

(**FRANZ** exits into the house.)

ELSA. (*Rising, taking the **CAPTAIN**'s arm, and crossing downstage center.*) Georg, those mountains – they're magnificent!

CAPTAIN. Yes, they're not like any other mountains – they're friendly. Look, that green stretch of woods over there – when the wind moves through it, it's like a restless sea.

ELSA. And that sweet little village.

CAPTAIN. That's not a village. That's a town.

ELSA. Oh, I'm sorry – I didn't mean to hurt its feelings.

CAPTAIN. It's fun being with you. You're quite an experience for me.

ELSA. You're quite an experience for me, too. Somewhere in you there's a fascinating man. Occasionally I catch a glimpse of him, and when I do, he's exciting.

(*She sits left of table.*)

CAPTAIN. (*Crosses up to left of her.*) Exciting? I've never been called exciting before.

ELSA. I'm beginning to understand you better now that I see you here. You know, you're a little like those mountains –

(*The **CAPTAIN** crosses down left center.*)

– except that you keep moving. How can you be away from this place as much as you are?

CAPTAIN. Maybe I've been searching for a reason to come back here to stay.

ELSA. Georg, I like it here very much.

CAPTAIN. (*Embarrassed.*) Max can't still be on the telephone.

(*He crosses above the coffee table, right of*
ELSA.)

I know he's desperate about getting singers for the Kaltzberg Festival but –

(*To **ELSA.***) You like it here?

ELSA. Oh, we'd have to spend some time in Vienna. I have Heinrich's estate to look after.