers  Still smarting that you didn't manage to get a fortune with her?
Werle  Let's not stray — You insist upon sticking to your plan?
Gregers  I've made up my mind.
Werle  I should have saved myself the trouble of walking up here. It's no use asking you if you want to come home again, then?
Gregers  No.
Werle  And you won't join the business either?
Gregers  No.
Werle  Well, fine, but I should say, as I intend to remarry, my estate will be divided between the two of us.
Gregers  I don't want any of it.
Werle  You don't want it?
Gregers  No.

Pause.
Werle  Are you going back up to the mill?
Gregers  No, I don't work for you any more.
Werle  What are you going to do?
Gregers  I want to fulfill my mission, that's all.

Werle  And what then? How are you going to live?
Gregers  I've got some savings.
Werle  How long will that last?
Gregers  My lifetime, I imagine.
Werle  How do you mean?
Gregers  I'm not answering any more questions.
Werle  Goodbye then, Gregers.
Gregers  Goodbye.

Mr Werle goes out. Hjalmar peeps in.
Hjalmar  Has he gone?
Gregers  Yes.
Hjalmar and Relling enter. Gina and Hedvig enter too, from the kitchen.
Relling  Well, that was lunch ruined.
Gregers  Get your coat, Hjalmar, you're coming for a long walk with me.
Hjalmar  Of course. What did your father want? Was it something to do with me?
Gregers  Come on. We need to talk. I'll go and get my coat.
Gregers goes out through the front door.
Gina  Don't go with him, Ekdal.
Relling  No, don't do it — stay where you are.
Hjalmar puts on his hat and overcoat.
Hjalmar  Nonsense! He's a childhood friend and he wants to open his heart to me in private —
Relling  Damn it, can't you see the man's insane? He's mad!