Synopsis

The story began with on Midsummer Eve, a great holiday held in Swedish countryside. Miss Julie as a daughter of a count has broken her engagement to the county attorney because she treated her fiancée badly. Julie’s mother had brought her up as a boy and made the men on the estate do the women’s work, the women do the men’s, destroying the economy. Julie’s mother had burned down the house on the day the insurance expired and arranged for her lover to lend her husband the money needed to repair the place.

On that Midsummer Eve, there was a party to celebrate on Miss Julie’s house. She even participated on that party and danced with the servant. She dared to do so because her father was away. Then, Jean, who was one of her father’s servant, left the party after dancing once with Miss Julie. After dancing with Miss Julie, Jean returned to the kitchen to eat and to see Kristin, who was his fiancé and also the cook.

Miss Julie still wanted to dance with Jean so she came to the kitchen to ask Jean to dance with her. After dancing for the second time, Jean went back to the kitchen because he was afraid if Kristin will be angry with him as he promised to dance with her later. Julie demanded Jean to dance with her once more after Jean had changed from his livery to a tailcoat. Then, Kristin fell asleep in the chair and Miss Julie asked him to get her something to drink. They drank beer. In class terms, Julie, the aristocrat, is Jean’s superior and therefore stronger than him. She is able to give him orders, to feel conscious of ‘lowering’ herself by being familiar with him. She carries the strength of the whole aristocratic tradition as the ruling class shaping the lives of the people beneath them.

After finishing with the beer, Miss Julie teased Kristin by trying to wake her up but Kristin moved to her own room asleep. Jean told about his early life and how
he had been in love with his young mistress. Julie’s speech starts out with impudent confidence and condescension towards Jean and Kristin. Jean warns her she is playing with fire but she continues to flirt with and tease him. He repeatedly warns her, and when she finally and fatally descends to his level he becomes the superior giving orders. He has the most complex psychology in the play: he has educated himself, been abroad, seen society and cynically sized it up; he despises his own background. Rather than expose themselves for comment and scandal for being drunk in the kitchen, both of them went to Jean’s room. Julie loses her advantage when she makes love to Jean, and her confident language disintegrates when faced with the reality of her new situation.

After the servants had gone, neither Jean nor Julie knew what to do. They decided to leave the country. Jean suggested to Italy to open a hotel there. To cheer Miss Julie up, Jean offered her to drink wine. She saw that wine was her father’s wine and accused Jean of being stealing it. When they became a little calm, Miss Julie told Jean about herself and recited to go abroad or commit suicide but Jean refused that idea.

Kristin persuaded Jean to be ready to go to church with her. When they both got dressed, Miss Julie met him in the kitchen. She brought a birdcage. When Jean said that Miss Julie could not bring the pet with her, suddenly she said it were better to see the bird die. Seeing her bird die, Miss Julie turned to hate Jean. When Kristin appeared, Miss Julie persuaded her to go with them later. Jean left the room while they were talking, and came back with a razor in his hand. Kristin left both of them and went to the church.

Miss Julie asked Jean what he would do if he were in her position. Jean indicated the razor in his hand. At the moment, Miss Julie’s father returned back
home and gave order to Jean to bring him boots and coffee in half an hour. But in a sudden, Miss Julie took that razor Jean gave to her and freed her by commit suicide.