

CAPTAIN SCENE 1

clothes made from the curtains we have seen in Maria's bedroom. The last one on, yodeling along with the CHILDREN, dressed in a dirndl made from the material the Captain sent her, is MARIA. Her leapfrogging takes her to the feet of the CAPTAIN. She straightens up in pleased surprise.)

MARIA. Oh, Captain - you're home!

CHILDREN. (Joyfully.) Father! Father, you're home!

(The CAPTAIN takes his whistle from his pocket and blows a preemptory blast. The CHILDREN, dismayed, line up in military fashion.)

CAPTAIN. Straight line!

(He crosses behind them, inspecting their strange garb with evident displeasure. He takes a kerchief made of the curtain material from LOUISA's head.)

Get cleaned up! Get into your uniforms and report back here!

(The CHILDREN glance appealingly toward MARIA.)

At once!

(The CHILDREN run into the house.)

Fraulein! Where did you get these abominations - out of a nightmare?

MARIA. No, out of some curtains - the curtains that used to hang in my bedroom. There was plenty of wear left in them.

CAPTAIN. Just a moment. Do you mean to say the people of the neighborhood have seen my children wearing old curtains?

MARIA. Oh, yes, they've become very popular. Everyone smiles at them.

CAPTAIN. I don't wonder.

MARIA. They say, "There go Captain von Trapp's children."

CAPTAIN. My children have always been a credit to my name.

MARIA. But, Captain, they weren't. They were just unhappy little marching machines.

CAPTAIN. I don't care to hear from you about my children.

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MARIA. Well, you must hear from someone. You're not home long enough to know them.

CAPTAIN. I said I don't want to hear -

MARIA. I know you don't but you've got to. Take Liesl -Liesl isn't a child anymore. And if you keep treating her as one, Captain, you're going to have a mutiny on your hands. And Friedrich - Friedrich's afraid to be himself he's shy - he's aloof, Friedrich needs you - he needs your confidence -

CAPTAIN. Don't tell me about my son.

MARIA. Brigitta could tell you about him. She could tell you a lot more if you got to know her, because she notices things. And she always tells the truth - especially when you don't want to hear it. Kurt - is sensitive - he's easily hurt and you ignore him you brush him aside the way you do all of them.

(The CAPTAIN starts to leave.)

I haven't finished yet! Louisa wants to have a good time. You've just got to let her have a good time. Marta I don't know about yet - but someone has to find out about her. And little Gretl - just wants to be loved... Oh, please, Captain, love Gretl, love all of them. They need you.

CAPTAIN. Stop! Stop it! You will pack your things and return to the abbey as soon as you can.

MARIA. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said those things - not in the way I said them.

(The dialogue continues uninterrupted as the CHILDREN begin to sing offstage.)

[MUSIC NO. 17 "THE SOUND OF MUSIC (REPRISE)"]