

MARIA & CHILDREN #1

her, FRAU SCHMIDT: (*Entering on the balcony*) Yes, sir?
and CAPTAIN: That is the executive officer, Frau Schmidt, the
sends housekeeper. Fraulein Maria. Please be sure that her room
CAPTAIN is ready.
and FRAU SCHMIDT: Yes, sir.
(*FRANZ takes MARIA's bag and goes upstairs to land-
ing, joining FRAU SCHMIDT.*)
As CAPTAIN: Well, I shall now leave you with the children.
repeat You are in command. (*He starts out D.R. MARIA blows a
their blast on the whistle. He stops and turns.*)
at them. MARIA: Pardon me, sir—I don't know how to address you.
I respond CAPTAIN: You will call me Captain.
manner, MARIA: (*Crosses to CAPTAIN*) Thank you, Captain. I for-
to line. got to return this whistle, Captain. I won't need it, Cap-
LA, taking tain. (*He takes the whistle and exits D.R. FRANZ and
boats- FRAU SCHMIDT exit to third floor. She turns to children
lein, let's with a handclap, catching them off guard.*) Well, now
dered, that there's just us, would you tell me your names again,
crosses D.R. and tell me how old you are. Now you're—?
I Captain (*Each child, in turn, steps forward in military manner,
house and speaks, and then steps back.*)
only with LIESL: I'm Liesl. I'm sixteen years old and I don't need a
is is what governess.
ness' sig. MARIA: (*R. of LIESL*) I'm glad you told me. We'll just be
friends. (*LIESL steps back. FRIEDRICH steps forward.*)
couldn't FRIEDRICH: I'm Friedrich. I'm fourteen. I'm a boy.
MARIA: (*R. of FRIEDRICH*) Boy? Why, you're almost a man.
se an- (*FRIEDRICH looks pleased. LOUISA signals the other
the but- girls, who giggle.*)
LOUISA: I'm Brigitta.
'es, sir? MARIA: (*Crosses behind LOUISA, pulling up her braid*) You
gover- didn't tell me how old you are, Louisa.
eper's

BRIGITTA: (*Steps L. of MARIA*) I'm Brigitta. She's Louisa and she's thirteen years old and you're smart. I'm nine and I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.

KURT: (*Steps R. of MARIA*) Brigitta, you mustn't say a thing like that.

BRIGITTA: Why not? Don't you think it's ugly?

KURT: If I did think so, I wouldn't say so. (*Snapping to attention.*) I'm Kurt, I'm eleven—almost.

MARIA: That's a nice age to be, eleven—almost.

MARTA: (*Steps forward L. of MARIA, pulling her skirt*) I'm Marta and I'm going to be seven on Tuesday and I'd like a pink parasol.

MARIA: Pink is my favorite color, too. (*GRETLE steps forward and stamps her foot.*) And you're Gretl. (*GRETLE smiles and jumps into her arms. MARIA crosses L.C.*) I'm going to tell you something. (*MARIA sits on chair R. of sofa, puts GRETLE on floor R. of her.*) I've never been a governess before. How do I start?

LOUISA: (*Runs to MARIA*) You mean you don't know anything about being a governess?

MARIA: No.

LOUISA: Well, the first thing you have to do is to tell Father to mind his own business.

KURT: No, Louisa, don't. I like her.

BRIGITTA: (*Above chair, picking up guitar case*) What's in here?

MARIA: My guitar.

BRIGITTA: What did you bring this for?

MARIA: For when we all sing together.

MARTA: (*BRIGITTA takes guitar out of case*) We don't sing.

MARIA: Of course you sing. Everybody sings. What songs so you know?

KURT: We don't know any songs.

MARIA: (*Taking guitar from BRIGITTA*) You don't?

ALL: No.

MARIA: Well. . . Now I know where to start. I'm going to
L teach you how to sing. (*Sings.*)

Let's start at the very beginning,

A very good place to start.

When you read you begin with

GRETLE: (*Leaning over to MARIA*)

A, B, C,

MARIA: When you sing you begin with do-re-mi.

CHILDREN: Do-re-mi?

MARIA: Do-re-mi,

The first three notes just happen to be

Do-re-mi,

CHILDREN: Do-re-mi!

MARIA: (*Stands*)

Do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti (*Speaks*)

Come, I'll make it easier. Listen. (*Puts on guitar, crosses, sits on couch, sings.*)

Doe--a deer, a female deer,

Ray--a drop of golden sun,

Me--a name I call myself,

Far--a long, long way to run,

Sew--a needle pulling thread,

La--a note to follow sew,

Tea--a drink with jam and bread

That will bring us back to Doe--oh--oh--oh!

GRETLE: Do--

MARIA: A deer, a female deer,

CHILDREN: Re--

MARIA: A drop of golden sun,

Mi--a name I call myself,

Fa--a long, long way to run,

So--

MARIA & CHILDREN #2

MARIA: *(Re-entering)* That would change everything. They'd have a mother again.

FRAU SCHMIDT: *(Dismissingly)* It's going to rain. You'd better close your window. *(She exits U.S. MARIA goes to the bed and kneels in prayer.)*

MARIA: Dear God, I know now that You have sent me here on a mission. I must help these children to love their new mother and prepare them to win her love so she will never want them to leave her. And I pray that this will become a happy family in Thy sight. God bless the Captain, God bless Liesl, and Friedrich, Louisa, Brigitta, Marta, and little Gretl—and oh, yes, I forgot the other boy—what's his name? Well, God bless what's-his-name! *(There is lightning and thunder. LIESL enters through the window. Her dress is smudged with dirt. She tiptoes to the hall door. MARIA sees her out of the corner of her eye, but continues.)* God bless the Reverend Mother, and Sister Margareta and everybody at Nonnberg Abbey. And now, dear God, about Liesl—*(LIESL stops and gives MARIA a startled look.)* Help her to know that I am her friend and help her to tell me what she's up to.

LIESL: Are you going to tell on me?

MARIA: *(Silencing her with a gesture)* Help me to be understanding so that I may guide her footsteps. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. *(MARIA rises.)*

LIESL: *(Crosses C.)* I was out taking a walk and somebody locked the doors earlier than usual—and I didn't want to wake everybody up—so when I saw your window open—You're not going to tell Father, are you?

MARIA: *(Looking out the window)* Did you climb that trellis to get up here?

LIESL: That's how we always got into this room to play tricks on the governess. (*Proudly.*) Louisa can climb it with a toad in her hand.

MARIA: Liesl, were you out walking all by yourself? (*LIESL shakes her head negatively.*) You know, if we wash that dress out tonight, nobody would notice it tomorrow. Then all this would be just between you and me. You could put this on— (*She takes off her robe and puts it around LIESL'S shoulders.*) Take your dress in there— and put it to soak in the bathtub. (*Thunder and lightning. They embrace each other in fright.*) Then come back here and sit on the edge of my bed and we'll have a talk.

LIESL: I told you today I didn't need a governess. Well, maybe I do. (*She exits into the alcove. Lightning and thunder. MARIA jumps, then crosses to the bed and peers under the comforter looking for possible toads. GRETL enters U.C. in her night dress.*)

MARIA: Oh, it's you, Gretl. Are you afraid? (*GRETL shakes her head. Thunder and lightning. GRETL jumps up on the bed with MARIA.*) You're not afraid of a thunderstorm, are you? You just stay right here with me. Where are the others?

GRETL: They're asleep. They're not scared.

(*Thunder and lightning. BRIGITTA, LOUISA and MARTA run on U.C. in their nightdresses.*)

MARTA: Wait for me.

MARIA: (*To GRETL*) Oh, no? Look. (*To the others.*)

Come, all of you. Up on the bed. (*All three girls jump up on the bed.*) Now all we have to do is wait for the boys.

LOUISA: We won't see them! Boys are brave.

(*Thunder and lightning. KURT and FRIEDRICH enter U.C. in their pajamas.*)

MARIA: You boys aren't frightened, too, are you?

KURT: Oh, no. We just wanted to be sure you weren't.

MARIA: Was this your idea, Friedrich?

FRIEDRICH: Oh, no. It was Kurt's.

MARIA: That's it, Kurt. That's the one I left out.

(Looking up.) God bless Kurt.

(Lightning and thunder. The boys run and cower at the foot of the bed.)

MARTA: Why does it do that?

ie. MARIA: Well, the lightning says something to the thunder
s and the thunder answers it back.

— MARTA: I wish it wouldn't answer so loud.

MARIA: Maybe if we all sing loud enough we won't hear
the thunder. *(The children climb off the bed and sit in
semicircle at its foot. MARIA sits on D.S. edge of bed.
The children are in the following order from S.R.: KURT,
MARTA, GRET, BRIGITTA, LOUISA, FRIEDRICH.
MARIA sings.)*

ers

High on a hill was a lonely goatherd,

Layee odl, layee odl layee oo

Loud was the voice of the lonely goatherd,

Layee odl, layee odl oo.

es

the

are

hers

Folks in a town that was quite remote, heard

Layee odl, layee odl layee oo

Lusty and clear from the goatherd's throat,

heard

TA

Layee odl, layee odl oo.

O ho lay-dee odl lee o

O ho lay-dee odl ay!

O ho lay-dee odl lee o

Lay-dee odl lee-o-lay!

A prince on the bridge of a castle moat, heard

Layee odl, layee odl layee oo

Men on a road with a load to tote, heard

Layee odl layee odl oo

Men in the midst of a table d'hôte, heard

Layee odl layee odl layee oo.

(ORCHESTRA joins in.)

Tied up with strings
These are a few of
My favorite things

GRETL: (D.C.) Why don't I feel better?

(Children start to sing but drop out one by one as they hear MARIA offstage.)

MARIA: (Offstage)

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes,
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and
eyelashes,
Silver-white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favorite things.

CHILDREN: Maria!—Maria's back!

(They run to meet her as she enters U.L. She is wearing the suit and hat we saw the new POSTULANT wear.

FRIEDRICH takes her guitar and sets it above the stool.

KURT takes suitcase and drops it back of stool.)

~~MARIA and CHILDREN: (Singing)~~

~~When the dog bites, when the bee stings,
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.~~

(FRIEDRICH arranges guitar and suitcase.)

MARIA: (Hugging them C.S.) Children, children, I'm so
happy to see you. I must find your father right away.

MARTA: I'll find him. (She runs into the house.)

KURT: I'll go with you. (He follows MARTA into the house.)

MARIA: (To GRETL) How's your sore finger?

GRETL: You remembered!

MARIA: Liesl—are you all right?

LIESL: (Soberly) Yes, Fraulein, I'm all right.

MARIA: Many telegrams lately?

LIESL: No, Fraulein. Now I'll be glad to go to boarding
school.

MARIA: Liesl, you can't use boarding school to escape your problems. You have to face them. (*Embraces LIESL.*) Oh, I have so much to talk to you about.

LOUISA: We have some things to tell you, too.

MARIA: You must have a great deal to tell me.

BRIGITTA: I guess the most important thing is that Father's going to be married.

MARIA: Married?

LOUISA: To Frau Schraeder.

MARIA: Are you sure?

BRIGITTA: Oh, yes, he just told us—he told us himself.
(*KURT and MARTA enter from house.*)

KURT: We found him.
(*CAPTAIN enters from house.*)

CAPTAIN: Liesl—

LIESL: Louisa, Brigitta, boys! Maria, we'll be in the nursery. (*Children exit into house.*)

CAPTAIN: You've come back?

MARIA: Yes, Captain.

CAPTAIN: You left us without any explanation whatsoever—without even saying goodbye.

MARIA: It was very wrong of me. Forgive me.

CAPTAIN: Why did you do this to us? Tell me.

MARIA: Please don't ask me. Anyway, the reason no longer exists. (*Crosses and picks up guitar case and carpet bag.*)

CAPTAIN: Then you're back to stay?

MARIA: Only until you can make arrangements for another governess.

CAPTAIN: Oh, no! You've been missed by the children, I've missed—everybody missed you very much. Nothing was the same while you were away. Everything was wrong.

MARIA: But I—