

**SCENE EIGHT: ARIEL'S CHAMBERS / THE SHIP /
KING TRITON'S COURT****2 Grimsby's Advice**

(Ariel sits on her bed.)

GRIMSBY

(offstage)

Pardon me, young lady —

(Grimsby raps on the door, and opens it a crack. Modesty prevents him from entering the room.)

Anything else you require before bed-time?

(Ariel shakes her head "no.")

Very well then. You'd best catch forty winks. A big day tomorrow — Prince Eric **must** choose his bride!

(sensing her disappointment)

Mustn't look so blue. The secret to happiness, child ... we **mustn't** wish for **impossible** things. : I'd pay a farthing to know what is going on in that girl's mind.

(Grimsby exits.)

If Only (Quartet)

Ariel, Eric, Sebastian, Triton

ARIEL

IF ONLY YOU COULD KNOW
THE THINGS I LONG TO SAY
IF ONLY I COULD TELL YOU
WHAT I WISH I COULD CONVEY
IT'S IN MY EV'RY GLANCE
MY HEART'S AN OPEN BOOK
YOU'D SEE IT ALL AT ONCE
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LOOK

IF ONLY YOU COULD GLIMPSE
THE FEELING THAT I FEEL
IF ONLY YOU WOULD NOTICE
WHAT I'M DYING TO REVEAL
THE DREAMS I CAN'T DECLARE
THE NEEDS I CAN'T DENY
YOU'D UNDERSTAND THEM ALL
IF ONLY YOU WOULD TRY

(ARIEL)

ALL MY SECRETS, YOU WOULD LEARN THEM
ALL MY LONGINGS, YOU'D RETURN THEM
THEN THE SILENCE WOULD BE BROKEN
NOT A WORD WOULD NEED BE SPOKEN

(Prince Eric looks out across the sea.)

PRINCE ERIC

WHAT IS IT ABOUT HER
THAT'S SO WONDERFULLY, IMPOSSIBLY FAMILIAR?
WHY DO I FEEL DIZZY
IN A WAY I'VE ONLY FELT BUT ONCE BEFORE?
HOW COME WHEN SHE LOOKS AT ME
IT SEEMS LIKE TIME STOPS MOVING
ALMOST LIKE THE WAY IT DID THAT DAY UPON THE SHORE?
BUT THAT VOICE!

ARIEL

IF ONLY IT WERE TRUE
IF ONLY FOR A WHILE

PRINCE ERIC

AH, THAT VOICE!

ARIEL

IF ONLY YOU WOULD NOTICE
HOW I ACHE BEHIND MY SMILE

PRINCE ERIC

WHERE'S THAT VOICE?

ARIEL

I GUESS YOU NEVER WILL
I GUESS IT DOESN'T SHOW
BUT IF I NEVER FIND A WAY TO TELL YOU SO ...
OH! WHAT I WOULD GIVE
IF ONLY YOU COULD KNOW

(Sebastian enters.)

SEBASTIAN

Bless her. Tomorrow, the Prince will have his pick of any princess in the land! How can a little mermaid compete with that?

(SEBASTIAN)

IF ONLY I KNEW HOW
I'D MAKE HIM SEE THE LIGHT
IF ONLY IT WERE UP TO ME
THIS ALL WOULD TURN OUT RIGHT
AND IF I ONLY COULD
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'D DO ...
I'D SIMPLY WAVE MY CLAW
AND MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE
AND WOULDN'T THAT SURPRISE YOU
IF YOU ONLY KNEW

(At his court, King Triton is sick with worry.)

KING TRITON

HOW COULD I HAVE PUSHED HER
TO THE POINT OF HAVING NO ONE LEFT TO TURN TO?
WHAT IF I HAVE LOST HER
AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT SHE'S GONE!

PRINCE ERIC

AH, THAT VOICE!

KING TRITON

IF ONLY I'D HAVE KNOWN ...

SEBASTIAN

IF ONLY I COULD HELP ...

PRINCE ERIC

WHERE'S THAT VOICE?

ARIEL

IF ONLY THERE WERE TIME
I KNOW WE'D KISS AT LAST

PRINCE ERIC

THAT VOICE!

KING TRITON

IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME
I'D CHANGE MY WAYS!

SEBASTIAN

JUST ONE MORE DAY FOR THAT KISS TO COME ...

ARIEL

BUT TIME KEEPS RACING FORWARD
AND OUR MOMENT'S ALMOST PASSED!

KING TRITON

I'LL TRY TO UNDERSTAND ...

ARIEL

IT HAS TO HAPPEN NOW ...

KING TRITON

I'LL KEEP MY TEMPER LOW ...

SEBASTIAN

I'D GIVE MY LIFE UP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN ...

KING TRITON

I SHOULD HAVE STARTED LISTENING TO YOU LONG AGO ...

PRINCE ERIC

HOW I WISH THAT GIRL COULD HAVE BEEN THIS ONE!

SEBASTIAN

OH!

ARIEL

THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE DAY UNTIL I HAVE TO GO!

PRINCE ERIC

IF ONLY ...

KING TRITON, SEBASTIAN, ARIEL

OH, WHAT I WOULD GIVE
IF ONLY YOU COULD KNOW ...

PRINCE ERIC

AND AT THE BALL
WHAT WILL OCCUR?
MAYBE I'LL FIND THAT VOICE
BUT I'LL LOSE HER.

ARIEL

IF ONLY ...

SEBASTIAN

IF ONLY ...

KING TRITON

IF ONLY ...