

~~with and a thick pair of boots to kick you with. If you can't appreciate what you've got, you'd better get what you can appreciate.~~

LIZA [desperate] Oh, you are a cruel tyrant. I can't talk to you: you turn everything against me: I'm always in the wrong. But you know very well all the time that you're nothing but a bully. You know I can't go back to the gutter, as you call it, and that I have no real friends in the world but you and the Colonel. You know well I couldn't bear to live with a low common man after you two; and it's wicked and cruel of you to insult me by pretending I could. You think I must go back to Wimpole Street because I have nowhere else to go but father's. But don't you be too sure that you have me under your feet to be trampled on and talked down. I'll marry Freddy, I will, as soon as he's able to support me.

~~HIGGINS [sitting down beside her] Rubbish! you shall marry an ambassador. You shall marry the Governor General of India or the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or somebody who wants a deputy queen. I'm not going to have my masterpiece thrown away on Freddy.~~

~~LIZA. You think I like you to say that. But I haven't forgot what you said a minute ago; and I won't be coaxed round as if I was a baby or a puppy. If I can't have kindness, I'll have independence.~~

~~HIGGINS. Independence? That's middle class blasphemy. We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth.~~

LIZA [rising determinedly] I'll let you see whether I'm dependent on you. If you can preach, I can teach. I'll go and be a teacher.

~~HIGGINS. What'll you teach, in heaven's name?~~

~~LIZA. What you taught me. I'll teach phonetics.~~

~~HIGGINS. Ha! Ha! Ha!~~

LIZA. I'll offer myself as an assistant to Professor Nepean.

~~HIGGINS [rising in a fury] What! That impostor! that humbug! that toadying ignoramus! Teach him my methods! my discoveries! You take one step in his direction and I'll wring your neck. [He lays hands on her]. Do you hear?~~

~~LIZA [defiantly non-resistant] Wring away. What do I care? I knew you'd strike me some day. [He lets her go, stamping with rage at having forgotten himself, and recoils so hastily that he stumbles back into his seat on the ottoman].-Aha! Now I know how to deal with you. What a fool I was not to think of it before! You can't take away the knowledge you gave me. You said I had a finer ear than you. And I can be civil and kind to people, which is more than you can. Aha! That's done you, Henry Higgins, it has. Now I don't care that [snapping her fingers] for your bullying and your big talk. I'll advertize it in the papers that your duchess is only a flower girl that you taught, and that she'll teach anybody to be a duchess just the same in six months for a thousand guineas. Oh, when I think of myself crawling under your feet and being trampled on and called names, when all the time I had only to lift up my finger to be as good as you, I could just kick myself.~~

~~HIGGINS [wondering at her] You damned impudent slut, you! But it's better than snivelling; better than fetching slippers and finding spectacles, isn't it? [Rising] By George, Eliza, I said I'd make a woman of you; and I have. I like you like this.~~

~~LIZA. Yes: you turn round and make up to me now that I'm not afraid of you, and can do without you.~~

~~HIGGINS. Of course I do, you little fool. Five minutes ago you were like a millstone round my neck. Now you're a tower of strength: a consort battleship. You and I and Pickering will be three old bachelors together instead of only two men and a silly girl.~~

~~Mrs. Higgins returns, dressed for the wedding. Eliza instantly becomes cool and elegant.~~

~~MRS. HIGGINS. The carriage is waiting, Eliza. Are you ready?~~

~~LIZA. Quite. Is the Professor coming?~~

~~MRS. HIGGINS. Certainly not. He can't behave himself in church. He makes remarks out loud all the time on the clergyman's pronunciation.~~

~~LIZA. Then I shall not see you again, Professor. Good bye. [She goes to the door].~~

~~MRS. HIGGINS [coming to Higgins] Good-bye, dear.~~

~~HIGGINS. Good-bye, mother. [He is about to kiss her, when he recollects something]. Oh, by the way, Eliza, order a ham and a Stilton cheese, will you? And~~