

**SCENE FIVE: PRINCE ERIC'S SHIP / SEA BELOW / BEACH**

*(Sailors prepare for a storm aboard the ship.)*

**SAILORS**

HEAVE HO, HEAVE HO!

HEAVE HO, HEAVE HO!

STOW THE MAINSAIL!

BATTEN THE HATCHES!

**PRINCE ERIC**

I don't want to be King—

**GRIMSBY**

I swore an oath to your father on his deathbed that I'd turn you from an errant roustabout into a proper royal, so you're worthy to fill his shoes!

**PRINCE ERIC**

Now you're making *me* queasy.

**GRIMSBY**

And that's not all. I promised I'd have you married before your next birthday.

**PRINCE ERIC**

*(incredulous)*

Married?

**GRIMSBY**

Our kingdom needs a queen!

**PRINCE ERIC**

Did you ever try to take a princess sailing? It's a joke! Their crinolines get caught in the rigging. And most of 'em can't even swim—

**GRIMSBY**

Swim, sire? Is that a prerequisite?

**PRINCE ERIC**

Sure, if we go sailing! Where am I gonna find her, Grimbsy? A girl who's as carefree and alive as the sea itself! Where?

*(Ariel and Flounder bob up to the surface. Scuttle hovers nearby.)*

**SCUTTLE**

Well, whaddaya know—

**ARIEL**

Scuttle, be quiet! They'll hear you!

**SCUTTLE**

Oooh, I gotcha, I gotcha. We're being intrepidacious.

*(Ariel covers Scuttle's beak, as Prince Eric stares out to sea, over the heads.)*

**PRINCE ERIC**

It's too much to hope for, isn't it? Somewhere, out there ... a girl who's a match for a guy like me?

**GRIMSBY**

Perhaps you're not looking hard enough.

*(A roll of low thunder. Ariel can't help but notice the dashing young man.)*

**ARIEL**

I've never seen a human this close before.

**SCUTTLE**

Me neither!

**ARIEL**

I thought you were an expert.

**SCUTTLE**

On their stuff, sure! But egads—the sight of 'em! Horrible! That square jaw. Those broad shoulders. And two eyeballs the same color ... no variety—

**ARIEL**

I dunno. I think he's really handsome.

**FLOUNDER**

*(wounded)*

You do?

**PRINCE ERIC**

Trust me, Grimsby—when I come across the girl of my dreams, it'll hit me like lightning.

*(And with that, lightning cracks across the sky.)*

**PILOT**

Hurricane a'coming! King Triton must be angry indeed!

**PRINCE ERIC**

Batten the hatches, then everyone below deck! And quickly!

**PILOT**

Eric, take the wheel!

*(Sailors race to prepare the ship for the storm.)*

**SCUTTLE**

Whoa! The atmospherical's goin' haywire!

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**ARIEL**

Careful, Scuttle! Watch out!

*(The wind blows Scuttle away and out of sight. Flounder dives to take cover below.)*

**SCUTTLE**

Ariel!

**PILOT**

Secure the riggin'!

*(As the ship tips wildly from side-to-side, Grimsby clutches his stomach for dear life.)*

**GRIMSBY**

Oh, good heavens!

**PRINCE ERIC**

Don't worry, Grimsby—I'll get you home safely.

**PILOT**

Man overboard!

*(The ship breaks apart and Prince Eric is swallowed up by the voracious sea.)*

**GRIMSBY**

Eric!

**VOICES (FEMALE ENSEMBLE)**

AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH

AH-AH-AH-AH-AH-AH, AH-AH-AH-AH ...

*(Beneath the water, Ariel rescues Prince Eric, guiding him back up, up, up to ... the beach. Ariel lays Prince Eric safely on the sand. Flounder looks on from the water. Scuttle stands nearby, his feathers mussed from the storm.)*

**ARIEL**

Was I too late?

**SCUTTLE**

It's hard to say.

*(putting his ear against Prince Eric's foot)*

Oh, I— I can't make out a heartbeat.

*(Suddenly, Prince Eric's chest heaves with life.)*

## ARIEL

No, look! He's breathing! Oh, Scuttle ... just look at him. He's so beautiful.

WHAT WOULD I GIVE  
TO LIVE WHERE YOU ARE?  
WHAT WOULD I PAY  
TO STAY HERE BESIDE YOU?  
WHAT WOULD I DO TO SEE YOU  
SMILING AT ME?

WHERE WOULD WE WALK?  
WHERE WOULD WE RUN?  
IF WE COULD STAY ALL DAY IN THE SUN?  
JUST YOU AND ME  
AND I COULD BE  
PART OF YOUR WORLD

## GRIMSBY

(offstage)

Prince Eric!

## ARIEL

AH-AH-AH-AH ...

## GRIMSBY

(offstage)

Ahoy! Somebody! Anybody!

## SCUTTLE

On your way, kid ... before we're divulged!

*(Reluctant to leave the Prince behind, Ariel panics. She wants some tiny vestige of him, some tidbit of proof that this encounter actually happened. Impulsively, she slides the spyglass from his belt. Then she slips into the surf, followed by Flounder. A distressed Grimsby enters and sees Prince Eric lying on the beach.)*

## GRIMSBY

(to Scuttle)

Get away, you filthy bird!

*(Scuttle squawks and exits, perturbed. Grimsby kneels by Prince Eric, who rouses.)*

Prince Eric! Oh, Eric! You just adore making my pulse race, don't you?

## PRINCE ERIC

A girl rescued me. She pulled me right out of the surf. And she was singing!

**GRIMSBY**

There, there now. You took a terrible tumble, dear boy —

**PRINCE ERIC**

That voice! I can't get it out of my head —

**GRIMSBY**

It's the sound of the sea, that's all —

**PRINCE ERIC**

No! I'll prove it to you. I'll find her! And I'll thank her for saving my life —

**GRIMSBY**

You'd best come with me. A night of sleep, and you'll be good as new —

**PRINCE ERIC**

Please. You have to believe me.

**GRIMSBY**

You've heard too many tall tales, my boy.

**PRINCE ERIC**

No. She was real.

**GRIMSBY**

*(gently, as he guides Prince Eric off)*

Yes. Of course she was. As real as a siren! As real as a mermaid on the rocks ...

**ARIEL**

*(looking after Prince Eric with heartfelt longing)*

I DON'T KNOW WHEN

I DON'T HOW

BUT I KNOW SOMETHING'S STARTING RIGHT NOW

WATCH AND YOU'LL SEE

SOMEDAY I'LL BE

PART OF YOUR WORLD!

*(Ariel dives into the sea.)*

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