

CHILDREN

Side A

~~FRAU SCHMIDT. (Entering on the balcony) Yes, sir?~~

~~CAPTAIN. That is the executive officer, Frau Schmidt, the housekeeper, Fraulein Maria. Please be sure that her room is ready.~~

~~FRAU SCHMIDT. Yes, sir.~~

~~(FRANZ takes MARIA's bag and goes upstairs to landing, joining FRAU SCHMIDT.)~~

~~CAPTAIN. Well, I shall now leave you with the children.~~

~~You are in command. (He starts out D.R. MARIA blows a blast on the whistle. He stops and turns.)~~

~~MARIA. Pardon me, sir. I don't know how to address you.~~

~~CAPTAIN. You will call me Captain.~~

~~MARIA: (Crosses to CAPTAIN) Thank you, Captain. I forgot to return this whistle, Captain. I won't need it, Cap-~~

~~tain. (He takes the whistle and exits D.R. FRANZ and FRAU SCHMIDT exit to third floor. She turns to children with a handclap, catching them off guard.)~~ Well, now

that there's just us, would you tell me your names again, and tell me how old you are. Now you're—?

(Each child, in turn, steps forward in military manner, speaks, and then steps back.)

LIESL: I'm Liesl. I'm sixteen years old and I don't need a governess.

MARIA: (R. of LIESL) I'm glad you told me. We'll just be friends. (LIESL steps back. FRIEDRICH steps forward.)

FRIEDRICH: I'm Friedrich. I'm fourteen. I'm a boy.

MARIA: (R. of FRIEDRICH) Boy? Why, you're almost a man.

(FRIEDRICH looks pleased. LOUISA signals the other girls, who giggle.)

LOUISA: I'm Brigitta.

MARIA: (Crosses behind LOUISA, pulling up her braid) You didn't tell me how old you are, Louisa.

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. **END**

~~MARIA: Well. . . Now I know where to start. I'm going to
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,~~

~~Fer—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—~~

ALL: *(Singing)* Do-me-so-do.

(MAX stops them individually, GRETLE, who is sitting on the terrace step, last.)

MAX: Gretle, why don't you sing loud?

START T GRETLE: I've got a sore finger. *(She holds up a bandaged finger.)*] **END**

MAX: *(Kissing her finger)* Now you can sing loud for Uncle Max. The night of the party you sang so beautifully—with such spirit. Well—let's try again. *(He gives them a downbeat. They hit a chord. The CAPTAIN and ELSA enter from the garden. MAX sees them and stops the singing.)* They wanted to sing for me, the darlings, but they don't sing as well as they used to.

LOUISA: We need Fraulein Maria.

CAPTAIN: *(Taking the guitar from LIESL)* We do not need Fraulein Maria. You can sing just as well with me.

MAX: But I've had experience with choirs, quartets, glee clubs—

CAPTAIN: Max, please— *(To the children.)* Now what would you like to sing? *(Singing.)*

Doe, a deer, a female deer—

KURT: Fraulein Maria always started with—

CAPTAIN: We are not to mention Fraulein Maria.

ELSA: *(Sensing something)* Come on, Max, I feel like a brisk walk.

MAX: That's just what I need— *(He follows her, turns.)*

Is anyone using the car? *(MAX and ELSA exit U.L.)*

CAPTAIN: Now, what are you going to sing? — — —

(LIESL starts and conducts the children in:)

CHILDREN: *(Singing)*

The hills are alive

With the sound of music

(The CAPTAIN joins the singing.)

ALL CHILDREN (BRIGITTA)

Side C

~~CAPTAIN: Why not?~~

~~MAX: Elsa, tell him why not.~~

~~ELSA: Max, can you change in a hurry?~~

~~CAPTAIN: Yes, Max, we can use you tonight.~~

~~(MAX starts up stairs.)~~

~~BRIGITTA: (Entering from terrace, crosses to L.C.) Frau Schraeder, they're talking about you out there.~~

~~ELSA: Come on, Georg, I've been dodging these people for an hour. (ELSA and CAPTAIN exit to terrace.)~~

~~MARIA: (Entering D.R.) Brigitta, have you seen your father?~~

~~MAX: (On balcony) Good evening, Fraulein Maria.~~

~~MARIA: Herr Detweiler, it's nice to see you again.~~

~~MAX: Yes, you're going to. (Exits off R.)~~

START → **BRIGITTA: (D.R.C.)** I knew it all along. Frau Schraeder didn't have a headache. She just wanted to get out of the party. She was faking.

MARIA: *(Crosses to BRIGITTA)* Brigitta, you shouldn't say things you don't know are true.

BRIGITTA: But I do know. I heard her say to Father she'd been dodging these people.

MARIA: That doesn't mean that she didn't have a headache. It's very important that you children like Frau Schraeder.

BRIGITTA: I like her all right. Why is it important?

MARIA: Well—I think she's going to be your new mother.

BRIGITTA: Oh, Fraulein, Father's never going to marry her. Why, he couldn't.

MARIA: Why couldn't he?

BRIGITTA: Because he's in love with you.

MARIA: Now Brigitta, that's just the kind of thing—

BRIGITTA: You must know that—

MARIA: Brigitta—no!

BRIGITTA: Remember the other night when we were all sitting on the floor singing the Edelweiss song he taught us? After we finished, you laughed at him for forgetting

the words. He didn't forget the words. He just stopped singing to look at you. And when he speaks to you, the way his voice sounds—

(MARIA can't accept an idea that conflicts with her commitment to the church.)

MARIA: No, Brigitta, no.

BRIGITTA: And the way you looked at him just now when you were dancing. You're in love with him. **END**

~~*(MARIA stands in stunned silence. The CAPTAIN enters from the terrace with GRETEL, LOUISA and KURT.)*~~

~~CAPTAIN. One more dance, Gretl, and then to bed. *(He sees MARIA and goes to her.)* Oh, Fraulein Maria, you're not going to have dinner with the children tonight. You're having dinner down here with us. *(MARIA shakes her head. "No! I can't.")* Oh, yes! It's all arranged. You'll have to hurry. You'll have to change. *(She starts up the stairs but stops as the CAPTAIN speaks.)* Oh, and Maria, wear the dress you wore the other night—when we were all singing.—It was lovely—soft and white.~~

~~*(MARIA stares at him for a moment then quickly exits upstairs. FRANZ enters from the dining room D.L.)*~~

~~FRANZ. Shall I announce dinner, Captain?~~

~~ELSA. *(Entering from terrace, followed by the guests)* Oh, no, not yet. The children will want to say good night. Oh, Georg, I wanted the children to say good night the way they did last night.~~

~~CAPTAIN. No, Elsa—not here~~

~~ELSA. Please, Georg, the way they did it for me—it was so sweet.~~

~~CAPTAIN. No, no, not in front of strangers!~~

~~ELSA. Please, Georg, for me.~~

~~MAX. *(Entering on the balcony in evening clothes)* Presto change!~~

~~ELSA. Max, you're just in time. Children—now.~~

Music Side 1

Children: 56 Liesl:

~~So long, fare well, Auf wie, der - sehn, good - bye~~

64 (spoken) Captain: (She exits.)

~~and taste my first champagne~~ ~~No? No?~~

Children: 71 Friedrich:

2

So long, fare - well, Auf wie - der - sehn, good - bye. I

poco rit. (He exits.)

leave and heave a sigh and say good - bye, Good - bye.

END

83 *Meno mosso*

Brigitta: Louisa:

~~I'm glad to go, I can - not tell a lie~~

(They both exit.)

96 *Molto tranquillo*

Gretl:

~~Hoat, I heart-ly hoat, I hoat~~ ~~The sun~~

102

All Children: (from the upstairs landing)

~~So long, fare - well, Auf, wie - der - sehn, good -~~

Guests: *pp* (Children leave.)

~~Good - bye!~~

Music Side 2

78

Children: Maria:

Children: Maria:

drop of gold-en sun, — Mi- a name I call my - self, Fa- A long, long way to

86

run, — So- A nee-dle pul-ling thread, — La- a note to fol-low
Children:
A nee-dle pul-ling thread, — A note to fol-low

94

(Maria)
so, — Ti- a drink with jam and bread — That will bring us back to
(Children)
so, — A drink with jam and bread —

START

100

pp
Doe- a deer, a fe-male deer, Ray- a drop of gold-en sun, —

108

Me- a name I call my - self, Far- a long, long way to run, —

116

Maria:
~~So- a nee-dle pul-ling thread, — La- a note to fol-low~~

END