

CAPTAIN: We'll talk about it later. You go up to the children now. (*MARIA starts toward house.*) Maria, a new dress?

MARIA: We have a new postulant. (*She exits into the house. CAPTAIN sits L. of coffee table, strumming guitar.*)

ELSA: (*Entering from garden*) I know I'm right, Max. We'll find him and ask him.

MAX: (*Following her on and crossing C.*) I'll take your word for it, Elsa.

ELSA: Georg, settle this for Max and me, will you. How far down the mountain does your property go?

CAPTAIN: Can you make out that stone wall? That's the property line.

ELSA: (*Turning to MAX*) You see.

MAX: (*Sits on bench L.*) I didn't argue about it.

ELSA: I know, that makes me furious. I don't like to win without a fight.

FRANZ: (*FRANZ enters from the house*) Herr Detweiler, while you were gone, you had a long distance call from Berlin.

MAX: (*Innocently*) Who could be calling me from Berlin?

FRANZ: They said you'd know who it was.

MAX: Oh! Thank you, Franz. (*FRANZ exits to the house.*)

Georg, what were we just talking about?

CAPTAIN: Max, this isn't the first call you've had from Berlin.

MAX: Georg, you know I have no political convictions. Can I help it if other people have?

ELSA: Let's not stir that up again. The Germans have promised not to invade Austria. (*Crosses to R. of coffee table.*) Max knows that.

CAPTAIN: Then why does he bother to answer those calls from Berlin?

MAX: Because if they don't keep their promise, I want to have some friends among them.

ELSA: Naturally.

CAPTAIN: Oh, you agree, too?

MAX: (*Rises, crosses to CAPTAIN*) Georg, this is the way I look at it. There was a man who was dying. They were giving him the last rites. They asked him, "Do you renounce the devil and all his works?" and he said, "At this moment, I prefer not to make any enemies."

(*Crosses L. CAPTAIN strums his guitar.*)

ELSA: Georg—if they—if they should invade us—would you defy them?

CAPTAIN: . . . Yes.

MAX: (*Crosses to CAPTAIN*) Do you realize what might happen to you? To your property?

ELSA: To your children?

MAX: To everyone close to you. . . to Elsa. . . to me!

CAPTAIN: (*Rises, crosses D.R.*) Well, what will you do if they come?

MAX: (*Takes chair L. of coffee table, places it D.C. and sits*) What anyone with any sense would do—just sit tight and wait for it all to blow over.

CAPTAIN: And you think it will?

MAX: One thing is sure—nothing you can do will make any difference. (*Rises, crosses L.C.*)

ELSA: (*Crosses above D.C. chair, pushing CAPTAIN on to chair*) Don't look so serious, darling. Take the world off your shoulders. Relax.

ELSA: (*Above CAPTAIN*)

You dear attractive dewy-eyed idealist,

Today you have to learn to be a realist.

MAX:

You may be bent on doing deeds of derring-do

But up against a shark what can a herring do?

ELSA: (*Moves to MAX, L. of CAPTAIN*)

Be wise, compromise!

CAPTAIN:

Compromise, and be wise!

No, there's no way to stop it
If the earth wants to roll around the sun!
You're a fool if you worry

(MAX crosses S.L.)

You're a fool if you worry

(CAPTAIN turns to ELSA.)

Over anything but little Number One!

CAPTAIN: That's you!

ELSA: *(Indicating herself)*

That's I.

MAX: *(Indicating himself)*

And I.

CAPTAIN: And me!

That all-absorbing character!

ELSA: *(Steps in front of CAPTAIN)*

That fascinating creature!

MAX: *(Steps in front of ELSA)*

That super-special feature—

ALL: *(MAX and ELSA separate—CAPTAIN sits on stool)*

Me!

CAPTAIN: So every star and every whirling planet,
And every constellation in the sky
Revolve around the center of the universe,
A lovely thing called I!

(Spreads arms, guitar in right hand—MAX takes guitar. CAPTAIN rises.)

ALL: And there's no way to stop it,

(MAX points guitar at CAPTAIN.)

No, there's no way to stop it,
And I know though I cannot tell you why.

CAPTAIN: *(Speaks)* That's charming!

ALL: That as long as I'm living,
Just as long as I'm living,
There'll be nothing else as wonderful as

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.*)