

*in awe at the handsome embellishments. She puts the guitar case down on the floor and starts toward the windows, touching the porcelain stove admiringly as she passes it. In the distance we hear the abbey bells.*

**MARIA** *kneels and bows her head in a brief prayer. The CAPTAIN enters from the library downstage right, the letter still in his hand. As he sees MARIA in prayer, he stops. MARIA crosses herself and rises.)*

**CAPTAIN.** I'm Captain von Trapp. You are Fraulein...

**MARIA.** Maria – Maria Rainer.

**CAPTAIN.** Now, Fraulein, as to your duties here –

*(He suddenly becomes aware of her dress.)*

Would you mind stepping over there?

*(He indicates a spot in the center of the room.)*

Before the children meet you, you will put on another dress.

**MARIA.** I haven't any other dress. When we enter the abbey our worldly clothes are given to the poor.

**CAPTAIN.** What about this one?

**MARIA.** The poor didn't want this one.

**CAPTAIN.** This is what you would call a worldly dress?

**MARIA.** It belonged to our last postulant. I would have made myself a dress but I wasn't given time. I can make my own clothes.

**CAPTAIN.** Good. I'll see that you're given some material – today if possible. Now, you will be in charge of my children. There are seven of them. You will find out how far they have progressed in their studies and carry on from there. Each morning will be spent in the classroom. Each afternoon, they march. You will see that at all times they conduct themselves with decorum and orderliness. The first rule in this house is discipline.

**MARIA.** Yes, sir.