

CAPTAIN

A beautiful one.

MAX

Good! In the next few days I have to visit all these towns around here and listen to saengerbunds, choirs, quartets—

CAPTAIN

You'll be here for meals, won't you?

MAX

Oh, yes!

*(MAX rises and looks off over the heads of the audience, where he plainly sees a mountain village.)*

It was in a town just about that size – Watzmann – where I discovered the St. Ignatius Boys Choir. In 1930 they won the Festival, became very famous, toured all over the world.

ELSA

Oh, yes – whatever became of them?

MAX

By the time their voices changed they were rich enough to live in America.

*(Indicating)*

Who lives in that dilapidated castle down there? Rumpelstiltskin?

CAPTAIN

Baron Elberfeld. The oldest family in the valley.

ELSA

I'd like to meet him. I'd like to meet all your friends. Georg, why don't you give a dinner for me while I'm here? Nothing very much – just something lavish.

CAPTAIN

I wouldn't know whom to invite. Today it's difficult to tell who's a friend and who's an enemy.

ELSA

This isn't a good time to make enemies. Let's make some friends.

*(Wishing to change the subject, the CAPTAIN goes upstage and looks off.)*

CAPTAIN

I can't understand what's happened to the children.

ELSA

You're not worried about them, are you?

CAPTAIN

They should have been here to welcome you.