

SCENE ELEVEN: THE BEACH- *Finale Ultimo*

Triton, Ariel, Ensemble, Eric

(Prince Eric bounds in, followed by Grimsby.)

PRINCE ERIC

Tomorrow at sunrise, we search again.

GRIMSBY

But Your Majesty, she's lost.

PRINCE ERIC

I won't rest until I've found her.

GRIMSBY

Look, sire.

(Ariel enters with King Triton.)

PRINCE ERIC

Ariel!

ARIEL

Oh, Eric.

PRINCE ERIC

Could it be? It's been your voice all along, hasn't it!

(noticing King Triton)

Who are you?

(King Triton looks up to see Prince Eric – the dashing young seafarer who hopes to claim his daughter.)

ARIEL

This is my father.

KING TRITON

I'm King Triton.

GRIMSBY

(flustered)

Astonishing, I must say. Why, it defies plausibility.

PRINCE ERIC

(summons his courage, to King Triton)

Your Majesty? At last, I've found someone who makes me eager to seize the future,

(PRINCE ERIC)

and claim my birthright as King. But if I slip out to sea sometimes, I don't think she'll mind ... because she'll be right there next to me, keeping us both on course.

(takes a knee)

With your permission, sire, I'd like to make her my wife.

KING TRITON

My permission? Ariel can speak for herself.

(Ariel casts King Triton a loving, grateful look then turns to face Prince Eric.)

ARIEL

Yes, Eric. Oh, yes.

(Prince Eric and Ariel exit to prepare for the wedding.)

GRIMSBY

(still flummoxed)

Can't be happening, no. Grog after bedtime, a bad idea ...

KING TRITON

You're the young man's father?

GRIMSBY

Heavens, no; His Majesty's long dead. I'm his guardian, nothing more.

KING TRITON

Well, I wager his father would be very pleased ... with both of you.

GRIMSBY

(touched)

Why, thank you, sir. He's my one shining achievement—a bright light in a dark world.

KING TRITON

Congratulations to us both, my friend.

(Grimsby is still gob-smacked by all that he's seen.)

GRIMSBY

And to you ... yes ... and to you ...

(The Mersisters and sailors enter. Flounder is there, too, with Allana at his side. Prince Eric and Ariel enter, dressed to marry. King Triton smiles at his daughter.)

KING TRITON

IF ONLY YOU COULD STAY
AND NEVER SAY GOODBYE.

(KING TRITON)

IF ONLY I COULD MAKE TIME STOP
BELIEVE ME, I WOULD TRY.
BUT FATHERS HAVE TO LEARN
THAT DAUGHTERS HAVE TO GROW.
AND IF YOU TRULY LOVE THEM
YOU MUST LET THEM GO.

ARIEL

AND OH, I LOVE YOU SO
IF ONLY YOU COULD KNOW!

PRINCE ERIC

(turns to Grimsby and grins)

"Tall tales" and "superstitions" – eh, Grim?

GRIMSBY

(incredulous)

So that's truly the King of the Sea? And she's his daughter?

PRINCE ERIC

Does that upset you?

GRIMSBY

Goodness, no! I'm just relieved she's royalty!

(Prince Eric and Ariel board the ship.)

ENSEMBLE

AND NOW AT LAST
LOVE HAS SURPASSED
EACH TRIBULATION!
MERMAID AND MAN
FINALLY CAN
JOIN AND BE ONE!
NOW THEY CAN SMILE
WALKING THE AISLE
HERE AT THEIR WEDDING CELEBRATION!

PRINCE ERIC

SAILING FORWARD!

ARIEL

STANDING STEADY!

PRINCE ERIC, ARIEL

STARTING LIFE COMPLETELY READY!

ENSEMBLE

AND NOW THEY CAN BE WHO THEY'RE MEANT TO BE
NOW THEY CAN GAZE ON A NEW HORIZON
HERE BETWEEN OCEAN AND SKY
FOREVER AND ON!

(Chef Louis enters with a cake.)

NOW THEY CAN WALK
NOW THEY CAN RUN
NOW THAT AT LAST THEIR STORY'S BEGUN!

PRINCE ERIC

JUST YOU AND ME ...

ARIEL

AND I WILL BE ...

ALL

PART OF YOUR WORLD!
AH!

(CURTAIN. END OF PLAY.)

#28 - *Bows*

#29 - *Exit Music*