

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 Margareta 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,

Our arms around each other,  
And our children by our side. . .

*(Holds her hand.)*

Our arms around each other.

*(CAPTAIN moves as if to kiss MARIA—MARIA moves  
to bench—back to the CAPTAIN. CAPTAIN and MARIA  
cross D.C.)*

CAPTAIN: *(Speaks)* You know—those two ought to get  
together sometime.

MARIA: Who? *(Looking at CAPTAIN.)*

CAPTAIN: The Mother Abbess and Brigitta. *(MARIA sits.*  
*CAPTAIN Sings.)*

An ordinary couple  
That's all we'll ever be  
For all I want of living  
Is to keep you close to me.

*(CAPTAIN puts hands on her shoulders.)*

To laugh and weep together  
While times goes on its flight,  
To kiss you every morning,  
And to kiss you every night—

*(MARIA's left hand on CAPTAIN's right hand. Kisses  
her hand.)*

MARIA: *(Still sitting)*

We'll meet our daily problems  
And rest when day is done,  
Our arms around each other  
In the fading sun.

*(MARIA rises. They both move downstage. She puts  
her arms to him.)*

BOTH: An ordinary couple  
Across the years we'll ride  
Our arms around each other  
And our children by our side. . .