

# THE WILD DUCK

By Simon Stone with Chris Ryan after Ibsen.



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**Hjalmar** I was scared you weren't going to come.

**Gina** Why?

**Hjalmar** We didn't exactly leave things on a great note.

**Gina** No, we didn't.

*Beat.*

I'm sorry that I was so unbearable.

**Hjalmar** I understand.

**Gina** I was crazy.

**Hjalmar** We both were.

*Beat.*

**Gina** Have you been seeing anyone?

**Hjalmar** God no.

**Gina** Right.

**Hjalmar** You?

**Gina** No. Look at us losers.

*Beat.*

**Hjalmar** There's no chance that we're ever going to...

**Gina** No.

**Hjalmar** No. Didn't think so.

**Gina** We'd just punish each other.

**Hjalmar** I know. Still. Sometimes I think about it.

**Gina** So do I. A lot.

**Hjalmar** I don't know what I'm going to do.

*She puts her arms around him. He starts crying immediately.*

**Gina** Hjalmar.

**Hjalmar** Is it ever going to be easier?

**Gina** Yes.

**Hjalmar** I don't think it will.

**Gina** It will.

**Hjalmar** I want Hedvig back.

**Gina** So do I.

**Hjalmar** It hurts too much. I actually can't bear it. I actually can't.

**Gina** Darling. It will be easier.

**Hjalmar** I don't even have you.

**Gina** You do.

**Hjalmar** Promise me we'll never stop being friends.

**Gina** I promise.

**Hjalmar** I'll catch the train up and visit you and you'll come to all my exhibitions.

**Gina** Absolutely.

**Hjalmar** And every year we'll meet here and drink a bottle of champagne together.

**Gina** Yes.

**Hjalmar** Promise me.

**Gina** I promise.

*He pulls himself together.*

**Hjalmar** Good. I'm glad we got that settled. Do you want another glass?

**Gina** I should get going.

**Hjalmar** Of course.

**Gina** It's nice here isn't it?

**Hjalmar** It's beautiful.

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**Gina** Remember during the funeral, when you were doing the eulogy and those two birds landed outside here and started pecking at the glass?

**Hjalmar** No I don't.

**Gina** They did it all through your eulogy. I've decided it was a good omen not a bad one.

**Hjalmar** Let's hope so.

**Gina** I can find my own way if you want to stay.

**Hjalmar** No, I'll come.

*He packs the bottle and glasses away.*

**Gina** You're looking fitter.

**Hjalmar** Lifting beer kegs.

**Gina** Right.

*They walk off. We hear their conversation continue through the speakers.*

**Hjalmar** I hope they don't knock that tree down.

**Gina** What do you mean?

**Hjalmar** It's the only clue we have to find where Hedvig's ashes are buried.

**Gina** Right.

**Hjalmar** Six steps from the tree in the direction of the lake. I counted.

**Gina** Is that what you were doing?

**Hjalmar** How else are we going to know?

**Gina** I thought we'd just go to the general area.

**Hjalmar** No. I want to know exactly where she is.

**Gina** We could have got a marker.

**Hjalmar** No. Too ugly. Let's just hope that tree doesn't get some kind of disease.

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**Gina** Yeah.

**Hjalmar** There's a taxi.

*He hails it. We hear it pull over.*

**Gina** Thank you for this morning.

**Hjalmar** I love you Gina.

**Gina** I love you too.

**Hjalmar** Maybe we'll see each other in a few months.

**Gina** Definitely. I'll call you when I get in tonight.

**Hjalmar** That would be nice.

**Gina** Good luck with your exhibition.

**Hjalmar** Thanks.

**Gina** Okay. Bye.

**Hjalmar** Bye.

*She gets in. She closes the door. We hear the taxi drives off. Hjalmar exhales. We hear the sound of the street and Hjalmar's breathing for a while, and then we fade to silence.*