

Friedrich 1

I'm Friedrich. I'm fourteen. I'm a boy.

Friedrich 2

LIESL Friedrich and I used to sneak out and watch them from the top of the stairs.
FRIEDRICH I remember the music.
FRAU SCHMIDT Once your father brought a Chamber orchestra all the way from Budapest.
FRIEDRICH Yes, they wore red coats.
FRAU SCHMIDT Go ahead, children, and mind your manners. Come along.
FRIEDRICH I remember beautiful ladies and everybody laughing.

Louisa 1

MARIA I'm going to tell you something. I've never been a governess before. How do I start?
LOUISA You mean you don't know anything about being a governess?
MARIA No.
LOUISA Well, the first thing you have to do is to tell Father to mind his own business.
KURT No, Louisa, don't. I like her.
LOUISA (Picking up guitar case) What's in here?
MARIA My guitar.
LOUISA What did you bring this for?
MARIA For when we all sing together.
LOUISA We don't sing.

Louisa 2

Please prepare Brigitta 2.

Kurt 1

BRIGITTA I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.
KURT Brigitta, you mustn't say a thing like that!
BRIGITTA Why not? Don't you think it's ugly?
KURT If I did think so, I wouldn't say so. I'm Kurt. I'm eleven - almost.

Kurt 2

MARIA Kurt, I haven't danced the Ländler since I was a little girl.
KURT Oh, you remember it — show me—
MARIA No, I haven't danced since —
KURT Come, you said the left hand behind the back—
MARIA Yes, that's right. But first the boy and girl meet.
KURT Yes. (He bows. She curtsies)
MARIA Then they go for a little stroll.
(He bows. She curtsies)

~~MARIA~~

~~Then they go for a little stroll.~~

Brigitta 1

I'm Brigitta. She's Louisa and she's thirteen and you're smart. I'm nine and I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.

Brigitta 2

BRIGITTA

I knew it all along. Frau Schraeder didn't have a headache. She just wanted to get out of the party. She was faking.

MARIA

Brigitta, you shouldn't say things you don't know are true.

BRIGITTA

But I do know. I heard her say to Father she'd been dodging these people.

MARIA

That doesn't mean that she didn't have a headache. It's very important that you children like Frau Schraeder.

BRIGITTA

I like her all right. Why is it important?

MARIA

Well - I think she's going to be your new mother.

BRIGITTA

Oh, Fraulein, Father's never going to marry her. Why, he couldn't.

MARIA

Why couldn't he?

BRIGITTA

Because he's in love with you.

MARIA

Now Brigitta, that's just the kind of thing—

BRIGITTA

You must know that—

MARIA

Brigitta—no!

BRIGITTA

Remember the other night when we were all sitting on the floor singing the Edelweiss song he taught us? After we finished, you laughed at him for forgetting the words. He didn't forget the words. He just stopped singing to look at you. And when he speaks to you, the way his voice sounds—

MARIA

No, Brigitta, no.

BRIGITTA

And the way you looked at him just now when you were dancing. You're in love with him.

Marta 1

I'm Marta and I'm going to be seven on Tuesday and I'd like a pink parasol.

Marta 2 / Gretl 1

CAPTAIN

Well, something must have happened— for her to leave us without even saying goodbye.

MARTA/GRETL

Isn't Fraulein Maria coming back?

CAPTAIN

No, darling. I don't think so.

MARTA/GRETL

But she was the best governess we ever had.

CAPTAIN

You're not going to have a governess any more. You're going to have a new mother.

MARTA/GRETL

A new mother?