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SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

The Seagull takes place at the estate of retired judge Peter Sorin. His sister, Irina Abkadina, a glamorous, selfish actress, is visiting with her lover, the successful writer Boris Trigorin. Irina's twenty-five-year-old son, Constantine Treplieff, also a writer, lives on the estate with his uncle. Constantine has written a play and stages it for his mother's benefit during her visit; Nina is featured in a major role. During the performance, Irina refuses to take her son's play seriously and keeps interrupting. Nina is impressed by Trigorin's reputation and becomes infatuated with him. Constantine depressed by his inability to inspire love in either his mother or Nina. Then, he shoots a seagull and brings it to Nina and claiming that he will soon take his own life as well. Nina and Trigorin begin an affair, and she will eventually join him in Moscow.

The play's final act takes place several years later. Sorin is now very ill, and Trigorin and Irina have come to visit him at the estate. Nina had become pregnant but lost the baby after being abandoned by Trigorin. Nina returns to the estate and speaks with Constantine, who still loves her. Despite her continuing feelings for Trigorin, she leaves the estate to accept a position with a mediocre theatrical company in a small town. Constantine now feels utterly desolate and lonely, and, while the others are playing cards, he kills himself.