

#3 - Captain + Maria

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

(MAX exits into the house, followed by FRANZ. At this moment the CAPTAIN'S attention is attracted by the sound of voices yodeling and coming from the direction of the garden. GRETL runs on and stoops over. Next we see MARTA leapfrog over GRETL and stoop. She is followed by BRIGITTA, KURT, LOUISA, FRIEDRICH and LIESL, all leapfrogging. They are dressed in play clothes made from the curtains we have seen in MARIA'S bedroom. The last one on, yodeling along with the children, dressed in a dirndl made from the material the CAPTAIN sent her, is MARIA. Her leapfrogging takes her to the feet of the CAPTAIN. She straightens up in pleased surprise)

Start

MARIA Oh, Captain—you're home!

~~CHILDREN (Joyfully) Father! Father, you're home!~~

~~(The captain takes his whistle from his pocket and blows a peremptory blast. The children, dismayed, line up in military fashion)~~

CAPTAIN Straight line! (The CAPTAIN crosses behind them, inspecting their strange garb with evident displeasure. He takes from LOUISA'S head a kerchief made of the curtain material) Get cleaned up! Get into your uniforms and report back here! (The children glance appealingly toward MARIA) At once! (The children run into the house) Fraulein! Where did they get these abominations—out of a nightmare?

MARIA No, out of the curtains—the curtains that used to hang in my bedroom. There was plenty of wear left in them.

64

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

CAPTAIN Just a moment. Do you mean to say the people of the neighborhood have seen my children wearing old curtains?

MARIA Oh, yes, they've become very popular. Everyone smiles at them.

CAPTAIN I don't wonder.

MARIA They say, "There go Captain von Trapp's children."

CAPTAIN My children have always been a credit to my name.

MARIA But, Captain, they weren't. They were just unhappy little marching machines.

CAPTAIN I don't care to hear from you about my children.

MARIA Well, you must hear from someone. You're not home long enough to know them.

CAPTAIN I said I don't want to hear—

MARIA I know you don't—but you've got to. Take Liesl—Liesl isn't a child any more. And if you keep treating her as one, Captain, you're going to have a mutiny on your hands. And Friedrich—Friedrich's afraid to be himself—he's shy—he's aloof, Friedrich needs you—he needs your confidence—

CAPTAIN Don't tell me about my son.

MARIA Brigitta could tell you about him. She could tell you a lot more if you got to know her, because she notices

65

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

things. And she always tells the truth—especially when you don't want to hear it. Kurt—is sensitive—he's easily hurt—and you ignore him—you brush him aside the way you do all of them. (*The CAPTAIN starts to leave*) I haven't finished yet! Louisa—wants to have a good time. You've just got to let her have a good time. Marta—I don't know about yet—but someone has to find out about her. And little Gretl—just wants to be loved— Oh, please, Captain, love Gretl, love all of them. They need you.

CAPTAIN Stop! Stop it! You will pack your things and return to the Abbey as soon as you can.

MARIA I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said those things—not in the way I said them.

End

CAPTAIN After you've gone there'll be—(*We hear the voices of the children singing offstage*) What's that?

MARIA Singing.

CAPTAIN Who's singing?

MARIA Your children.

CAPTAIN My children singing?

MARIA I wanted them to sing for Frau Schraeder when they met her.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

(*ELSA enters from the upper French windows, going toward the CAPTAIN. The children follow ELSA on, still singing, FRIEDRICH accompanying them on a guitar. They stand in a diagonal line in front of the French windows*)

ELSA Georg, you must hear—

CHILDREN (*Singing*)

My heart wants to beat
Like the wings
Of the birds that rise
From the lake to the trees,
My heart wants to sigh
Like a chime that flies
From a church on a breeze.

(*The CAPTAIN joins in the song*)

CAPTAIN and CHILDREN (*Singing*)

I go to the hills
When my heart is lonely
I know I will hear
What I've heard before.
My heart will be blessed
With the sound of music
And I'll sing once more.

(*As the song finishes there is a moment of poignant silence. GRETl, who is carrying a white flower, looks toward MARIA. MARIA nods to her. GRETl goes to ELSA, curtsies, and hands her the flower*)

ELSA (*Touched*) Edelweiss! Georg, why haven't you told me how enchanting your children are?