

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

(*Lead*)

Our arms around each other!

(They kiss.)

CAPTAIN: *(Speaks)* Maria, is there someone I should go to—to ask permission to marry you?

MARIA: Why don't we ask the children?

(They run into house laughing. The Traveller Closes)

ACT II

Scene 2

A corridor in the Abbey, front of traveller. Three young postulants run on from D.R. but stop short as they almost collide.