

Scene Four:
Down Here On A Beach, Fifteen Years Later

(AT RISE: We see LOUISE standing alone, upstage center. As soon as the lights come up, the music of "If I Loved You" begins [measure 9], and she can be seen running and jumping joyously in her bare feet. [Measure 43] She turns a somersault and lies down on the sand to stare at the sky. [Measure 47] Two RUFFIANS come leap-frogging in, and LOUISE joins them in their rough play. Presently ENOCH SNOW enters from up right [measure 98], leading his six very well-behaved CHILDREN, all wearing their Sunday hats. They cross to downstage left, forming a diagonal line from down left to up center. [Measure 106] They stop in amazement to see the boisterous rough-housing of LOUISE and her COMPANIONS - ENOCH SNOW strongly disapproves. LOUISE tries to make friends with them and invites them to join in her play [measure 136], but, taking their cue from their father's horrified face, they just stand there shaking their heads. She finally gets the attention of two of them, who step out of line and laugh heartily at the antics of LOUISE, but SNOW stands there sternly and watches them. They feel his glare, look up at him and step meekly back into line. They snub her and finally exit [measure 148], led by SNOW, but as they go, one of them, [measure 160] a curious LITTLE MISS STUCK UP, steps out of line and lags behind the rest. She examines LOUISE's poor dress and bare feet with unfriendly dislike, circling around her and stopping on her left [measure 187].)

ENOCH'S DAUGHTER. (*Boastfully.*) My father bought me my pretty dress.

LOUISE. My father would've bought me a pretty dress, too. He was a barker on a carousel.

ENOCH'S DAUGHTER. Your father was a *thief!*

(They stand there just looking at each other. Finally ENOCH'S DAUGHTER tries to sneak away. She starts slowly circling counterclockwise. LOUISE follows her, their pace increasing as the circle gets bigger until she chases ENOCH'S DAUGHTER off left. When LOUISE returns [measure 188] she is wearing the big new hat that ENOCH'S DAUGHTER was wearing. She ties the bow, and then, imitating something she has seen proper ladies do, licks her fingers [measure 192] and smoothes back the upsweep of her hair [measure 193]. Then she flips her skirt [measure 194]. LOUISE and the two RUFFIANS laugh.)

(They get ready for another game of leap frog when a CARNIVAL TROUPE is seen entering upstage right [measure 196]. LOUISE is entranced. One YOUNG MAN, the leader of the Troupe, is the type LOUISE believes her father to have been when he was young. He enters with a GIRL ACROBAT on his shoulder. She is holding a parasol. The YOUNG MAN sets her down. [Measure 212] She places her parasol in the center of the stage. The CARNIVAL TROUPE gets into position and [at measure 220] begins to dance around the parasol, as if they were horses on a carousel. At the same time LOUISE, drawn to the parasol, picks it up and begins to revolve with the CARNIVAL TROUPE. As they perform a brutal and frenetic waltz, LOUISE becomes frightened,

*crouches down and runs out of the circle. The **ACROBAT** approaches one of the **RUFFIANS** (downstage right) and playfully ruffles his hair. This scares him, and he dashes off right [measure 244].)*

*(At the same time the **YOUNG MAN** notices **LOUISE** and goes to shake her hand [measure 248]. Then they rejoin the dancing **CARNIVAL TROUPE**. [At measure 292] The **ACROBAT** sees **LOUISE** holding the stolen parasol and demands it back. **LOUISE** gives her the parasol. [Measure 296] The **YOUNG MAN** and **LOUISE** meet face to face. He tells her not to mind and winks at her. As the **ACROBAT** checks her parasol for any damage, **LOUISE**, fascinated by the glittery piece of silk decorating the **ACROBAT**'s skirt, touches it. [Measure 302] The **ACROBAT**, annoyed, pulls away from **LOUISE**. [Measure 316] However, the **YOUNG MAN** snatches the scarf from the **ACROBAT**'s skirt and gives it to **LOUISE**. The **CARNIVAL TROUPE** begin their exit upstage right [by measure 320]. **LOUISE** remains alone on the beach, dancing dreamily with the scarf. [Measure 338] The **YOUNG MAN**, who has waited behind, watches her. She becomes aware of his presence, and awkwardly approaches him. [Measure 360] Together they dance a pas-de-deux. [Measure 416] Eventually he grows frightened of her intensity. Realizing how young and innocent she is, he reluctantly leaves her. [Measure 428] **LOUISE** feels humiliated and ashamed. She weeps.)*

*([Measure 436] The **SNOW CHILDREN** re-enter from upstage left, dancing a Polonaise. [Measure 454] **LOUISE** tries to join*

them but is constantly pushed out. [Measure 486] LOUISE pretends she doesn't care and dances by herself, but her heart is breaking. [Measure 502] MISS SNOW makes fun of her, all the CHILDREN begin to mock her, until she turns on them in desperation [measure 508]. They are frozen with awe and fear as she speaks to them in a voice filled with deep injury and the fury of a hopeless outcast.)

LOUISE. (*Whispers.*) I hate you – I hate all of you!

(The CHILDREN back away and then begin dancing again [measure 515]. LOUISE stands there looking at them, heartbroken and alone, as the gauze cloud curtain falls. We see BILLY and the STARKEEPER, who have been watching all of this from “up there,” back in their original positions.)

[MUSIC NO. 28 “MY LITTLE GIRL – MUSIC UNDER SCENE”]

BILLY. Why did you make me look?

STARKEEPER. You said you wanted to.

BILLY. I know what she's goin' through.

STARKEEPER. Somethin' like what happened to you when you was a kid, ain't it?

BILLY. Somebody ought to help her.

STARKEEPER. Ay-ah. Somebody ought to. You ken go down any time. Offer's still open.

(The 1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND enters to guide BILLY if he wants to go. BILLY starts toward him; then, getting a sudden idea, he turns back and stealthily takes a star from the STARKEEPER's basket. Both the STARKEEPER

and the 1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND are aware of this, but pretend not to notice. BILLY waves an elaborate good-by to the STARKEEPER and, whistling casually to quell suspicion, he starts away with the 1ST HEAVENLY FRIEND.)