

se CAPTAIN: I can't see you sitting behind a desk. (*He sits
R. of coffee table.*)

ey'e ELSA: Well, of course, I wear a business suit and smoke a
— big cigar. (*FRANZ enters from the house.*)

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

CAPTAIN: While he's telephoning?

FRANZ: He just finished.

(*FRANZ pours a cup of coffee. MAX DETWEILER
enters. He is charming and vital. He carries a small note-
book and pencil.*)

e MAX: I'm sorry I took so long.

n MAX: Any luck?

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

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

ns— MAX: So would I. (*MAX sits on stool D.L.*) All I've got up
w to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.
(*FRANZ exits into the house.*)

ne ELSA: Max, you always come up with a good Festival Con-
cert.
(*The CAPTAIN takes MAX a cup of coffee with a piece
of pastry on the saucer.*)

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

ive 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.

MAX: Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You
live like a king. You have an excellent wine cellar—

e- ELSA: Max!

(KURT exits.)

BRIGITTA: I'm glad to go, I cannot tell a lie

(FRIEDRICH exits.)

LOUISA: I flit, I float, I fleetly flee, I fly

(BRIGITTA and LOUISA exit together.)

GRETLE: *(Sitting on the bottom stair)*

The sun has gone to bed and so must I

(Still sitting she backs halfway up the steps one at a time.)

CHILDREN: *(Having re-entered on the balcony)*

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

(LIESL goes down the steps to GRETLE, takes her in her arms and exits with the others.)

GUESTS: *(Singing)*

Goodbye.

(FRANZ announces dinner and the CAPTAIN and the guests drift off to the dining room L. MAX, excited, goes to ELSA.)

MAX: Elsa, they're extraordinary!

ELSA: Fraulein Maria taught them to do it.

MAX: I've been looking all over Austria for something like this for the Festival and I find it here.

ELSA: Wait a minute, Max.

MAX: A singing group of seven children in one family.

ELSA: Max! Georg didn't even want them to sing in front of the guests tonight. I had to persuade him.

MAX: Ah, then you have influence. You must talk to him.

ELSA: Max!

MAX: Elsa! This is important to Austria. And it wouldn't do me any harm.

(They exit into the dining room. The music segues into a slow, soft version of "The Lonely Goatherd." We see MARIA come down from the third floor onto the balcony. She

CAPTAIN, ELSA, & MARIA

ELSA: I!

ALL: I-I-I

(MAX pretends to strum the back of the guitar. The CAPTAIN grabs it and plays, one foot on chair D.C., crossing to chair D.S. ELSA starts to follow but is stopped by MAX.) Nothing else as wonderful as I.

CAPTAIN: (Putting chair back L. of table) I! Me! On one thing alone we agree. . . each one is important to himself. . . but you can't save yourself by giving up, and you don't outwit a lion by putting your head—

FRANZ: (Entering from house, addressing MAX) Your call from Berlin, sir.

CAPTAIN: (Pointing to FRANZ) —in the lion's mouth.

MAX: (After a hesitation) I'll call them back—

ELSA: (L. of MAX, quietly) You might as well talk to them now, Max.

CAPTAIN: Go, go, go.

(MAX exits into house followed by FRANZ.)

ELSA: (After a pause) Georg—I feel I know what's going to happen here. Can't you see things my way?

CAPTAIN: No—not if you're willing to see things their way.

ELSA: (Crosses D.L. before she speaks) There's one thing you do better here than we do in Vienna—your sunsets. I'm going to miss them.

MARIA: (Entering from house) Captain— Oh, I beg your pardon.

ELSA: Maria! Georg, you didn't tell me Fraulein Maria was back. I'm delighted.

MARIA: (D.R.) Thank you. Captain, the children would like to know if they could take a holiday from their lessons tomorrow so that we can go on a picnic.

CAPTAIN: Yes, I don't mind.

MARIA: That will make them very happy. And may I be permitted to wish you happiness too, Frau Schraeder—

Captain. The children have told me that you're going to be married.

ELSA: Oh? I'm afraid the children were wrong. (*Crosses C. to CAPTAIN who stands.*) Georg, I've got to finish my packing if I'm to get back to Vienna.

CAPTAIN: If you feel you must. I'll tell Franz to have the car ready.

ELSA: I can do that. (*As he kisses her hand she drops his engagement ring into his hand.*) Auf Wiedersehen, Georg. Goodbye, Maria. (*She exits into the house. CAPTAIN walks U.C.*)

MARIA: I'm sorry if I said something I shouldn't have said.

CAPTAIN: You did say the wrong thing—but you said it at the right time.

MARIA: The children told me that you were going to marry Frau Schraeder.

CAPTAIN: (*Crosses D.C.*) We found we just couldn't go the same way. That door is shut.

MARIA: Sister Margaretta always says, "When God shuts a door—"

CAPTAIN: I know—"He opens a window." Maria, why did you run away to the Abbey? . . . What made you come back?

MARIA: The Mother Abbess—she said that you have to look for your life.

CAPTAIN: Often when you find it, you don't recognize it.

MARIA: No.

CAPTAIN: Not at first. Then one day—one night—all of a sudden, it stands before you.

MARIA: Yes.

CAPTAIN: (*Crosses to MARIA*) I look at you now, and I realize this is not something that has just happened. It is something I've known—deep inside me—for many weeks. . . You knew it, too! (*She nods.*) What was it that told you?

MARIA: (*Crossing L. to CAPTAIN*) Brigitta. She said—
when we were dancing—that night—

CAPTAIN: She was quite right. That was not just an
ordinary dance, was it?

MARIA: I hadn't danced since I was a very little girl. It's
quite different after you're grown up, isn't it?

CAPTAIN: When you were a very little girl, did a very little
boy ever kiss you?

MARIA: Uh-huh.

CAPTAIN: That's quite different, too.

MARIA: Is it? (*They kiss.*) It is different.

CAPTAIN: Your whole life will be different now, Maria.
I'll take you anywhere you want to go—give you any-
thing you wish.

MARIA: But I don't want to go anywhere. All I could wish
for is right here. (*MARIA moves S.L. of CAPTAIN.*
Standing, sings.)

An ordinary couple
Is all we'll ever be,
For all I want of living
Is to keep you close to me,
(*MARIA takes his hand.*)

To laugh and weep together
While time goes on its flight,
To kiss you every morning
And to kiss you every night.
(*Looks at CAPTAIN.*)

We'll meet our daily problems
And rest when day is done,
Our arms around each other
In the fading sun.
An ordinary couple,
(*CAPTAIN moves to MARIA.*)
Across the years we'll ride,