

SCENE FOUR: THE PALACE BANQUET HALL

#18A - *The Banquet Hall*

(Ariel, Prince Eric and Grimsby enter.)

GRIMSBY

It's been a long time—hasn't it, Prince Eric— since we dined in the company of such loveliness.

PRINCE ERIC

(smiling amiably at Ariel)

Usually it's just me and Grim. He's gotta look across the table at my ugly mug!

GRIMSBY

The bath certainly worked its wonders. She's groomed for a groom, you might say.

(Grimsby giggles with nuptial hope.)

PRINCE ERIC

(under his breath)

Easy, old boy, easy—

(Prince Eric stops when he sees Ariel pick up her fork, and— with great skill— start to draw it through her hair, as with a comb.)

My ... isn't that unusual?

(Ariel blushes and hands him the fork.)

Thank you.

(Ariel brightens when she sees Grimsby's pipe.)

GRIMSBY

Don't tell me she's fond of tobacco.

(Ariel picks up the pipe, admiring it.)

Aha! It's the pipe! Can't say I blame you. It's an antique meerschaum from Dusseldorf—

(Ariel blows into the pipe as though it were a horn, sending a cloud of ash right into Grimsby's face.)

PRINCE ERIC

(can't help but laugh)

Sorry old friend, but it looks like your pipe smoked you—

GRIMSBY

Very amusing. Yes. She certainly knows how to make you smile.

*(Ariel smiles, too. She and Prince Eric stare at each other a moment across the table.
Time seems to stop.)*

Shall we?

(Grimsby rings a tiny hand bell, and Chef Louis enters.)

>B - *Les Poissons (Reprise)*

Chef Louis, Chefs

CHEF LOUIS

AND NOW SOMETHING TRULY EXQUISITE
THE CRÉME OF THE CRÉME DE LA CRÉME!
HO-HO-HO, YOU MAY ASK, BUT WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A TEENSY SURPRISE
A DELECTABLE TREAT
ONE I'M SURE YOU'LL JUST LOVE
ALLEZ, BON APPÉTIT!

(A cadre of chefs enters bearing platters. The maids look on.)

CHEFS

LES POISSONS! LES POISSONS!
OOH LA LA! HERE THEY ARE!
SAY BONJOUR TO OUR FRIENDS FROM THE SEA!

CHEF 1

FISH FILLET!

CHEF 2

FISH PATÉ!

CHEF 3

FISH FLAMBÉ!

CHEF 4

FISH TARTARE!

CHEF LOUIS

IT'S A FISH—HOW YOU SAY?—JAMBOREE!

CHEF 5

CURRIED BASS!

CHEF 6

KIPPERED SMELT!

CHEF 7

FISH-KA-BOBS!

CHEF 8

TUNA MELT!

CHEF LOUIS

IF IT'S GILLED, IT'S BEEN GRILLED TO A "T"!

CHEFS 1, 2, 3, 4

FISH LIGHTLY TOASTED AND ROASTED AND STEAMED!

CHEFS 5, 6, 7, 8

TOSSED IN THE BLENDER AND TENDERLY CREAMED!

CHEF LOUIS, CHEFS

DISH AFTER DISH LIKE YOU'D WISH TO HAVE DREAMED!

(Chefs present a giant serving cart.)

CHEF LOUIS

AND NOW FOR THE GRAND FINALE

LA PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE

A DELICACY, BY GOLLY

YOU WON'T FIND IN RESTAURANTS!

A TIDBIT TO TEASE YOUR TASTE BUDS

WITH THAT CERTAIN JE NE SAIS QUOIS

VOILÀ!

#18C - Les Poissons Mayhem

(Chef Louis dramatically raises a silver dome to reveal Sebastian, who promptly disappears under the table. Chef Louis and the chefs dive under the table after him. Beneath the white tablecloth, it's a volley of crab claws, wooden cooking mallets, and general mayhem. Chef Louis crawls out from beneath the buffet; a crab claw tears off his trousers. Crimson, Chef Louis covers himself with a serving tray, then begins picking up dome after silver dome looking for Sebastian and - when he finds him - pounds him on the head with his mallet, almost like a game of "Whack-A-Mole." Ariel leaps to Sebastian's aid. Finally, Sebastian makes a successful escape, leaving behind a very relieved Ariel and a very frustrated Chef Louis.)