

MERSISTERS / F / SEB

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID

START

(SEBASTIAN)

I gotta find her 'fore her Daddy goes lookin' -

AQUATA

Good luck! She's in la-la land.

ANDRINA

That girl has fallen head-over-tails in love.

SEBASTIAN

In love? Ariel?

ALLANA

Come on, Flounder! Who's the lucky merman?

FLOUNDER

Gee. I dunno. I didn't even know it was love until the second chorus.

ARISTA

But you know her better than anybody!

ATINA, ARISTA

You follow her everywhere -

FLOUNDER

Not anymore. Not since she started chasing after humans.

SEBASTIAN

"Humans"? I hope and pray ya didn't just say "humans"?

FLOUNDER

(turning ashen)

Uh-oh.

SEBASTIAN

An' dis new love of hers - don't tell me -

FLOUNDER

- then don't ask me! -

SEBASTIAN

- HE'S ONE A' DEM - ?

(The Mersisters start grilling Flounder.)

AQUATA

A real human, the two-legged kind?

ARISTA

Daddy's gonna be ripped!

ATINA

Dating outside her species!

ALLANA

Thanks, Flounder, you're a regular angel-fish—

(Overwhelmed, Flounder bolts. The Mersisters swim after in hot pursuit.)

SEBASTIAN

Water all around ya, child, and ya still got to play with fire ...

(And Sebastian doubles his speed to find Ariel.)

END

(With several mighty blasts from his trident, King Triton obliterates the magnificent bust, which evaporates in a million shards. Ariel falls to the ground, distraught. A pause. King Triton sees how pained Ariel is. After a slight moment of hesitation – could it be regret? – he swims away. Bereft, Ariel searches through the rubble. She picks up the garland of red sea anemones, and places it around her neck. Next, she finds the spyglass, her most precious treasure, and clings to it fiercely. Sebastian enters and tries to comfort Ariel.)

#13 – If Only (Ariel's Lament)

Ariel

SEBASTIAN

SEB / ARIEL

Ariel.

ARIEL

He ruined all my things, my human stuff! If he really and truly loved me, then he'd never –

SEBASTIAN

Oh, child, it's because he loves you –

ARIEL

Well, he sure has a funny way of showing it!

(with resolve)

He can break every single treasure I own ... but he can't break me!

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, well you just might break his heart –

ARIEL

And you! Some friend you turned out to be! Bringing him here – to my secret place –

SEBASTIAN

For your own good, child.

(a beat, and then)

I pray you wake up from dis madness and soon. You're swimmin' in some dangerous waters.

(Sebastian exits, and Ariel is left alone. She picks up the broken shard of a teacup, the lens from a battered telescope. She holds them tightly in her palms pressing them against her heart.)

ARIEL

IF ONLY HE WOULD LOOK!

IF ONLY HE COULD SEE

START

SEBASTIAN

Out of the frying pan, into the fire! The things I do for you, young lady! Now, I know what I should do! I should march you right back home to your father –

(Ariel's eyes grow wide with alarm, and she shakes her head a vehement "no.")

– so you can be miserable the rest of your life ...

(sighs heavily; he just can't bring himself to stand in Ariel's way)

It's true. I got no backbone. All right, child. I'm in. Now we got to make a plan to get that boy to kiss you, before it's too late! You gotta bat your eyes, like this ...

Then you gotta pucker your lips, like this ...

(Sebastian demonstrates; Ariel copies.)

Oh, that's good! You put those two things together, you got that boy in the palm of your hand! Now come, child, off to bed with you –

END

#19B – Back to Ursula's Lair

ARIEL

... but I know just who to ask!

(And Scuttle lands.)

(waving the fork)

Scuttle, look what we found!

SCUTTLE / F / ARIEL

SCUTTLE

More human paraphenicular, eh? You've asked the right bird; I happen to be an expert on that very specie-ality!

FLOUNDER

Can you tell us what it's for?

SCUTTLE

Oh, this is rare, ridonkulously rare. And in Sistine condition!

ARIEL

What? What is it?

SCUTTLE

It's a dinglehopper!

ARIEL

A dinglehopper?

SCUTTLE

Commonly used in saloons, yes, of the beauty variety.

(demonstrates)

Humans they like to wear their hair in tails, pony or pig or duck, it's all the same to them. A primp here and a twirl there and — *voila!* A Pompadour-able. And all thanks to —

ARIEL

(marveling)

The dinglehopper!

SCUTTLE

Give ya two sand dollars for it.

ARIEL

Scuttle, no —

SCUTTLE

I'm tellin' ya kid, on the open sea, ya won't get more than a few clams. But I'm prepared to offer —

ARIEL

I'm not selling it, Scuttle! I'm saving it for my collection!

SCUTTLE

Howza 'bout a swap?

(brandishes an old-fashioned tobacco pipe with an enormous bowl)

I got something stupelicious! Museum quality, really. A banded, bulbous ... snarfblatt.

(Ariel and Flounder "ooh" and "ahh.")

Second cousin to the tuba.

FLOUNDER

It makes music?

SCUTTLE

Sure thing, kid.

(Flounder blows into the pipe; seaweed pops out the other end.)

I ain't just blowin' smoke. Why, it makes music so fantabulous—so absolutely marvica—

END

ARIEL

(suddenly stricken with panic)

Music? Oh no! The concert! Oh my gosh, my father's gonna kill me!

FLOUNDER

The concert was today?

#3A - Oh No, the Concert

ARIEL

I completely forgot! Come on, Flounder. Thank you, Scuttle.

SCUTTLE

Ya change your mind and wanna sell, call me first, ya hear?

(PILOT, SAILORS)

AN' IT'S HEY TO THE STARBOARD, HEAVE HO!
 WATCH OUT FOR 'EM, LAD, OR YOU'LL GO TO YOUR RUIN
 MYSTERIOUS FATHOMS BELOW!

(The ship sails into the horizon. Ariel appears, just in time to snatch the sinking fork from oblivion. She holds it up; it catches the sun's rays; it makes prisms in the air.)

ARIEL

(admiring it)

Why, it's beautiful!

(A splash, and FLOUNDER appears. He's a rambunctious young fish, and Ariel's best friend.)

FLOUNDER

Hey, Ariel! There you are!

(Ariel hides the fork behind her back.)

**FLOUNDER/
 ARIEL**

ARIEL

Flounder!

FLOUNDER

(gazing at the strange terrain)

Whoa. Freaky.

ARIEL

What's the matter? Haven't you been to the surface before?

FLOUNDER

Yeah. Sure. Me and the other fish in my school, we come up here all the time.

ARIEL

Is that so?

FLOUNDER

Sure! We're not scared of sharks. Or boats. Or fishermen.

(with a nervous gulp)

What's a "chum bucket"? Are those for real?

ARIEL

You *are* afraid, aren't you?

FLOUNDER

No, I'm not! I'm here now, aren't I?

(a telling beat)

With you.

ARIEL

Flounder, you're blushing ...

FLOUNDER

It's sunburn. You get it up here.

ARIEL

Are you flirting with me?

FLOUNDER

Gross! Blech! No way!

(then)

But if I was—?

(Ariel ruffles Flounder's fins and gives him a peck on the head. Flounder is hopelessly smitten.)

ARIEL

Hey, guess what I found today! It was floating in the wake of a giant ship ...

FLOUNDER

Treasure?

ARIEL

I'll say! Look!

(shows him the fork)

Have you ever seen anything so amazing in your entire life?

FLOUNDER

Cool! What is it?

ARIEL

I don't know ...

(SCUTTLE the seagull flies down toward the shore. His feathers are askew, giving him the appearance of an avian Albert Einstein. Ariel spies him.)

SCUTTLE

(holding up a finger to test the wind)

Airspeed, check!

(glancing down at the ground)

Altitude, check!

(wiggling his feet)

Landing gear, check!

(a squawk)

CLEAR THE RUNWAY! AWK! Hello, Ariel!

END

SCENE NINE: ARIEL'S GROTTO

(Ariel sits beside the heroic bust. As she speaks, she almost seems to be confiding in it. In her hands she holds Prince Eric's spyglass.)

ARIEL

To think this belonged to him once; he held this in his own two hands.

KING TRITON

(offstage, enraged)

ARIEL—!

(When Ariel hears her father's voice piercing the tranquil waters, her whole body stiffens with fear. King Triton appears with Aquata, Andrina, Sebastian and Flounder.)

Ariel! Tell the truth! Did you save a human from drowning?

ARIEL

Who told—? Which one of you—?

(Flounder and Aquata trip over themselves in response.)

FLOUNDER

I'm sorry, Ariel! I'm nothing but a guppy, just a lousy guppy—

AQUATA

You get every single solo, and it's not fair—

TRITON/ARIEL

KING TRITON

THAT'S ENOUGH! Leave us alone.

(Andrina takes Flounder by one fin, Aquata takes him by the other, and they swim off.)

You too, Sebastian.

(With a regretful look in Ariel's direction, Sebastian exits, too. Father and daughter are alone now.)

So did you?

ARIEL

I had to rescue the Prince—

KING TRITON

You had to?

ARIEL

Without me, he would've perished!

KING TRITON

He's a human—you're a mermaid.

ARIEL

I can't hate him just because he's different. Perhaps you can, but it's just not in me--

KING TRITON

"Different"? They catch us with their hooks, they spear us with their blades--

ARIEL

They're not all like that!

KING TRITON

Have you forgotten what they did to your mother?

ARIEL

We don't know that for certain--

KING TRITON

Can there be any doubt? She slips out one morning for an innocent swim and never returns--!

ARIEL

You can't *prove*--

KING TRITON

I know it in my heart, and that's enough. Murderers, all of them!

ARIEL

You can't blame all humans for a few wicked ones--

#12C - *Grotto Destruction*

KING TRITON

I won't have you build a shrine to them! Worshipping their rubbish! The debris that sullies our waters--

(King Triton raises his trident menacingly.)

ARIEL

Daddy, no--

KING TRITON

The totems of their decadence!

ARIEL

Don't! Please!

KING TRITON

NEVER AGAIN, ARIEL! NEVER AGAIN!

(URSULA)

THEY COME FLOCKING TO MY CAULDRON
CRYING, "SPELLS, URSULA, PLEASE!"
AND I HELP THEM
YES, I DO!

NOW IT'S HAPPENED ONCE OR TWICE
SOMEONE COULDN'T PAY THE PRICE
AND I'M AFRAID I HAD TO RAKE 'EM 'CROSS THE COALS
YES, I'VE HAD THE ODD COMPLAINT
BUT ON THE WHOLE I'VE BEEN A SAINT
TO THOSE POOR UNFORTUNATE SOULS

**ARIEL /
URSULA**

Here's my best offer, babykins. I know a spell that will turn you into a human for three days. Now it's got a procedural clause, sort of a "*squid pro quo*." Before the sun sets on the third day, you've got to get dear ol' princey to kiss you. If you do, you'll stay human forever.

ARIEL

And if I don't?
(Flotsam holds a contract.)

URSULA

Nothing drastic darling, I'm sure ... Oh, look - small print: "Your soul is mine forever, and you're doomed to spend eternity in my watery, hell-soaked lair." Lawyers! Don't you just love 'em? Of course, there is one more thing ... my fee.

ARIEL

But I don't have anything!

URSULA

I'm not asking for much. Only ... your voice.

ARIEL

My voice?

URSULA

Don't worry. I have the perfect place for it.

(Flotsam and Jetsam bring out an enormous white glowing shell.)

Your grandpappy Poseidon gave his magic trident to your father ... but this was his gift *pour moi*.

ARIEL

Your magic shell!

URSULA

(slightly nervous)

You've heard about it?

ARIEL

Father says it's the source of all your witchcraft!

URSULA

Nonsense, darling!

ARIEL

He says you'd die without it—

URSULA

Die? Oh, please! It's a bauble! A vessel for your voice! Trust me, darling—your vibrato, your legato, even your belt—they'll all be safe'n'sound in here.

ARIEL

If I give away my voice, how can I ever—

URSULA

You'll have your looks ... your pretty face ... and don't underestimate the power of body language!

THE MEN UP THERE DON'T LIKE A LOT OF BLABBER
THEY THINK A GIRL WHO GOSSIPS IS A BORE
YES, ON LAND IT'S MUCH PREFERRED
FOR LADIES NOT TO SAY A WORD
AND AFTER ALL, DEAR, WHAT IS IDLE PRATTLE FOR?

COME ON, THEY'RE NOT ALL THAT IMPRESSED WITH CONVERSATION
TRUE GENTLEMEN AVOID IT WHEN THEY CAN
BUT THEY DOTE AND SWOON AND FAWN
ON A LADY WHO'S WITHDRAWN
IT'S SHE WHO HOLDS HER TONGUE WHO GETS HER MAN

COME ON, YOU POOR UNFORTUNATE SOUL
GO AHEAD!
MAKE YOUR CHOICE!
I'M A VERY BUSY WOMAN
AND I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY
IT WON'T COST MUCH
JUST YOUR VOICE

GULLS

(exasperated)

POSITOOVITY!

SCUTTLE, GULLS

POSITIVELY WORK FOR ...

YOU!

(Prince Eric bounds onto the beach, ready to go shipboard. Catching sight of Ariel, he stops abruptly.)

PRINCE ERIC

Hey, what have we got—?

(to gulls)

Shoo, shoo.

(The gulls flap and scatter.)

Miss, are you all right?

ARIEL/ERIC

#16A - On the Beach

(PRINCE ERIC)

You ... you seem very familiar. Have we met? Yes ... of course! I've been looking for you, everywhere! Please, you must tell me: what's your name?

(Ariel can only shrug.)

Excuse me? You don't speak English?

(This time, Ariel mouths her name.)

Sore throat, eh?

(Ariel draws a finger across her throat, sadly.)

I'm sorry. You don't speak at all, do you? For a moment, I mistook you for somebody else.

(Frustrated, Ariel stands and tries to pantomime the truth - she's the one!)

What is it? You're hurt? No, no ... You need help ...?

(Suddenly, all the excitement - and her new legs - take a toll on Ariel. She wobbles and falls, right into Prince Eric's arms.)

A bit dizzy, aren't you? I've got just the remedy! A warm bath, and a hot meal!

Come on now ... you'll be fine. The palace isn't far.

(Prince Eric lifts and carries the fragile Ariel toward the palace. As they disappear, Scuttle looks on with self-satisfaction.)

AWK!