

Side #7: Maria and Captain

CAPTAIN. My children have always been a credit to my name.

MARIA. But, Captain, they weren't. They were just unhappy little marching machines.

CAPTAIN. I don't care to hear from you about my children.

MARIA. Well, you must hear from someone. You're not home long enough to know them.

CAPTAIN. I said I don't want to hear -

MARIA. I know you don't - but you've got to. Take Liesl - Liesl isn't a child anymore. And if you keep treating her as one, Captain, you're going to have a mutiny on your hands. And Friedrich - Friedrich's afraid to be himself - he's shy - he's aloof, Friedrich needs you - he needs your confidence -

CAPTAIN. Don't tell *me* about my *son*.

MARIA. Brigitta could tell you about him. She could tell you a lot more if you got to know her, because she notices things. And she always tells the truth - especially when you don't want to hear it. Kurt - is sensitive - he's easily hurt - and you ignore him - you brush him aside the way you do all of them.

(The CAPTAIN starts to leave.)

I haven't finished yet! Louisa - wants to have a good time. You've just got to let her have a good time. Marta --I don't know about yet - but someone has to find out about her. And little Gretl - just wants to be loved... Oh, please, Captain, love Gretl, love all of them. They need you.

CAPTAIN. Stop! Stop it! You will pack your things and return to the abbey as soon as you can.

MARIA. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said those things - not in the way I said them.