

~~LIZA. Don't sneer at me. It's mean to sneer at me.~~

HIGGINS. I have never sneered in my life. Sneering doesn't become either the human face or the human soul. I am expressing my righteous contempt for Commercialism. I don't and won't trade in affection. You call me a brute because you couldn't buy a claim on me by fetching my slippers and finding my spectacles. You were a fool: I think a woman fetching a man's slippers is a disgusting sight: did I ever fetch YOUR slippers? I think a good deal more of you for throwing them in my face. No use slaving for me and then saying you want to be cared for: who cares for a slave? If you come back, come back for the sake of good fellowship; for you'll get nothing else. You've had a thousand times as much out of me as I have out of you; and if you dare to set up your little dog's tricks of fetching and carrying slippers against my creation of a Duchess Eliza, I'll slam the door in your silly face.

~~LIZA. What did you do it for if you didn't care for me?~~

~~HIGGINS [heartily] Why, because it was my job.~~

~~LIZA. You never thought of the trouble it would make for me.~~

HIGGINS. Would the world ever have been made if its maker had been afraid of making trouble? Making life means making trouble. There's only one way of escaping trouble; and that's killing things. Cowards, you notice, are always shrieking to have troublesome people killed.

~~LIZA. I'm no preacher: I don't notice things like that. I notice that you don't notice me.~~

HIGGINS [jumping up and walking about intolerantly] Eliza: you're an idiot. I waste the treasures of my Miltonic mind by spreading them before you. Once for all, understand that I go my way and do my work without caring twopence what happens to either of us. I am not intimidated, like your father and your stepmother. So you can come back or go to the devil: which you please.

~~LIZA. What am I to come back for?~~

~~HIGGINS [bouncing up on his knees on the ottoman and leaning over it to her] For the fun of it. That's why I took you on.~~

~~LIZA [with averted face] And you may throw me out tomorrow if I don't do everything you want me to?~~

HIGGINS. ~~Yes; and you may walk out tomorrow if I don't do everything YOU want me to.~~

LIZA. ~~And live with my stepmother?~~

HIGGINS. ~~Yes, or sell flowers.~~

LIZA. ~~Oh! if I only COULD go back to my flower basket! I should be independent of both you and father and all the world! Why did you take my independence from me? Why did I give it up? I'm a slave now, for all my fine clothes.~~

HIGGINS. ~~Not a bit. I'll adopt you as my daughter and settle money on you if you like. Or would you rather marry Pickering?~~

LIZA [~~looking fiercely round at him~~] ~~I wouldn't marry YOU if you asked me; and you're nearer my age than what he is.~~

HIGGINS [~~gently~~] ~~Than he is: not "than what he is."~~

LIZA [~~losing her temper and rising~~] ~~I'll talk as I like. You're not my teacher now.~~

HIGGINS [~~reflectively~~] ~~I don't suppose Pickering would, though. He's as confirmed an old bachelor as I am.~~

LIZA. ~~That's not what I want; and don't you think it. I've always had chaps enough wanting me that way. Freddy Hill writes to me twice and three times a day, sheets and sheets.~~

HIGGINS [~~disagreeably surprised~~] ~~Damn his impudence! [He recoils and finds himself sitting on his heels].~~

LIZA. ~~He has a right to if he likes, poor lad. And he does love me.~~

HIGGINS [~~getting off the ottoman~~] ~~You have no right to encourage him.~~

LIZA. ~~Every girl has a right to be loved.~~

HIGGINS. ~~What! By fools like that?~~

LIZA. ~~Freddy's not a fool. And if he's weak and poor and wants me, may be he'd make me happier than my betters that bully me and don't want me.~~