

#2 - Elsa + Captain

Scene Nine

The terrace of the TRAPP villa.

The villa is stage right. Since the terrace is off the living room, people entering from the house come through the French windows of the living room. Over these windows is a striped awning. Convenient to these windows are a terrace table and two chairs. On the table is a tray with coffee service. From the upstage end of the villa a short balustrade extends toward stage left, a potted plant on its terminal post. There is an exit toward the gardens on stage left between this balustrade and a boxwood hedge on the left side of the terrace. In front of this hedge is a garden bench and a stool. The view the audience sees beyond the villa is of the Alps.

FRANZ is standing behind the table, pouring coffee. ELSA SCHRAEDER, a handsome woman in her late thirties, cosmopolitan, alert and attractive, is seated left of the table, admiring the view of other mountains somewhere beyond the audience.

CAPTAIN VON TRAPP is standing center, admiring ELSA.

CAPTAIN Franz, did you tell Herr Detweiler we're having coffee out here?

FRANZ Yes, sir. Herr Detweiler is still on the telephone.
(URSULA enters from the house with a tray of pastry)

URSULA (Offering tray) Frau Schraeder?

ELSA Oh, thank you.
(She takes a pastry. URSULA exits into the house)

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

~~FRANZ (Noticing of the children, Franz)~~

~~FRANZ Not yet, sir.~~

~~(Franz exits into the house)~~

Start

ELSA (Rising) Georg, those mountains—they're magnificent!

CAPTAIN Yes, they're not like any other mountains—they're friendly. Look, that green stretch of woods over there—when the wind moves through it, it's like a restless sea.

ELSA And that sweet little village.

CAPTAIN (With mock sternness) That's not a village. That's a town.

ELSA Oh, I'm sorry—I didn't mean to hurt its feelings.
(She returns to her chair)

CAPTAIN It's fun being with you. You're quite an experience for me.

ELSA You're quite an experience for me, too. Somewhere in you there's a fascinating man. Occasionally I catch a glimpse of him, and when I do, he's exciting.

CAPTAIN Exciting? I've never been called exciting before.

ELSA I'm beginning to understand you better now that I see you here— You know, you're a little like those mountains—except that you keep moving. How can you be away from this place as much as you are?

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

CAPTAIN Maybe I've been searching for a reason to come back here to stay.

ELSA (*Pointedly*) Georg, I like it here very much.

CAPTAIN (*Avoiding the point*) Max can't still be on the telephone. I know he's desperate about getting singers for the Kaltzberg Festival but—(*To* ELSA) You like it here?

ELSA Oh, we'd have to spend some time in Vienna, I have Heinrich's estate to look after.

CAPTAIN I thought that was a corporation now.

ELSA It is and I'm president.

CAPTAIN You president of a corporation!

ELSA After all, I managed Heinrich's affairs for years before he died.

CAPTAIN I can't see you sitting behind a desk.

ELSA Well, of course, I wear a business suit and smoke a big cigar.

(FRANZ enters from the house)

~~FRANZ Excuse me, Captain, Herr Detweiler would like his coffee.~~

~~CAPTAIN While he's telephoning?~~

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

FRANZ Yes, sir.

(FRANZ pours a cup of coffee. MAX DETWEILER enters. He is a charming dilettante. He carries a small notebook and a pencil)

MAX I'm sorry I took so long.

CAPTAIN Any luck?

MAX How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival—the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe—and the best soprano in the world?

ELSA Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

MAX So would I. All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

(FRANZ exits into the house)

ELSA Max, you always come up with a good Festival Concert. (MAX sits on a garden stool. The CAPTAIN takes him a cup of coffee with a piece of pastry on the saucer)

MAX And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking for the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London—

ELSA On Georg's telephone?

MAX How else could I afford it? Why am I up here?

CAPTAIN I hoped it was because you liked me.