

MARIA (ALL FEMALES AUDITIONING FOR CHARACTERS—Sisters BERTHE, MARGARETTA and SOHIA will audition using part 1 only of this dialogue: reading Maria)

Part 1- in the ABBEY

MOTHER ABBESS: Maria, very few of us were asleep. We could only think that you had lost your way—and to be lost at night on that mountain!

MARIA: Reverend Mother, I couldn't be lost on that mountain. That's my mountain. I was brought up on it! It was that mountain that brought me to you.

MOTHER ABBESS: Oh.... ?

MARIA: When I was a little girl I used to come down the mountain, climb a tree and look over it into your garden. I'd see the sisters at work, and I'd hear them sing on their way to vespers. Many times I went back up that mountain in the dark—singing all day. And that brings up another transgression—I was singing yesterday—and I was singing without your permission.

Part 2– In the BEDROOM saying a prayer prior to the thunderstorm and all the kids coming in.

MARIA: Dear God, I know now that you have sent me her on a mission. I must help these children to love their new mother and prepare them to win her love so she will never want them to leave her. And I pray this will become a happy family in Thy sight. God bless the Captain, God bless Liesl and Friedrich, Louisa, Brigitta, Marta and Gretl—and oh, yes, I forgot the other boy—what's his name? Well, God bless what's his name!...There is a thunder and lightning. Liesl enters through the window. Maria sees her out of the corner of her eye)...God bless the Reverend Mother, and Sister Margarett and everybody at NONNberg Abbey. And now, dear God, about Liesl—Help her to know that I am her friend and help her to tell me what she's up to.

Maria interrupts Captain and Elsa just after they have agreed not to marry. This dialogue comes just prior to the song: Something Good.

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: We found we just couldn't go the same way. That door is shut.

MARIA: Sister Margarett 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 many weeks...you knew it too! (she nods) what was it that told you?

MARIA: 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 when you're grown up, isn't it?