

SCENE SIX: THE BAY

(Prince Eric and Ariel are in a small dinghy, drifting in gentle waters. Sebastian and Scuttle look on from nearby.)

PRINCE ERIC

No girl's ever dared to join me out here. Too afraid they'd muddy their shoes. But not you!

(Ariel beams.)

Peaceful, isn't it? Not another living soul for miles and miles.

SCUTTLE

Nothing is happening! And only one day left. He's got to get puckerin.

SEBASTIAN

They spent all morning on horseback, then a picnic, now this ... and not so much as a peck on the cheek!

FLOUNDER

(arriving next to Sebastian and Scuttle) Move over- You and your big feathers. I can't see a thing.

(On the boat, Ariel smiles at Prince Eric. He smiles politely back. An awkward pause. She smiles again. He clears his throat, then smiles back.)

PRINCE ERIC

So ... how 'bout this weather?

SEBASTIAN

This is going nowhere fast!

SCUTTLE

Twenty-four hours left! He'll be married off, and poor Ariel, she'll be deep sixed!

SEBASTIAN

We gotta do something, and quick.

SCUTTLE

But what?

SEBASTIAN

We got to create the right kinda mood.

SCUTTLE

Something romantic! Candlelight and shampoo?

SEBASTIAN

Amateurs! You want something done, you've got to do it yourslef. It don't take all that. Everything we need, we got right here. We jus' got to create da mood.

(Sebastian gestures toward the animals; creatures that inhabit both land and sea, like frogs, turtles, swans and otters. He enlists them as a calypso band.)

Percussion ...

... - Kiss the Girl

Sebastian, Animals

(SEBASTIAN)

Strings ... winds ... words ...

SEBASTIAN

THERE YOU SEE HER
SITTING THERE ACROSS THE WAY
SHE DON'T GOT A LOT TO SAY
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT YOU'RE DYING TO TRY
YOU WANNA KISS THE GIRL

YES, YOU WANT HER
LOOK AT HER, YOU KNOW YOU DO
POSSIBLE SHE WANTS YOU TOO
THERE IS ONE WAY TO ASK HER
IT DON'T TAKE A WORD
NOT A SINGLE WORD
GO ON AND KISS THE GIRL

Sing with me now:

SHA LA LA LA LA LA, MY OH MY
LOOK LIKE THE BOY TOO SHY
AIN'T GONNA KISS THE GIRL

SEBASTIAN

SHA LA LA LA LA LA, AIN'T THAT SAD?
AIN'T IT A SHAME, TOO BAD
HE GONNA MISS THE GIRL

PRINCE ERIC

You know, I really ought to know your name. Maybe I could guess ... Alexandra?
Annabelle? Beatrice?

SEBASTIAN

ARIEL! HER NAME IS ARIEL!

PRINCE ERIC

... Ariel?

ANIMALS

SHA LA LA
SHA LA LA
SHE DON'T GOT A LOT TO SAY
ABOUT HER
DON'T KNOW WHY
DYING TO TRY
KISS THE GIRL

YES, YOU WANT HER
LOOK AT HER, YOU KNOW YOU DO
OOO ...
KISS THE GIRL, KISS THE GIRL
OH ...
NOT A SINGLE WORD

(YA YA, WO WO, HOO HOO, ETC.)

ANIMALS

YOU WANNA KISS THE GIRL

(Ariel shakes her head "yes.")

(PRINCE ERIC)

Ariel? Hey, that's kinda pretty. Okay - Ariel ...

SEBASTIAN, ANIMALS

NOW'S YOUR MOMENT
FLOATING IN A BLUE LAGOON
BOY YOU BETTER DO IT SOON!
NO TIME WILL BE BETTER
SHE DON'T SAY A WORD
AND SHE WON'T SAY A WORD
UNTIL YOU KISS THE GIRL

(In spite of himself, Prince Eric is drawn to Ariel and leans forward.)

SHA LA LA LA LA LA, DON'T BE SCARED
YOU GOT THE MOOD PREPARED

SCUTTLE

GO ON AND KISS THE GIRL

AWK!

(Scuttle gets so carried away that he squawks loudly and almost breaks the mood.)

SHA LA LA LA LA LA, DON'T STOP NOW
DON'T TRY TO HIDE IT
HOW YOU WANT TO KISS THE GIRL

AWK!

SHA LA LA LA LA LA, FLOAT ALONG
AND LISTEN TO THE SONG
THE SONG SAY KISS THE GIRL
SHA LA LA LA LA LA, MUSIC PLAY
DO WHAT THE MUSIC SAY
YOU GOTTA KISS THE GIRL
YOU'VE GOTTA KISS THE GIRL
YOU WANNA KISS THE GIRL
YOU'VE GOTTA KISS THE GIRL
GO ON AND KISS THE GIRL!

(The song has worked its magic. At long last, Prince Eric leans in to plant a memorable kiss on Ariel's lips. She arches her back, ready.)

URSULA

(offstage)

Quickly! Block that kiss!

(Flotsam zaps the stern with his tail; Jetsam, the bow. The whole dinghy sizzles and sparks in a blaze of electricity.)

PRINCE ERIC

(snapping out of the kiss)

What on earth—!

(Prince Eric has to steady the boat with the oars to keep it from capsizing. As quickly as it happened, it's over.)

Ariel, are you all right?

(Ariel nods. Inwardly, she is crushed; they were so close to that kiss!)

SCUTTLE

Sebastian, what was that?

SEBASTIAN

Lightning?

SCUTTLE

From underwater?

=21A - After "Kiss the Girl"

PRINCE ERIC

(an awkward recovery)

Must be some kind of freak storm.

(starts rowing back to shore)

I ought to get back. It's my birthday tomorrow and we're hosting a contest.

Grimsby wants me married by sunset, or else ...

(Ariel can't help it; a tear escapes. Bravely, she swallows her disappointment and smiles for Prince Eric's sake as they leave the bay.)