

Side #8: Mother Abbess and Maria

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. *(A moment.)* Maria, what happened? Why did you do this?

MARIA. I was frightened.

MOTHER ABBESS. Frightened?

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

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

MARIA. I can't face him again.

MOTHER ABBESS. *(After a pause.)* 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 here he was - and we were looking at each other - and I could hardly breathe. Then I knew I couldn't stay.

MOTHER ABBESS. But you do like him, Maria?

MARIA. Oh, yes!

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! Let me stay here.

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.