

(MAX starts up the stairs as BRIGITTA enters from the terrace and crosses to ELSA.)

BRIGITTA. Frau Schraeder, they're talking about you out there.

ELSA. Come on, Georg, I've been dodging these people for an hour.

(ELSA and the CAPTAIN exit to the terrace.)

MARIA. *(Entering downstage right.)* Brigitta, have you seen your father?

MAX. *(On balcony.)* Good evening, Fraulein Maria.

MARIA. Herr Detweiler, it's nice to see you again.

MAX. Yes, you're going to.

(He exits right on the balcony.)

BRIGITTA. *(Down right center.)* I knew it all along. Frau Schraeder didn't have a headache. She just wanted to get out of the party. She was faking.

(Music out.)

MARIA. *(Crosses to BRIGITTA.)* Brigitta, you shouldn't say things you don't know are true.

BRIGITTA. But I do know. I heard her say to Father she'd been dodging these people.

MARIA. That doesn't mean that she didn't have a headache. It's very important that you children like Frau Schraeder.

BRIGITTA. I like her all right. Why is it important?

MARIA. Well – I think she's going to be your new mother.

BRIGITTA. Oh, Fraulein, Father's never going to marry her. Why, he couldn't.

MARIA. Why couldn't he?

BRIGITTA. Because he's in love with you.

MARIA. Now Brigitta, that's just the kind of thing –

BRIGITTA. You must know that –

MARIA. Brigitta – no!

BRIGITTA. Remember the other night when we were all sitting on the floor singing the edelweiss song he taught us? After we finished, you laughed at him for forgetting