

STOCKMANN KIIL

Kiil Fresh air is good for you. How are you today?

Stockmann I'm fine.

Kiil Good. You'll need to be. I have something here. *(He holds up a bundle of shares.)*

Stockmann Shares in the Baths?

Kiil Yes. Going for a song.

Stockmann You bought them?

Kiil I bought as many as I could afford.

Stockmann Morten, in a few days they'll be worthless . . .

Kiil And if you're smart, they may not be worthless.

Stockmann I've done all I can to save the Baths - no one will listen . . . The people of this town are mad.

Kiil You said yesterday that the worst muck, the worst shit comes from my tannery. That means, if it was true, that my grandfather and my father and now me have been poisoning this town for three generations. Did you not think before you opened your mouth? You really expect me to take it lying down?

Stockmann I'm afraid you have to accept it.

Kiil No, I don't accept it. I want to keep my good name, my reputation. I'm well aware people call me the Skunk - I want to know who named me that . . . No one has any right to call me that. I want to live and to die with my name clean.

Stockmann And how will you do that?

Kiil You will do it. You will make me clean.

Stockmann Me?

Kiil *(holds up the shares)* Do you know what I bought these with? You won't. With the money that Katrine, Petra and the boys were to get from me. I had put some aside for them, you see.

Stockmann You've spent their money on shares in the Baths?

Kiil Yes. All their money is now invested in the Baths. I want to see if you really are mad, Thomas. If you keep mouthing off about my tannery and the poisoned water, then you will be inflicting a life of poverty on your wife and your children. Now, who'd do a thing like that - the head of a family - unless he was a madman?

Stockmann Yes, but I am a madman. I am a madman.

Kiil You are not that insane - your wife, your children . . .

Stockmann Why didn't you speak to me before you did this?

Kiil I've only done what needed doing.

Stockmann But I'm so sure. I am so sure I'm right.

Kiil If you keep saying that, these will be worth nothing.

Stockmann But, damn it, there must be something, some chemical that could purify the water.

Kiil Something to kill off all those nasty animals that no one can see.

Stockmann Yes, or render them harmless.

Kiil What about rat poison?

Stockmann They all think I imagined this. That I made it up. All right, let them. Let them be right. I did. I imagined it.

Kiil I'd wait a day or two before replacing your windows, to be on the safe side.

Stockmann I have to talk to Katrine. She'll know what to do.

Kiil Do that. Listen to her. Listen to the advice of a sensible woman.

Stockmann (*rushes towards him*) That is their money! They're your grandchildren! You devil!

Kiil I want your answer by two. Yes or no. If it is no, the shares will go the foundation.

Stockmann And Katrine will get nothing?

Kiil Nothing. Not a penny.