

MEMORY FOUR: May 1940

CAST: 4

Heinz: male, (15)

Eva: female (12)

Sanne: female 12

Herman: male (15)

(There's music underscoring as we set the scene for the "Memory of the Sailboat." It is almost like a dance. HEINZ is the captain on a boat welcoming EVA, SANNE and HERMAN. He has on a captain's cap.)

HEINZ

Welcome aboard, Miss Geiringer. I am your captain. We will be sailing at 0900 hours. The winds are moderate from the southwest.

EVA

Aye, aye, Captain!

HEINZ

And welcome Sanne and Herman. Are you ready to set sail?

SANNE

I am so excited. I brought a small picnic to share. With cake.

HERMAN

So did I. We will have plenty of food.

HEINZ

Ha! I've seen how much you can eat.

HERMAN

I'm growing!

HEINZ

We all are.

SANNE

So we'll eat everything.

HEINZ

Except for Eva. She's a picky eater.

EVA

I eat cake.

HEINZ

We all eat cake. I am your captain and you are my shipmates.

HERMAN

As first mate/

EVA

/I'm first mate!

HERMAN

As second mate, I propose that we eat.

HEINZ

Before we eat, I think we should go on an adventure. Then we will be hungry.

HERMAN

I'm already hungry.

EVA

I vote for the adventure. What did you have in mind? Pirates? I'll be a pirate.

HEINZ

Sirens! There's a tale that takes place on the Rhine at a place called the Murmuring Cliffs.

SANNE

It's where Lorelei was jilted by her suitor and jumped off the cliff and drowned. Now her spirit sits way on top and she sings. She sings such beautiful songs that sailors that hear her go mad and jump ship to swim to the cliffs *but* they drown. No one who has heard her song has survived to tell the tale. We studied it in school. *It's so romantic!* Let's play! I want to be Lorelei!

EVA

No, me!

HEINZ

You, Eva are my savior. For I want to be the sailor that will hear Lorelei's song and live to tell about it. But that can only happen if you help me.

EVA

I'll always help you.

HERMAN

And me?

HEINZ

A fallen sailor.

HERMAN

Am I – dead? I don't want to be dead.

HEINZ

Nobody wants to be dead. Lorelei was so unhappy about being jilted, she vowed to drown as many sailors as she could.

EVA

She was a murderer!

HEINZ

She was. But sailors came all the time wanting to be enchanted by her song.

EVA

That's silly of the sailors. They should sail to a place where nobody wants to murder them.

HEINZ

They wanted to experience her enchantment. Just as I do. Are you game?

HERMAN

As long as I live.

HEINZ

We'll all live. In real life.

SANNE

I'm ready. What do you want me to do?

HEINZ

Sanne, climb up high on these boxes. They are the cliffs. You will be Lorelei and sing.

SANNE

I don't sing.

HEINZ

We will imagine it. Herman and I will be the sailors who want to experience everything. My first mate needs to tie me up so I cannot jump into the water when the music starts. Unfortunately my friend – you will not be so lucky. You will jump in the water/

HERMAN

/I don't want to jump in the water. I don't swim very well.

HEINZ

You *make-believe* you jump in the water and you *make-believe* you drown. Now, Eva you must wear ear plugs so that you don't hear Lorelei calling and so you will not be tempted to follow her. Ready?

ALL

Aye, aye.

HEINZ

Here's some rope to tie me up.

(EVA ties a knot. SANNE climbs to the top "of something." HEINZ gives EVA some makeshift ear plugs. It could be something silly that hangs out of her ears.)

HEINZ

Take this. When I tell you to, put it in your ears. That way you won't hear Lorelei's call and you will be safe. And remember, no matter what I say – do not untie me until we are past the cliffs. Is that clear?

EVA

Aye, Aye, Captain!

HEINZ

And for now, enjoy the beautiful day. We sail to the cliffs!

(The sail in the quiet for a moment or two. And then from far away we hear a beautiful voice.)

HEINZ

Listen to the wind. There's music in it. Can you hear it.

(The children listen carefully. They hear it! SANNE mimes the singing and with a dancer's flair, she motions for the sailors to come to her. It's haunting, exquisite and welcoming.)

HEINZ (cont'd)

They're here! How I wish you could also hear them.

(The VOICE is closer. You may use "Die Lorelei.")

SANNE

Come to me, sailors. Follow me into the sea. I have such secrets that mankind will never know. But I will tell them to you.

HEINZ

I must stay the course.

SANNE

Don't you want to know more? Experience more?

HERMAN

I do!

SANNE

Then come closer.

(HERMAN mimes jumping in. He flails about and slowly drowns. He is not a bad actor. The singing continues.)

HEINZ

Eva! Untie me. I need to get closer to them. **EVA!**

(EVA stays her course and shakes her head "no." They are playacting and this is playful. We get to see EVA'S stubbornness.)

EVA

I can't hear you.

SANNE

Throw off that human coil. Break away from its chains. I will tell you the future. You can hold everyone's future in your hands. You will know all.

HEINZ

EVA! Unchain me now! That's an order from your captain.

EVA

I *am* following orders from my captain. And my captain said I should ignore my captain. So there!

SANNE

You are strong enough to get loose. Join me. You will know sweetness and goodness for all of eternity.

HEINZ

Eva? **EVA!**

EVA

Is someone calling me?

HEINZ

Look at me. **EVA!** Read my lips. Remember when I told you to not listen to me?

EVA

Yes.

HEINZ

I need you to listen carefully. I was wrong. These sirens mean us no harm. Let me go to them.

EVA

(Beat.) No.

HEINZ

They will show me wonders and in turn, I will give them to you. A life free of care. A life of hope. Wouldn't you like that?

EVA

(Beat.) Yes. But no.

HEINZ

Eva!

SANNE

This is your last chance. To live forever.

HEINZ

Free me now!

(Beat.)

EVA

No.

(The singing is heard. HEINZ tries to break free. The music swells and suddenly morphs into the sounds of war planes – very menacing. They increase and are gone. Then more planes come and more planes. Maybe Gestapo sirens. All “play” stops. EVA immediately goes to protect Heinz. They stare at the sky.)

Heinz!

EVA

The Germans are here.

HEINZ

(HEINZ envelops EVA in a hug. SANNE and HERMAN move closer together. The sounds are further and further away. HEINZ is shaken but tries to comfort his friends.)