

DOOLITTLEAct 1
Scene 5*(X U to R of HIGGINS, Leans on desk)*

Governor, I've taken a sort of fancy to you.

(HE wheezes again, and again the whisky is too much for HIGGINS, who rises, XD to front of desk - DOOLITTLE follows)

And if you want the girl I'm not so set on havin' her back home again, but what I might be open to is an arrangement.

(HE pauses, HIGGINS slowly walks away to CS, DOOLITTLE follows)

All I ask is my rights as a father; and you're the last man alive to expect me to let her go for nothing; for I can see you're one of the straight sort, Governor.

(Pause)

Well, what's a five-pound note to you? And what's Eliza to me?

PICKERING

I think you ought to know, Doolittle, that Mr. Higgins' intentions are entirely honorable.

DOOLITTLE*(X to L of PICKERING)*

Of course they are, Governor. If I thought they wasn't, I'd ask fifty.

HIGGINS*(X one step to ALFIE)*

Do you mean to say that you would sell your daughter for fifty pounds?

PICKERING

Have you no morals, man?

DOOLITTLE

No! I can't afford 'em, Governor. Neither could you if you was as poor as me. Not that I mean any harm, mind ya... but...

(Cleans off the wing chair with HIS dirty hat and sits)

if Eliza is going to get a bit out of this, why not me, too?

(HE is cleaning his teeth with HIS tounge making a squeaking sound)

Eh? Look at it my way. What am I? I ask ya, what am I? I'm one of the undeserving poor, that's what I am. Think what that means to a man.

(HE is now scratching under HIS shirt with great delight at the pleasure of it)

It means he's up agenst middle-class morality for all the time. If there's anything going and I put in for a bit of it, it's always the same story: You're undeserving, so you can't have it.

(HE has been scratching through all this with HIGGINS and PICKERING watching in fascination. HIS hand now reaches HIS buttock)

(DOOLITTLE)

But my needs is as great as the most deserving widow's that ever got money out of six different charities in one week for the death of the same husband.

(HE sits back and roars with laughter. HIGGINS Xes to L of DOOLITTLE)

I don't need less that a deserving man, I need more. I don't eat less hearty than he does, and I drink a lot more. I'm playing straight with you. I ain't pretending to be deserving. I'm undeserving, and I mean to go on being undeserving. I like it, and that's the truth. But will you take advantage of a man's nature to do him out of the price of his own daughter what he's brought up, fed and clothed by the sweat of his brow, till she's growed big enough to be interesting to you two gentlemen? Is five pounds unreasonable? I put it to you, and I leave it to you.

HIGGINS

(After a pause)

You know, Pickering, if we were to take this man in hand for six months, he could choose between a seat in the Cabinet and a popular pulpit in Wales. I suppose we ought to give him a fiver?

PICKERING

He'll make bad use of it, I'm afraid.

DOOLITTLE

Not me, so help me, Governor, I won't. Just one good spree for myself and the missus, givin' pleasure to ourselves and employment to others, and satisfaction to you to know it ain't been throwed away. You couldn't spend it better.

HIGGINS

This is irresistible.

(HE scratches a flea under HIS shirt)

Oh, damn!

(HE Xes to desk)

Let's give him ten.

DOOLITTLE

No! The missus wouldn't have the heart to spend ten, Governor, ten pounds is a lot of money: it makes a man feel prudent-like; and then goodbye to happiness. No, you give me what I ask for, Governor: not a penny less, not a penny more.

(HIGGINS Xes to desk, opens top drawer, looks for money in HIS wallet)