

ACT II: SCENE TWO: THE PALACE

MAID 1: Well you must have at least heard about this girl. Wanderin around – won't make a sound.

MAID 2: Well, Gretchen says she just keeps gawking.

MAID 1: Since when has Gretchen got anything right. I mean really, this girl shows up and doesn't speak? And now she's chosen to stay for dinner?

MAID 2: She's certainly not my idea of a princess. If Eric's looking for a girl, I know a couple of highly available ones right here . . . *(women giggle in a caddy way)*

GRIMSBY: *(entering and overhearing the gossip)* Hush now ladies. Onto your chores with you. *(Maids exit)* In two short nights, the Prince will hold his contest, and the young ladies will be singing themselves silly, all to win his heart. *(We see Sebastian enter and find a hiding spot to check on Ariel)*

ERIC: *(entering)* I'm tellin' you, Grim, she was REAL! I'm gonna find that girl who saved me- and I'm gonna marry her.

GRIMSBY: Oh, Eric, be reasonable. Nice young ladies just don't - swim around rescuing people in the middle of the ocean and then - flutter off into oblivion, like some...

CARLOTTA: Come on honey. Don't be shy. *(Ariel enters in a beautiful dress.)*

GRIMSBY: Oh, Eric, isn't she a vision? The poor child washed ashore, like kelp! Perhaps it was a horrible shipwreck. We'll never know the truth; she won't speak. Not a single solitary word.

ERIC: You look - wonderful. Well...now I'm the one who's speechless. Hungry? *(Ariel blushes and nods. Prince Eric extends his arm and she takes it as he swoops her off as she gives Sebastian the "A – Okay signal. Sebastian delighted, backs into a doorway and finds himself in a busy kitchen.)*