***Pygmalion* - ACT V (excerpt)**

*Narrator One, Narrator Two, Pickering, Henry Higgins, and Mrs. Higgins*

**Narrator One:** *The next morning, Mrs. Higgins is seated at her drawing-room writing table when Higgins and Pickering arrive to report Eliza’s disappearance. Mrs. Higgins reproaches the men for their treatment of Eliza. Henry Higgins is frantic about Eliza’s disappearance. When Henry threatens to get the police, Mrs. Higgins informs Henry that Eliza is upstairs.*

**HIGGINS** [*amazed*] Upstairs!!! Then I shall jolly soon fetch her downstairs. [*He makes resolutely for the door*]

**MRS. HIGGINS** [*rising and following him*] Be quiet, Henry. Sit down.

**HIGGINS.** I—

**MRS. HIGGINS.** Sit down, dear; and listen to me.

**HIGGINS.** Oh very well, very well, very well. [*He throws himself ungraciously on the ottoman, with his face towards the windows*]. But I think you might have told me this half an hour ago.

**MRS. HIGGINS.** Eliza came to me this morning. She passed the night partly walking about in a rage, partly trying to throw herself into the river and being afraid to, and partly in the Carlton Hotel. She told me of the brutal way you two treated her.

**HIGGINS**[*bounding up again*] What!

**PICKERING** [*rising also*] My dear Mrs. Higgins, she’s been telling you stories. We didn’t treat her brutally. We hardly said a word to her; and we parted on particularly good terms. [*Turning on Higgins*]. Higgins did you bully her after I went to bed?

**HIGGINS.** Just the other way about. She threw my slippers in my face. She behaved in the most outrageous way. I never gave her the slightest provocation. The slippers came bang into my face the moment I entered the room—before I had uttered a word. And used perfectly awful language.

**MRS. HIGGINS.** I think I know pretty well what you did. The girl is naturally rather affectionate, I think.

She had become attached to you both. She worked very hard for you, Henry! I dont think you quite realize what anything in the nature of brain work means to a girl like that. Well, it seems that when the great day of trial came, and she did this wonderful thing for you without making a single mistake, you two sat there and never said a word to her, but talked together of how glad you were that it was all over and how you had been bored with the whole thing. And then you were surprised because she threw your slippers at you! *I* should have thrown the fire-irons at you.

**HIGGINS**. We said nothing except that we were tired and wanted to go to bed. Did we, Pick?

**PICKERING** [*shrugging his shoulders*] That was all.

**MRS. HIGGINS** [*ironically*] Quite sure?

**PICKERING.** Absolutely. Really, that was all.

**MRS. HIGGINS.** You didn't thank her, or pet her, or admire her, or tell her how splendid she'd been.

**HIGGINS** [*impatiently*] But she knew all about that. We didn’t make speeches to her, if that’s what you mean.

**PICKERING** [*conscience stricken*] Perhaps we were a little inconsiderate. Is she very angry?

**MRS. HIGGINS.** If you promise to behave yourself, Henry, I'll ask her to come down.

**Narrator Two:** *Eliza thanks Colonel Pickering for treating her like a lady, but accuses Professor Higgins of always thinking of her as a flower girl. Asserting her need for self respect, Eliza says she will not be returning home to Higgins. Pickering and Higgins both ask Eliza to reconsider. Higgins admits that he has not treated Eliza kindly, but reminds her that he treats all people exactly the same. Admitting that he has “grown accustomed” to her, Higgins tells Eliza that he wants her to return, not as a slave or a romantic interest, but as a friend. When Eliza asserts that she has always been as good as Higgins despite her upbringing, the professor is truly impressed. Though the play ends ambiguously, with the possibility of Eliza marrying Freddy, she and Higgins have admitted their non-conventional need for each other, and Eliza has won Professor Higgins’s respect.*