



Act I Scene 12- A Corridor in the Abbey

(**SISTER SOPHIA** enters accompanied by a **NEW POSTULANT** carrying a small traveling bag.

*She is distinctively and attractively dressed in drab suit and hat. They start down the corridor. From the opposite **six NUNS** entering double file, chanting.*

SQXXX: MUSIC NO. 26 "MORNING HYMN "

NUNS:

REX ADMIRABILIS ET TRIUMPHATOR NOBILIS
DULCEDO INEFFABILIS, TOTUS DESIDERABILIS
TOTUS DESIDERABILIS

*(**SISTER SOPHIA** and the **NEW POSTULANT** watch the nuns as they go down the corridor and disappear, then **THEY** exit as they lights fade out.)*

Act I Scene 13- The office of the Mother Abbess Three days later

*(The **MOTHER ABBESS** is seated at her desk and **SISTER SOPHIA** stands Facing her. The **NEW POSTULANT** is right of the desk, signing her name to a paper).*

MOTHER ABBESS:

(Rising) Sister Sophia take our new postulant to the robing room. Bless you , my daughter.

*(The **NEW POSTULANT** kneels. The **MOTHER ABBESS** blesses her. There is a knock on the door upstage right).*

Ave!

(**SISTER MARGARETA** enters upstage right as **SISTER SOPHIA** and the **NEW POSTULANT** exit upstage right)

SISTER MARGARETTA:

Maria has asked to see you. I know it has taken her a long time.



MOTHER ABBESS:

I waited until she wanted to come to me.

SISTER MARGARETTA:

It's strange. She's happy to be here- but she's unhappy, too.

MOTHER ABBESS:

Why did they send her back - do you know?

SISTER MARGARETTA:

She doesn't speak. She hasn't spoken except in prayer.

MOTHER ABBESS:

I shall see her.

SISTER MARGARETTA:

(crosses to the door) Maria

MARIA Enters - *(MARIA goes to the MOTHER ABBESS and kneels).*

MOTHER ABBESS:

(Blessing MARIA), This must have been a trying experience for you.

MARIA:

It was, Reverend Mother.

MOTHER ABBESS:

MOTHER ABBESS: Has it taught you anything?

MARIA:

I've learnt that I never want to leave these walls again.

MOTHER ABBESS:

Why did they send you back to us.

MARIA:

(After a moment's hesitation)

They didn't send me back. I left. I left without telling them I was going - without saying goodbye.

MOTHER ABBESS:

Sit down , Maria



SQXXX: MUSIC NO. 27 "INCIDENTAL "

(MARIA sits by the desk. SISTER MARGARETTA looks on with increasing interest).

MOTHER ABBESS:

Maria what happened? Why did you do this?

MARIA:

I was frightened

MOTHER ABBESS:

Frightened?

MARIA:

(With difficulty.) I was confused. I felt - I never felt that way before. I couldn't stay - and I know that here I would be away from it- that here I would be safe.

MOTHER ABBESS:

MOTHER ABBESS: Maria, our abbey is not to be used as an escape. What is it you can't face?

(MUSIC out)

MARIA: I can't face him again.

MOTHER ABBESS:

(After a pause) Thank you, Sister Margareta.

SISTER MARGARETTA exits upstage right. The MOTHER ABBESS stands behind MARIA. She puts her hands on MARIA's shoulders and speaks quietly.)

MOTHER ABBESS:

Maria, are you in love with Captain von Trapp?

MARIA:

(Torn) I don't know. I don't know.

MOTHER ABBESS:

Tell me about it, my child

MARIA:

(With emotion.) Brigitta said that I was- and that her father was in love with me- and then there he was - and we were looking at each other - and I could hardly breathe. Then I knew I couldn't stay.

(She rises)

MOTHER ABBESS:

But do you like him, Maria?



MARIA:

Oh Yes!

MOTHER ABBESS:

Did you let him see how you felt?

MARIA:

(Turning to her) If I did I didn't know that I did. That's what has been torturing me. I was there on God's errand. To have asked for the Captain's love would have been wrong. I don't know, Mother. I do know this.-

*(She kneels before th **MOTHER ABBESS.**)*

I am ready at this very moment it take the vows of poverty, obedience and -chastity.

MOTHER ABBESS:

*(Helping **MARIA** to rise.)* Maria the love of a man and a woman is holy too. The first time we talked together - you told me that you remembered your father and mother before they died.

Do you remember - were they happy?

*(She seats **MARIA** on the stool)*

MARIA:

Oh yes Mother they were very happy.

MOTHER ABBESS:

Maria, you were born of the happiness of their love. And my child you have a great capacity to love. What you must find out is - how does God want you to spend your love.

(She sits at her desk).

MARIA:

I've pledged my life to Gods' service. I've pledged my life to God

MOTHER ABBESS:

My daughter, if you love this man, it doesn't mean that you love God less you must find out. You must go back.

MARIA:

(Rising) Oh no, Mother , please, don't ask me to do that. Please!

SQXXX: MUSIC NO. 28 "CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN "

MARIA:

Let's stay here.

*(She circles behind the desk and sinks at the feet of the **MOTHER ABBESS.**)*

MOTHER ABBESS:



These walls were not made to shut out problems. You have to face them. You have to find the life you were born to live.

MARIA:

How do I find it?

MOTHER ABBESS:

Look for it.

MOTHER ABBESS:

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
SEARCH HIGH AND LOW
FOLLOW EVERY BYWAY
EVERY PATH YOU KNOW

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
FORD EVERY STREAM
FOLLOW EVERY RAINBOW
TILL YOU FIND YOUR DREAM

A DREAM THAT WILL NEED ALL THE LOVE YOU CAN GIVE
EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE

She rises

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
FORD EVERY STREAM
FOLLOW EVERY RAINBOW
TILL YOU FIND YOUR DREAM

A DREAM THAT WILL NEED ALL THE LOVE YOU CAN GIVE

She lifts MARIA to her feet)

EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
FORD EVERY STREAM
FOLLOW EVERY RAINBOW
TILL YOU FIND YOUR DREAM

As the song swells to it's finish MARIA removes the postulant's veil from her head and stands transfixed as:)



END OF ACT 1