

# ASE'S DEATH

A Dramatic Reading

by  
Henrik Ibsen



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From "Peer Gynt."

Scene, Ase Gynt's room in her mountain cottage. It is evening. The room is lighted by a wood fire on the open hearth. Ase lies on the bed, fumbling about restlessly with her hands on the coverlet.

ASE: Oh, Lord my God, isn't he coming?  
The time drags so drearily on.  
I have no one to send with a message; and I've much, oh so much, to say.  
I haven't a moment to lose now!  
So quickly! Who could have foreseen!  
Oh me, if I only were certain  
I'd not been too strict with him!

Peer Gynt enters.

You've come then, my boy, my dear!  
But how dare you show face in the valley?  
You know your life's forfeit here.

PEER: Oh, life must e'en go as it may go;  
I felt that I must look in.

ASE: Ay, now I can depart in peace!

PEER: Depart? Why, what are you saying?  
Where is it you think to go?

ASE: Alas, Peer, the end is nearing;  
I have but a short time left.

PEER: (Writhing) See there now! I'm fleeing from trouble;  
I thought at least here I'd be free--!  
Are your hands and your feet a-cold, then?

ASE: Ay, Peer; all will soon be o'er.  
When you see that my eyes are glazing, you must close them carefully.  
And then you must see to my coffin; and be sure it's a fine one, dear.

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