

You Did It! You Did It!

A sorcerer was wandering around in an old book store and came across a dusty volume of magic spells. He noticed that one of the spells looked very interesting. It promised to bring to life a character of any book, but it came with a stern warning. The sorcerer was very excited. He always wanted to meet Professor Henry Higgins, the main character in *Pygmalion* (made into *My Fair Lady*). He found a copy of *Pygmalion* on a bookshelf and, following the spell's instructions, placed the book on a conveyer belt that led into a paper shredder. When the book reached the shredder, the sorcerer recited the ancient rune, and immediately, Henry Higgins appeared before him. As the sorcerer had hoped, they had a fascinating conversation, at least for 10 minutes. Then the spell wore off and Higgins faded away. That was wonderful! The sorcerer wanted to do it again, but this time with TWO Henry Higgins to talk with each other. So he grabbed two more copies of *Pygmalion*, put them on the conveyer belt, and when they reached the shredder, he again recited the rune. Henry Higgins numbers one and two appeared and laid into each other, with witty invective, until they too faded away after some minutes. What if he could bring forth a half dozen Henry Higgins? What a wonderful free for all he could witness! He found six copies of the book, placed them on the conveyer belt, and recited the runes. Six Higgins appeared... then after a second, six more, and then six more... the sorcerer had forgotten to turn on the conveyer belt! But now the room was so thick with Higgins, he couldn't get to the machine. So Higgins filled the store and began pouring out into the street. The world was doomed. It was too late to heed the volume's advice regarding *Pygmalion*: Don't conjure Higgins before they're trashed.

