

FOOTMAN

Professor Henry Higgins.

(HIGGINS appears on landing. KARPATY, hearing his name, turns. As HIGGINS descends into the room, KARPATY flings his arms wide apart and approaches him enthusiastically)

KARPATY

Ah, maestro! Maestro! (He kisses HIGGINS on both cheeks)

HIGGINS

(Surprised, annoyed and wounded by the whiskers)  
Oh! Oh!

KARPATY

You remember me?

HIGGINS

No, I don't. Who the devil are you?

KARPATY

I am your pupil, your first, best and greatest pupil. I am Zoltan Karpathy, that marvelous boy. I have made your name famous throughout Europe. You teach me phonetics. You cannot forget me.

HIGGINS

Why don't you shave?

KARPATY

I have not your imposing appearance; your figure, your brow. Nobody notice me when I shave.

HIGGINS

(Noticing his chest full of medals) Where did you find all those old coins?

KARPATY

(Not at all offended—he can't be) Decorations for language. The Queen of Transylvania is here this evening. I am indispensable to her at these international parties. I speak thirty-two languages. I know everybody in Europe. No imposter escape my detection. And now, Professor, you must introduce me to this glorious creature you escort this evening. She fascinate everyone. Not since Mrs. Langtry came to London . . .

FOOTMAN

His Excellency Dr. Themistocles Stephanos.

*(A well-decorated gentleman and his lady descend the stairs and join a group)*

KARPATY

*(Lowering his voice)* This so-called Greek diplomat pretends he cannot speak English, But he does not deceive me. He is the son of a Yorkshire watchmaker. He speaks English so villainously that he dare not utter a word of it without betraying his origin. I help him to pretend, but I make him pay through the nose. I make them all pay. *(He irritatingly strokes HIGGINS' lapel)* I look forward to meeting your lady. *(He bows, a bit too low, and rejoins his group)*

*(PICKERING, who has overheard this conversation, is in a state when HIGGINS goes to him)*

PICKERING

Higgins, I say!

MRS. HIGGINS

*(Nervously)* Where's Eliza?

HIGGINS

Upstairs. Last minute adjustment.

PICKERING

I say, Higgins, let's not risk it. Let's collect her and leave immediately.

MRS. HIGGINS

Henry, do you think it wise to stay?

HIGGINS

Stay? Why not?

FOOTMAN

Miss Eliza Doolittle.

*(ELIZA descends the stairs. HIGGINS crosses to join her at the foot. Everyone turns and everyone stares. KARPATY immediately comes forward)*

KARPATY

Ah, Professor, you must introduce me . . .

*(He is interrupted by the strains of a regal march as the QUEEN OF TRANSYLVANIA and CONSORT make their grand entrance into the room. He re-*