

My Fair Lady by Alan Jay Lerner, adapted from Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

*ELIZA DOLITTLE is a common flower girl who is used by Professor Higgins, a linguistics professor, to win a bet. He decides to teach her elocution and manners to pass her off as a duchess. In this scene Eliza is using the skills he has taught her to meet some society people at Royal Ascot.*

ELIZA:

(greeting the guests) How kind of you to let me come. How do you do? How do you do? How do you do? Good afternoon, Professor Higgins.

(A guest mentions the weather)

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain. But in Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen. What is wrong with that, young man? I bet I got it right.

(Someone else mentions the worry of cold weather and flu)

My aunt died of influenza, so they said. But it's my belief they done the old woman in. Why should she die of influenza...when she'd come through diphtheria right enough the year before.

Fairly blue with it she was. They all thought she was dead. But my father, he kept ladling gin down her throat. Then she come to so sudden she bit the bowl off the spoon. Now what call would a woman with that strength in her, have to die of influenza?

And what become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it. And what I say is, them 'as pinched it, done her in.

Do I not? Them she lived with would have killed her for a hatpin, let alone a hat. Not her. Gin was mother's milk to her. Besides, my father poured so much down his own throat he knew the good of it. Drank? My word. Something chronic.

Here, what are you sniggering at? Well, if I was doing it proper, what was you sniggering at? Have I said anything I oughtn't? Well, that's a mercy anyhow.