

SCENE TEN: URSULA'S LAIR

(A school of silver fish swim by. They scatter as Ariel is dragged down by Jetsam.)

URSULA

(offstage)

Say good-bye to your Prince! Your pretty dress! Your satin pumps! You're mine now, mermaid!

FLOTSAM

Get ready to spend the rest of your days as her slave—

JETSAM

—plucking the barnacles off of her back!

(Flotsam and Jetsam drag Ariel away.)

#26 – Poor Unfortunate Souls (Reprise)

Ursu

(Ursula enters. King Triton follows her, furious.)

KING TRITON

Ursula!

URSULA

Brother darling! You're right on cue!

KING TRITON

What have you done with my daughter?

URSULA

Nothing! She's done it all to herself, trading her voice away. And for what? Human heartbreak!

KING TRITON

Give her back to me.

URSULA

Not on your life!

IT SO HAPPENS THAT YOUR DAUGHTER SIGNED A CONTRACT

(Jetsam swims forward with the contract.)

KING TRITON

No!

URSULA

EVEN DREW A LITTLE HEART ABOVE THE "I"
IS IT BINDING? GOODNESS, YES!
UNBREAKABLE, UNLESS ...

KING TRITON

Unless?

URSULA

THERE IS A LITTLE SOMETHING WE COULD TRY

KING TRITON

Go on.

URSULA

Yes ...

PERHAPS WE COULD ARRANGE A SORT OF TRADEOFF
MAYBE SWAP YOUR DAUGHTER'S SOUL FOR, SAY, YOUR OWN

KING TRITON

What?

URSULA

SIGN THE SCROLL AND SET HER FREE
OR ELSE SHE COMES WITH ME
TO SUFFER THROUGH ETERNITY ALONE ...

The mute little hatchling, drowning in her own sorrow, with no voice left to cry out
your name ... Well? I'm waiting.

KING TRITON

It's not my soul you're after—it's my power.

URSULA

Which would you rather be? The King of the Sea, or a father to his little girl?

(Ariel, who is a mermaid again, is dragged forward by Flotsam and Jetsam.)

KING TRITON

Ariel!

*(Ariel watches in horror as King Triton signs the scroll. Ursula snatches the trident
away from her brother, who shrinks and falls, her slave forever.)*

URSULA

Finally! The oceans belong to me!

AND NOW YOU POOR UNFORTUNATE SOUL!
TIME'S UP! YOU'RE THROUGH!

(The eels imprison King Triton.)

(URSULA)

NOW THE POWER OF POSEIDON
HAS BEEN ONCE AGAIN MADE WHOLE
ALL THE MAGIC OF THE TRIDENT
AND THE SHELL IN MY CONTROL!
AND NOW DARK SHALL REIGN FOREVER
OVER OCEAN, SEA AND SHOAL!

Now see for yourself how banishment feels!

YOU POOR UNFORTUNATE SOUL!

#26A - Ursula's Demise

(Ursula cackles. In that very moment, Ariel swims past her, grabbing the magic shell.)

FLOTSAM

Egads, look out!

JETSAM

She's got the shell!

VOICE

AH-AH-AH-AH-AH-AH-AH

(Ursula turns and sees Ariel holding her most prized possession, which now releases the mermaid's voice.)

URSULA

Well ... look who has my black magic now.

ARIEL

My voice ...

(touching a hand to her throat)

The spell is broken!

URSULA

Give me back my shell.

ARIEL

(raising the shell over her head)

If it breaks, you die—

URSULA

You believe that? After all the lies he's told you?

KING TRITON

Lies? What lies—?

URSULA

You told her the world above was hideous, and what was it instead?

ARIEL

(biting her lip)

Beautiful. Beautiful beyond compare ...

URSULA

He'd say anything to turn you against the Prince and his kind. Why, he's shameless!
He'd even say that they murdered your mother—

ARIEL

Wait a minute! If humans didn't kill her, then who did?

KING TRITON

(to Ursula, as the terrible truth dawns on him)

It was you, wasn't it? All these years, I've been blaming them, and it was you—

URSULA

Who? Moi? Why, I couldn't hurt a minnow—!

(Ariel makes a sudden, irrevocable decision.)

ARIEL

Liar—!

(Ariel throws the shell off stage to destroy it. Ursula vaporizes in a cloud of hot, steamy ink, scattering her tentacles. Ariel snatches the trident from one of them.)

URSULA

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagggggggggggggghhhhhhhhhhhhh!

FLOTSAM

Ursula!

JETSAM

No!

(King Triton rises from his imprisonment.)

KING TRITON

Ariel!

ARIEL

Daddy!

(Ariel swims to King Triton and returns his magic trident, which glows in the hands of its rightful owner.)

#26B - Ariel's Transformation

(ARIEL)

Can you ever forgive me? I've caused you such terrible worry, thinking only of myself, not you, not my sisters, not this place—the only place I've ever truly called my home—

KING TRITON

(silencing her)

I'm the one who's at fault, Ariel. Cursing humans, when all along—

ARIEL

There's goodness in people, Daddy. I know. I've seen it.

KING TRITON

Even when I couldn't. I'm proud of you, Ariel. Your mother would have been, too.

(and then, heartfelt)

Somehow, in the blink of an eye, when my back was turned, you grew up.

(King Triton embraces Ariel tightly as Flounder and Sebastian appear. Ariel still can't help gazing wistfully up toward the surface. King Triton can't help but notice.)

You love him very much, don't you?

(Ariel nods.)

FLOUNDER

It's what she wants, Your Majesty.

(with a heartfelt look to Ariel)

More than anything. Please.

(Ariel smiles at Flounder, more grateful than she can say. With a wistful sigh, King Triton raises his magic trident, and restores Ariel to human form. The Mersisters enter swimming around Ariel as magically her legs reappear.)

KING TRITON

You belong to his world now.

(Ariel swims to King Triton.)

ARIEL

(embracing King Triton)

Thank you, Daddy. Thank you so much.

(Ariel and King Triton swim to the surface.)