

PYGMALION

Interpreted by Anglophones

The story that inspired My Fair Lady



PYGMALION: SCRIPT

SCENE 1: Market

STREETS OF LONDON. ELIZA is wearing poor clothes and is trying to sell flowers to anyone who passes by.

ELIZA

Flow'rs! Flow'rs! A bucket o'flowers, sir?

HIGGINS crosses the stage ignoring her.

ELIZA

Hey! Look where you're going, dear!

After him, PICKERING passes and politely refuses to buy flowers.

ELIZA

Flow'rs, flow'rs! Won't ya buy any flow'rs from a poor good girl, sir? Couple o'buckets 'alf a crown!

PICKERING

Sorry, dear, I don't have any change.

ELIZA

Oh, I can change 'alf a crown!

PICKERING

Sorry, I... Oh, wait a minute! Here's three half pence for you!

ELIZA

Thank you, sir.

PICKERING goes on his way. ELIZA stays in her position, as if she is seeing people come and go, and starts daydreaming as she sings.

SONG 1. Flowers

ELIZA

Flow'rs, flow'rs!
Buy these flow'rs, flow'rs.
Every day, every hour, flow'rs.

That's how I earn my livin'
from the morning 'til the night
Be it hot or be it freezin'
Here's where I see life go by

Flow'rs, flow'rs!
I'm stuck here selling flow'rs, flow'rs.
Every day, every hour, flow'rs.

If I only had money
And a big, cosy house
I would live without worries
And I'd buy tons of chocolate for my mouth!

But let's face it, I'm just dreaming,
and that's why I'll keep selling

Flow'rs, flow'rs!
I'm stuck here selling flow'rs, flow'rs.
Every day, every hour, flow'rs.

HIGGINS has been hearing the song, and approached discreetly, taking notes in a notebook.

ELIZA

Hey! Who are you? What do you want from me? I'm doin' nothing wrong! Leave me alone!

HIGGINS

There, there! Calm down, I mean no harm!

ELIZA

Why'd ya take down me words? Show me! You just show me what you wrote 'bout me. Come on, show me!

HIGGINS shows her his notebook, which is full of phonetic transcriptions.

ELIZA

That ain't proper writin'. I can't read it.

HIGGINS

I can. It says "Won't ya buy any flow'rs from a poor good girl, sir? Couple o' buckets 'alf a crown!"

PICKERING has been hearing them and comes closer.

PICKERING

So are you a detective? She was doing no harm!

HIGGINS

Oh, I am not a detective. How do you come to be up so far east? You were born in Cheapside.

ELIZA

What 'arm is there in my leavin' Lisson Grove? It was a dirty place to live. And I had to pay too much!

PICKERING

Come, come, you have the right to live where you please.

ELIZA

I'm a good girl, I am!

PICKERING

How did you know, sir? Do you do this sort of thing for a living at a music hall?

HIGGINS

I have thought of it. Perhaps I will one day.

PICKERING

How do you do it, may I ask?

HIGGINS

Simple phonetics. The science of speech, that's my profession. Also my hobby. Anyone can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshire man, but I can place a man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.

ELIZA

Oh, boring! Ya finished yet?

HIGGINS

Why are you still here? Can't you even speak a word properly in English?

ELIZA

Boooh!

HIGGINS

'Boooh!' What was that? Why can't the English learn to speak? It is this awful sound that keeps her in the streets, not the rags or the dirt on her face.

PICKERING

What do you mean?

HIGGINS

I could teach her how to speak properly, and in six months I could pass her off as a duchess at an Embassy Ball.

ELIZA

What's that you say?

HIGGINS

You insult the English language when you speak. But I could change that if I wanted.

ELIZA

Ha! You don't believe that, sir?

PICKERING

Why not? Anything is possible. I, myself, am a student of Indian dialects.

HIGGINS

Are you? Do you know Colonel Pickering?

PICKERING

I am Colonel Pickering. Who are you?

HIGGINS

I'm Henry Higgins, author of 'Higgins' Universal Alphabet.'

PICKERING

I have come from India to meet you!

HIGGINS

I was going to India to meet you! Where are you staying?

PICKERING

At the Carleton.

HIGGINS

No, you're not. You're staying at my home! You come with me. There is so much to talk about! It will be fascinating.

The two men start to leave.

ELIZA

Hey! What 'bout me?

HIGGINS

What about you?

ELIZA

Won't ya buy me a bucket?

HIGGINS

Here. Keep the change.

He drops some coins in her basket and they leave. ELIZA is visibly disappointed.

SCENE 2: Higgins' Home

PICKERING is sitting and listening to HIGGINS vocalising as he points at a chart with different phonetic symbols. He is using a tuning fork.

HIGGINS

...AAaaaeeEEeeiilloOouUUuu... How many vocal sounds did you hear altogether?

PICKERING

I think I counted 24.

HIGGINS

Wrong by 100. To be exact, you heard 130. Do you want to listen again?

PICKERING

I think that's really quite enough for one morning.

The doorbell rings. HIGGINS ignores it.

HIGGINS

Oh, come on, just one more time. Listen carefully.

PICKERING

No, really, I-

HIGGINS

aaAAEEeeii...

The doorbell rings again, now more insistently.

PICKERING

Someone is at the door.

HIGGINS

...lliiiioooOOOo...

PICKERING

I will go open myself.

PICKERING stands up and goes to the door. HIGGINS doesn't interrupt his vocalisations, as he is looking to the opposite direction and not listening. PICKERING comes back, followed by ELIZA.

PICKERING

Look who we have here.

ELIZA

Might I 'ave a word with you?

HIGGINS

Oh no, no. Not you. Sorry, I have no time for you. Be off with you.

ELIZA

Don't be an ass. You ain't 'eard what I come for yet.

HIGGINS

No, I haven't, because I don't care.

ELIZA

I ain't come here to ask for any compliment, and if you don't want my money, I can go elsewhere.

HIGGINS

What money? What are you talking about?

ELIZA

Now you know, don't ya? I'm come to 'ave lessons. And to pay for 'em, too, make no mistake.

HIGGINS

What do you want me to say?

ELIZA

Well, if you were a gentleman, you'd ask me to sit down, I'm bringin' you business.

HIGGINS

I am a gentleman, but I am not so sure you are a lady.

ELIZA

Aaaaargh!!

PICKERING

What do you want, my girl?

ELIZA

I want to be a lady in a flow'r shop, 'stead of sellin' at a corner in the street. But they won't take me unless I can talk more genteel. He said he could teach me. Well, 'ere I am ready to pay 'im.

HIGGINS

How much?

ELIZA

Now you're talking!

HIGGINS

Sit down.

ELIZA

If you're goin' t' make a compliment of it-

HIGGINS

Sit down!

ELIZA

Aww...

PICKERING

What is your name?

ELIZA

Eliza Doolittle.

PICKERING

Won't you sit down, miss Doolittle?

ELIZA

Oh. I don't mind if I do.

ELIZA sits down as PICKERING offers her a chair.

HIGGINS

So. How much are you going to pay?

ELIZA

A lady I know pays 18 pence to a real French gentleman for teaching her French. You will not ask me the same for teaching me my own language! I can pay one shilling. Take it or leave it.

HIGGINS

You know, Pickering, if you think of a shilling as a percentage of this girl's income; it works out as fully equivalent of 60 or 70 pounds from a millionaire. It's the best offer I've ever had!

ELIZA stands up, terrified.

ELIZA

Sixty pounds? What are you talkin' about? I don't have that money! Never offered you 60 pounds!

HIGGINS

Sit down!

ELIZA

Anybody would think you are my father!

HIGGINS

If I decide to teach you, I will be worse than two fathers to you.

PICKERING

Higgins, do you remember you boasted you could pass her off as a duchess at the Embassy Ball? I will say you are the greatest teacher alive if you do that. I will bet you all the expenses of the experiment that you can't do it. I'll even pay for the lessons.

ELIZA

You're real good. Thank ye, sir.

HIGGINS

How could I say no? She is so deliciously low. And not very clean.

ELIZA

I'm clean! I washed my face an' hands before I come, I did.

HIGGINS

I will take it. I will make a duchess of this... of her. We'll start today. This moment. *(to ELIZA)* Go and clean yourself. *(To himself)* We will burn all her clothes and order some new ones. These ones stink.

ELIZA

What?

PICKERING

Does it occur to you, Higgins, that the girl has some feelings?

HIGGINS

No, I don't think so. No feelings we need to worry about. Well, have you, Eliza?

ELIZA

I got me feelings same as anyone else.

HIGGINS

Come on, have some chocolates, Eliza.

ELIZA

Chocolate?? I hope it ain't poison, you wicked man.

HIGGINS

Look. I will take one half, and you take the other.

He splits one chocolate, eats one half and gives her the other. She eats it with delight, but still upset.

PICKERING

Higgins, I think you should let her know about the experiment.

HIGGINS

Right. Eliza, you will stay here for six months, learning how to speak beautifully like a lady. If you are good and do what you are told, you will sleep in a proper bedroom, have lots to eat, money to buy chocolates. At the end of six months, I will take you to Buckingham Palace, in a carriage, beautifully dressed. If the king finds out you are not a lady, the police will take you to the Tower of London, where your head will be cut off. If you are not found out, you shall have the chance to work as a lady in a shop. What do you say? Are you a good girl? Or a wicked ungrateful girl?

ELIZA has been getting nervous as HIGGINS ranted. Now she is stressed and angry.

ELIZA

I'll do it, but if I don't like it, I won't stay! You hear me? I'm a good girl, I am!

ELIZA leaves.

PICKERING

That was not very polite.

HIGGINS

That's my job now. In six months... in three, if she is good enough, I will take her anywhere and I will pass her off as anything.

PICKERING

I was talking about you. No woman will ever want you if you behave like this.

HIGGINS

Well, I hope so. Because I don't want a woman in my life.

SCENE 3: Higgins' House

Some weeks later. ELIZA sits as she repeats vocal exercises once and again, unsuccessfully. HIGGINS walks up and down the room, listening and losing his temper.

ELIZA

...aaaAAAAaaaaeeeEEEEeeeeeiii..

HIGGINS

No. Horrible.

ELIZA

...iiiiiiiiiii...

HIGGINS

Awful. Keep trying.

ELIZA

...iiiooOOOOoouu... No, I can't! I'm so tired!

HIGGINS

Did I tell you to stop? Say your vowels!

ELIZA

I know my vowels. I knew 'em before I come.

HIGGINS

If you know them, say them!

ELIZA

Ahyee, e, iyee, ow, you.

HIGGINS

No! A, E, I, O, U.

ELIZA

That's what I said. Ahyee, e, iyee, ow, you. That's what I've said for three days an' I'm tired!

HIGGINS

Let's try slowly. Say A.

ELIZA

Ahyee.

HIGGINS

A!

ELIZA

Ahyee!

HIGGINS

Keep trying. If you don't say your vowels properly by the end of this day, there will be no lunch, no dinner, and no chocolates for you.

HIGGINS leaves.

ELIZA

Oh, I hate you, 'Enry 'Iggins! I hate you so much!

HIGGINS comes back discreetly. ELIZA notices his presence. She looks at him awkwardly. He remains serious.

HIGGINS

A.

ELIZA

Ahyee... Ahye...

Fade out. When the light is back, they are in a different position, as if some time had passed.

HIGGINS

Alright, Eliza. Say it again. 'The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.'

ELIZA

'The rine in Spine staisminely in the pline.'

HIGGINS

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

ELIZA

Didn't I 'saiy' that?

HIGGINS

No, Eliza, you did not 'saiy' that. You didn't even SAY that.

PICKERING crosses the room, he stops to speak to HIGGINS.

PICKERING

Come on, Higgins. Don't torture the poor girl.

HIGGINS looks at him, but ignores his words.

HIGGINS

Let's try with the H. "In Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen." Now repeat after me: In Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen. (*The second time, he says it faster*)

ELIZA

In 'artford, 'ereford and 'ampshire, 'urricanes 'ardly ever 'appen.

HIGGINS

Oh, no, no! Have you no ear at all?

ELIZA

Oh, I do nothing well, do I?

HIGGINS

You just start from the beginning! Ha! Ha! Go on! Ha!

PICKERING leaves.

ELIZA

'A! 'A! 'A!...

Another time lapse: fade out, fade in and position change.

HIGGINS

Again, Eliza. 'How kind of you to let me come.' (*musically*)

ELIZA

How-kind-of-you-to-let-me-come.

HIGGINS

No. 'KIND of you.' 'KIND of you.' How KIND of you to let me come.

ELIZA

How-kind-of-you—

HIGGINS

No. 'KIND of you.' It's like 'cup of tea.' Kind of you. Cup of tea. Say, 'cup of tea.'

ELIZA

Cuppatea.

HIGGINS

No. 'A cup of tea.' Again, Eliza.

ELIZA

Cuppatea...

HIGGINS

Can't you hear the difference? Say 'cup.'

ELIZA

Cup.

HIGGINS

Then say 'of'...

ELIZA

Of.

HIGGINS

Now say 'cup, cup, cup, cup, of, of, of, of-

ELIZA, HIGGINS

Cup, cup, cup, cup, of, of, of, of-

HIGGINS

Better. Have a chocolate.

He puts a chocolate in her mouth.

HIGGINS

Now say it again. 'How kind of you to let me come.'

ELIZA tries to repeat it with her mouth full.

ELIZA

'Ow 'ind o' you to wet we come. I can't!

Another time lapse: fade out, fade in and this time, HIGGINS looks exhausted, and ELIZA looks stressed. PICKERING is half asleep.

HIGGINS

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

ELIZA

I can't! I'm so tired! I'm so tired...

PICKERING

Come on, Higgins! It is very late, be reasonable.

HIGGINS

I am always reasonable. I know you are tired, Eliza. But I know you can do it. And you will do it. Now try it again.

ELIZA remains silent for a few moments, as if the words had affected her. Then she speaks slowly.

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

HIGGINS

What was that?

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

Both HIGGINS and PICKERING raise their heads, surprised.

HIGGINS

Again.

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!

HIGGINS

I think she's got it.

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

HIGGINS

She's got it! She's got it!

They celebrate it and dance merrily.

SONG 2. The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

ELIZA, HIGGINS, PICKERING

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

HIGGINS

So how's the weather there again?

ELIZA

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

ELIZA, HIGGINS, PICKERING

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

HIGGINS

Yes! And how is the wind so strong in Britain?

ELIZA

In Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen.

HIGGINS

In Hartford

ELIZA

Hereford

PICKERING

And Hampshire!

ELIZA, HIGGINS, PICKERING

Hurricanes hardly ever happen!

HIGGINS

How kind of you to let me come!

ELIZA

How kind of you to let me come!

ELIZA, HIGGINS, PICKERING

How kind of you to let us come!

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!

The song ends with the three characters celebrating.

HIGGINS

Let's test her in public as soon as possible!

PICKERING

Well, I really need to sleep, we can discuss this tomorrow. Good night, my friends.

HIGGINS, ELIZA

Good night.

HIGGINS

I know! I will take you to the races!

SCENE 4: The races

ELIZA enters holding HIGGINS's arm. She looks around her, amazed, but she keeps her manners perfectly.

HIGGINS

Here we are! The races! Remember the instructions. Keep to two subjects: the weather and everybody's health.

ELIZA

'Fine day!' and 'How do you do?' I know.

HIGGINS

And don't let yourself go on.

ELIZA

I know!

HIGGINS

Alright, alright. Let me see... there! Do you see that gentleman over there?

He points somewhere out of the audience's sight.

ELIZA

Where?

HIGGINS

There!

ELIZA

Who?

HIGGINS

That gentleman! The one who just saw us because we are being so indiscreet... and he is coming... and remember all I taught you!

The PRINCE enters from the side HIGGINS was pointing to and walks towards them. ELIZA and HIGGINS have no idea of who he is.

PRINCE

Good morning, my lady. Sir.

ELIZA

How kind of you to let me come.

PRINCE

I beg your pardon?

HIGGINS

Not yet! Oh... Please let me introduce you to Miss Eliza Doolittle. I am Professor Henry Higgins.

PRINCE

So nice to meet you. What a lovely creature.

ELIZA

How do you do?

PRINCE

How do you do?

ELIZA nods politely.

PRINCE

The first race was very exciting, Miss Doolittle. I am so sorry that you missed it. Would you do me the honour of joining me in my box to watch the next one?

HIGGINS

It will be our pleasure.

They all go to the box and the PRINCE offers them seats.

PRINCE

Please, sit down.

HIGGINS

Thank you, sir. *(To ELIZA)* Now.

ELIZA

How kind of you to let me come.

PRINCE

It is definitely my pleasure.

ELIZA

What a fine day.

PRINCE

A fine day indeed! And with such company, what else could I ask for? I hope it will not rain.

ELIZA

'The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.'

HIGGINS celebrates it, almost unable to fully conceal his emotion. Nobody sees him.

ELIZA

'But in Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen.'

PRINCE

How awfully funny. Oh, look! The race has begun.

They stare as the horses run. The sound of their hooves approaching.

ELIZA

Come on. Come on, Dover.

HIGGINS and the PRINCE look at her for a moment. HIGGINS shows some concern.

ELIZA

Come on. Come on... Come on, Dover! Move your bloomin' arse!!

HIGGINS and the PRINCE are shocked by ELIZA's outburst. For a short moment, it seems funny to HIGGINS. ELIZA realizes what she has just said, and feels embarrassed.

HIGGINS

Er.. I think we would better get going. Thank you very much, sir, for your invitation. Have a nice day. Come on, Eliza.

HIGGINS holds ELIZA's arm and they leave. The PRINCE stays there, still in shock.

SCENE 5: Higgins' Home

HIGGINS and ELIZA are in the room.

HIGGINS

You almost made it!

ELIZA

I am so sorry, Professor Higgins! I don't know what happened to me.

HIGGINS

Work! Work! Work! All we need to work on is your manners. And maybe on your self-control. But we are almost there! What could possibly go wrong?

PICKERING enters.

PICKERING

Everything, Higgins. It is inhuman to continue. Do you realise what you have got to teach this girl in six weeks? You've got to teach her to walk, to talk, address a duke, a lord, an ambassador. It's absolutely impossible.

HIGGINS

So?

PICKERING

I want to call off the bet. I know you are a stubborn man, but so am I. This experiment is over. Do you understand, Higgins? It is over.

HIGGINS

Ha! You know I am winning, that is why you want to call off the bet. Well, I am not giving up. We will go to the ball, and not one single lady or gentleman will even suspect the fraud. Eliza, you should go and rest. We have work to do, and you must be ready for the ball.

ELIZA

Yes, professor. Good night, Colonel.

ELIZA leaves.

PICKERING

You don't understand. I worry about the poor girl; I don't want her to suffer any other embarrassment, just for the sake of a stupid bet. I don't want to see it.

HIGGINS

If you don't want to see it, then don't come to the ball.

PICKERING

I am definitely not going to the ball. And I strongly recommend that you do the same.

PICKERING leaves.

HIGGINS

I will think about it.

HIGGINS serves himself a glass of port. He drinks it.

Sure I will.

SONG 3. She's the one

HIGGINS

She will make me win,
She will do it great!
If you don't believe me,
Just sit and wait!

She herself will shine
Speaking fine, divine,
A poor riff-raff girl
Will fool everyone.

She was nothing, but now
I don't even know how
She's one of a kind
Just keep this in mind.

She's the one.
She's one of a kind!
She's the one.
She's one of a kind!

SCENE 6: The ball

Music. A voice announces the guests as they arrive at the party.

OFF

Professor Henry Higgins and Miss Eliza Doolittle.

HIGGINS and ELIZA enter the ballroom. She is wearing a beautiful dress and moves gracefully. They nod as if they were seeing other partygoers. The voice keeps announcing other guests.

HIGGINS

You look stunning tonight.

ELIZA

Thank you, professor.

HIGGINS

I am sure this time we will make it. Remember all I taught you.

ELIZA

I will.

HIGGINS

Shall we dance?

ELIZA

Of course.

They begin to dance. Then the music changes and trumpets announce a special appearance.

OFF

Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince.

HIGGINS and ELIZA look quickly at each other, and then they stand straight as a sign of respect. Then the PRINCE enters solemnly, looking at the people. As soon as HIGGINS and ELIZA see him, they look surprised. The PRINCE sees them and walks to them.

PRINCE

Miss Doolittle. What a lovely surprise! Professor Higgins.

HIGGINS, ELIZA

Your Grace.

PRINCE

Miss Doolittle, would you like to dance with me?

ELIZA

It would be my pleasure, your grace.

PRINCE

If you will excuse us. *(To HIGGINS)*

HIGGINS

Your grace.

The PRINCE takes ELIZA to the centre of the stage and they dance. HIGGINS stays to one side watching them dance. On his face, we see his inner struggle, dealing with his feelings, but trying not to show it.

PRINCE

I am sorry I did not tell you who I really was, the other day at the races. Sometimes I prefer to go unnoticed.

ELIZA

I understand, Your Grace.

The music gets louder, so they keep talking but we can't hear them. They dance until the music ends. Meanwhile, HIGGINS is feeling uncomfortable, but he doesn't know why. When the music ends, the PRINCE takes ELIZA back to HIGGINS.

PRINCE

She really is an outstanding lady. I hope you enjoy the rest of the evening. Professor. Miss.

HIGGINS, ELIZA

Your grace.

ELIZA

It has been a delightful evening.

They bow and the PRINCE leaves.

HIGGINS

Yes, delightful indeed.

ELIZA

What do you mean?

HIGGINS comes back to earth, and pretends he is quite himself.

HIGGINS

Well, we convinced everyone. Even the prince! I would say it has been a real success! But maybe we should call it a night.

SCENE 7: Higgins' House

HIGGINS and ELIZA enter. Then, PICKERING. HIGGINS is still troubled, but he puts on a happy face, to celebrate the success. ELIZA isn't very excited, and remains silent.

HIGGINS

We are home! Colonel, you must hear about what happened at the ball.

PICKERING

I have already heard about what happened at the ball.

HIGGINS

Really? Wow, that was quick! News travel fast.

PICKERING

And gossip travels faster! Higgins, you were superb, absolutely superb. Tell us the truth now, weren't you a little bit nervous once or twice?

HIGGINS

Not for a second.

PICKERING

Not during the whole evening?

HIGGINS

Not when I saw we were going to win.

PICKERING

It was an immense achievement.

HIGGINS

If I had not believed that I could do it, I would have given up two months ago.

PICKERING

Absolutely fantastic. Higgins, I salute you.

HIGGINS

Silly people don't know their own silly business.

PICKERING

Tonight, old man, you did it! I didn't think you would succeed, but you did!

HIGGINS

Wait, don't give me all the credit! A lot of the glory goes to you!

For a moment, ELIZA believes she is finally going to get some credit, but then she realises how full of themselves the two men are.

HIGGINS

You should have seen the people wondering who that Miss Doolittle was!

HIGGINS and PICKERING laugh.

HIGGINS

Now, thank God, it is over. I can go to bed without dreading tomorrow.

ELIZA looks at him, offended.

PICKERING

I think I will go to sleep too. Good night. It was a great occasion.

HIGGINS

Good night, Pickering.

PICKERING leaves.

HIGGINS

Well, I am going to bed too. Good night, Eliza. Turn off the lights when you leave.

HIGGINS leaves. ELIZA remains alone and silent. Then she walks slowly to a chair, as her feelings begin to show. She sits down and cries. She cries with anger and frustration.

HIGGINS (OFF)

They must be downstairs. Oh, darn it. I will leave my head behind one of these days. Where are my slippers?

ELIZA

Here are your slippers!

ELIZA grabs the slippers from the floor and throws them at HIGGINS, who is just coming back.

HIGGINS

What on Earth? What is the matter? Is anything wrong?

ELIZA

No, nothing is wrong with you. I won your bet for you, haven't I? That's enough for you! I don't matter, I suppose?

HIGGINS

You won my bet? You presumptuous insect! I won it! Why did you throw the slippers at me?

ELIZA

Because I wanted to smash your face, you selfish brute! Why didn't you leave me where you picked me up? You thank God it is all over. Now you can throw me back again! Won't you?

HIGGINS

Oh, so the creature's nervous after all.

ELIZA

Screw you! Oh, what's to become of me? What's to become of me?

HIGGINS

How do I know what's to become of you? What does it matter?

ELIZA

You don't care. I know you don't care. I mean nothing to you. Not as much as them slippers.

HIGGINS

THOSE slippers!

ELIZA

THOSE slippers! I didn't think it meant any difference now.

HIGGINS looks at her for a moment, not understanding what is wrong with her.

HIGGINS

Why have you suddenly begun going on like this? Have I mistreated you?

ELIZA

No.

HIGGINS

Have I or Colonel Pickering or anyone behaved badly?

ELIZA

No.

HIGGINS

I am glad to hear that. Perhaps you are just tired after this day. Would you like a chocolate?

ELIZA

NO! ... Thank you.

HIGGINS

Well, it is all over now. Nothing more to worry about.

ELIZA

No. Nothing more for you to worry about.

HIGGINS

Now you are free, and you can do what you like.

ELIZA

Oh, what am I fit for? What have you left me fit for? Where am I to go? What am I to do? What's to become of me? I sold flowers, now you have made a lady of me. I am not fit to sell anything else.

HIGGINS

Oh, that is what is worrying you, is it? Don't worry, I don't think you have any difficulty in settling yourself somewhere. Now you should go to bed. You are quite a beautiful girl, but not now that you have been crying. You look like the very devil. But when you are right, you are what I would call... attractive.

HIGGINS

Well, I am going to bed, anyway.

ELIZA

Before you go, sir. Do my clothes belong to me or to Colonel Pickering?

HIGGINS

Why would Pickering want them? Why are you asking this?

ELIZA

I want to know what I can take with me. I don't want to be accused of stealing.

HIGGINS

Stealing?

ELIZA

I want to know.

HIGGINS

Take the whole damned household if you want! Except the jewellery, that's hired.

ELIZA

The ring is not. It's the one you bought me. I don't want it.

ELIZA hands it to HIGGINS. He takes it and makes an attempt to throw it away, but ELIZA confuses it and thinks he is going to hit her.

ELIZA

Don't hit me!!

HIGGINS

Hit you? You infamous creature! How dare you suggest such a thing? It is you who have hurt me.

ELIZA

I am glad. I have got a little of my own back anyhow.

HIGGINS

Damn you! And damn myself for wasting my time and knowledge on you, ungrateful girl!

ELIZA

Good bye, Henry Higgins.

SCENE 8: Higgins' House

The following day. PICKERING is in the room. HIGGINS enters and walks up and down, upset.

HIGGINS

She is gone!

PICKERING

What? Who?

HIGGINS

Eliza! She is gone!

PICKERING

I don't understand. Why would she go without saying a word? Did you bully her after I went to bed?

HIGGINS

She threw the slippers at me! I did not provoke her.

PICKERING

So you did bully her!

HIGGINS

What? No! Are you even listening to what I say?

PICKERING

I am, but in six months I got to know her a little, and I find hard to believe that she threw your slippers at you just because.

HIGGINS

But, as you just said, we did not say anything to her.

PICKERING

Maybe that is the problem. Maybe we should have given her some credit.

HIGGINS

You too, Pickering?

PICKERING

So that's it! I am sure you scorned her as you always do. You are too proud of yourself, my friend! It is not that strange that she left.

HIGGINS

What are you talking about? I gave her everything!

PICKERING

Not everything, maybe.

SONG 4.

PICKERING

You're so proud of your work,
You're so proud of your skills,
which is good, but you were too blind to see
your behaviour to the girl was a bitter pill.
You gave everything to her,
it is true, but hear me, sir,
did it take as much from you
as it had to take from that poor girl?

HIGGINS

Well, maybe you are right
After all the fault was mine
Now I can't stop thinking everything would be just fine
if I only could have her by my side.

ELIZA

I am lost between two worlds
and none of them seems to be mine.
I thought I had found someone.
What am I to do now with my life?

HIGGINS

I want to get her back, but I don't know what to do.

ELIZA

I want to go back home, but I don't know if I should.

PICKERING

Just listen to your heart; it may give you some clue.

The song ends. Lights out.

SCENE 9: Higgins' House

HIGGINS is sitting, sad, listening to Eliza's voice recordings. PICKERING enters, quietly.

PICKERING

Higgins? You have a visitor.

PICKERING lets ELIZA enter.

HIGGINS

Eliza!

PICKERING

I will give you some privacy to talk.

PICKERING leaves. HIGGINS stops the recording, but ELIZA has already heard it.

HIGGINS

What are you doing here? I thought you did not want to be here.

ELIZA

So did I. But something held me back.

HIGGINS

Really? I mean- and what would that be?

ELIZA

Professor Higgins. It wouldn't be fair if I wasn't grateful for all the things you taught me. I am. But you weren't fair to me. I worked very hard to learn to speak properly, and all I got from you was mockery, and-

HIGGINS

I know.

ELIZA

Please let me finish. I know I was a poor girl, and that my kind and your kind may have some differences.

HIGGINS

I do not-

ELIZA

Sir! All I asked for was to be treated with respect. You taught me to be polite, to behave like a lady, but you didn't treat me the way you would treat a real lady. And it hurts.

HIGGINS

You are right, Eliza. I admit it. My behaviour was terrible, and I am sorry. I have never been really good at human relationships, but it is no excuse. When you left, I felt that something was missing in my life. I will try to be a better person. Please stay.

ELIZA

I don't know what to say. People don't change.

HIGGINS

Maybe I can't change, but I care enough to do my best. To be the best of myself. For you, for us. Tell me, is there anything I could do, as a start, to prove to you that I really mean it? Anything that would make you want to stay?

ELIZA

Hmmm... How about some chocolate?

Music. Lights out.