ELSA - Side #1 - p. 1 of 3

ELSA

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 and 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.

CAPTAIN

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 – 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

Max, can't still be on the telephone. I know he's desperate about getting singers for the Kaltzberg Festival but – You like it here?

ELSA

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

CAPTAIN

I thought that was a corporation now.

- continued on page 2 -

ELSA - Side #1 - p. 2 of 3

ELSA

It is, and I'm president.

CAPTAIN

You president of a corporation!

ELSA

After all, I managed Heinrich's affairs for years before he died.

CAPTAIN

I can't picture you sitting behind a desk.

ELSA

Well, of course, I wear a business suit and smoke a big cigar.

(MAX DETWEILER enters, carrying a small notebook and pencil)

MAX

I'm sorry I took so long.

CAPTAIN

Any luck?

MAX

How would you like this for the Kaltzberg Festival – the finest choral group in Austria, the greatest mixed quartet in all Europe – and the best soprano in the world?

ELSA

Max, that's something I'd love to hear!

MAX

So would I. All I've got up to now is a basso who isn't even profundo.

ELSA

Max, you always come up with a good Festival Concert.

MAX

And why? Because my motto is: "Never start out looking fort the people you wind up getting." That's why I've been telephoning Paris, Rome, Stockholm, London –

ELSA

On Georg's telephone?

MAX

How else could I afford it? Why am I up her?

- continued on page 3 -

ELSA - Side #1 - p. 3 of 3

CAPTAIN

I hoped it was because you liked me.

MAX

Of course I like you. Why shouldn't I like you? You live like a king. You have an excellent wine cellar –

ELSA

Max!

MAX

I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way <u>I</u> live when I'm with them. (We hear the Abbey bells)

Speaking as a government official, I – Georg, is there a cathedral around here?

CAPTAIN

That's our Abbey – Nonnberg Abbey.

MAX

Do they have a choir?

CAPTAIN

A beautiful one.

MAX

In the next few days I have to visit all these towns around her and listen to saengerbunds, choirs, quartets –

CAPTAIN

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

MAX

Oh, yes! It was 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. 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.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

(end of side)

ELSA – SIDE #2 – p. 1 of 1

ELSA I came back to congratulate you.
MARIA Thank you.
ELSA The Captain was really moved.
MARIA Yes, I think he was pleased. He's asked me to stay on with the children.
ELSA Oh, you're staying on!
MARIA Until September.
ELSA Until September.
MARIA Then I go back to the Abbey.
The Abbey?
MARIA I'm going to be a nun.
ELSA Oh, now nice! When you get back to the Abbey, think of us.
MARIA I'll pray for you.
(MARIA exits. ELSA smiles, then realizes she may have been insulted) ***********************************
(end of side)

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