MTI
BROADWAY JUNIOR COLLECTION.



Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater

Book by
Doug Wright

ACTOR'S SCRIPT

characters

SEA CHORUS – story-telling inhabitants of the sea

PILOT – driver of Prince Eric's ship

SAILORS – crew of Prince Eric's ship

PRINCE ERIC – a prince who would rather explore the ocean than govern a kingdom

GRIMSBY – Prince Eric's valet

MERFOLK & SEA CREATURES – residents of King Triton's kingdom

SEAHORSE – herald in King Triton's court

KING TRITON – the King of the Sea and Ariel's father

SEBASTIAN – an anxious crab and court composer for King Triton

MERSISTERS (Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, Allana) – the daughters of King Triton and Ariel's sisters

ARIEL – a little mermaid who longs to be human

FLOUNDER – a rambunctious young fish and Ariel's best friend

SCUTTLE – a zany seagull and self-proclaimed expert on humans

GULLS – Scuttle's friends and fellow seagulls

URSULA – a sea witch with a vendetta

TENTACLES – extensions of Ursula, perhaps poor unfortunate souls

FLOTSAM & JETSAM – electric eels and Ursula's henchmen

CARLOTTA – headmistress in Prince Eric's palace

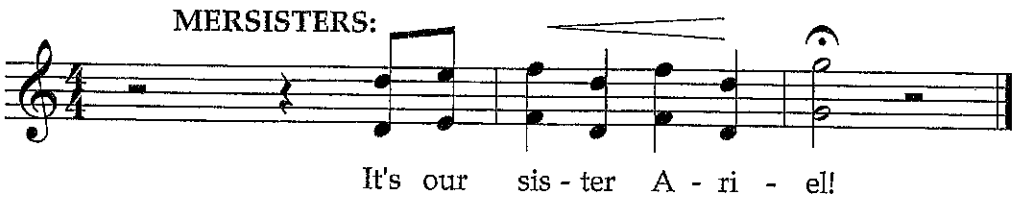
CHEF LOUIS – head chef in Prince Eric's palace

CHEFS – Chef Louis's assistants

LAGOON ANIMALS – musical inhabitants of Prince Eric's lagoon

PRINCESSES – neighboring royalty, vying for Prince Eric's hand in marriage

Flounder - Ariel



(Still no Ariel.)

SEBASTIAN

Not again, child. I was counting on you most of all!

KING TRITON

Ariel! Where in the name of Poseidon is that girl?

*(**#7 THE BEACH**. The MERSISTERS complain as ALL exit, revealing two electric eels, FLOTSAM and JETSAM, who have been spying on the affair. They nod to each other and exit.)*

SCENE THREE: The Beach

(The SEA CHORUS "ascends" to create the ocean surface near the shore. ARIEL, a beautiful young mermaid, enters with a splash. Another splash nearby reveals FLOUNDER, a rambunctious young fish and Ariel's best friend.)

FLOUNDER

Hey, Ariel! There you are!

ARIEL

Just look, Flounder! The sun, the sand... isn't it the most beautiful place you've ever seen?

FLOUNDER

I dunno, Ariel... I'm not sure we ought to be up here.

ARIEL

Don't be such a guppy!

FLOUNDER

A guppy?!? I'm as brave as you are! I'm not afraid of anything—

ARIEL

What about sharks?

Ursula - Jetsam - Flotsam

(URSULA)

Mama's feeling... woebegone – banished to the nether regions of the sea. No food, hardly any company... I'm simply wasting away!

JETSAM, FLOTSAM

Poor Urssssula!

URSULA

Yes, poor me! What news do you have?

FLOTSAM

King Triton and the merfolk are celebrating your defeat!

JETSAM

And he blames you for the queen's demise...

URSULA

Of course he does!

(strokes the magic shell)

Use a little black magic to help out a few merfolk, and this is the thanks I get! Well, now it's time to turn the tides on Triton. We just need to find his Achilles heel... a weakness that will crack his armor...

(URSULA, TENTACLES and EELS pulsate as they think. Then, the EELS get an idea!)

FLOTSAM

The King is terribly devoted to his daughtersss...

JETSAM

Especially the youngest, with the beautiful voice...

FLOTSAM

But – she misssed the celebration...

URSULA

Hmmm... Apparently Ariel takes her gift for granted... just like her mother did! A woman doesn't know how precious her voice is until she's been silenced.

FLOTSAM, JETSAM

Sssilenced...

URSULA

You two find out what that girl really wants then lure her here to my lair. I'll whip up a little spell to make her dreams come true. Once we have her trapped, Triton will rush to her rescue.

Ariel - King Triton

FLOUNDER
It wasn't even Ariel's fault! We were gonna come back straight away. But then the seagull started goin' on and on about human stuff—

KING TRITON
Seagull? Human stuff? You went up to the surface?!?

ARIEL
(sheepishly)
Um... nothing happened—

KING TRITON
You could've been seen by one of those barbarians!

ARIEL
Daddy, they're not barbarians!

KING TRITON
They're dangerous – nets, harpoons! You're my youngest—

ARIEL
I'm old enough to look after myself—

KING TRITON
As long as you live under my reef, you'll obey my rules!

ARIEL
If you'd just listen to me for once—

KING TRITON
That's the last time you're ever swimming to the surface! Understood?

ARIEL
You're so unfair!

(ARIEL bursts into tears and swims away, followed by FLOUNDER.)

KING TRITON
Agh! She's stubborn as a barnacle—

SEBASTIAN
Teenagers! Give 'em an inch, and they swim all over you.

KING TRITON
I can govern a kingdom, but I can't control my own daughter. Maybe I was too harsh...

Sebastian - King Triton

SEBASTIAN
Nonsense, Sire! If you ask me, you haven't been tough enough.

KING TRITON
I haven't?

SEBASTIAN
Ariel needs constant supervision! Someone to watch over her – to keep her out of trouble.

KING TRITON
That's not a bad idea—

SEBASTIAN
I'd say it's a right good one.

KING TRITON
And you are just the crab to do it!

SEBASTIAN
What?!?

KING TRITON
You heard me! From now on, Ariel is your responsibility!

(KING TRITON exits emphatically.)

SEBASTIAN
(follows KING TRITON, pleading)
Mine? But your majesty, she's a clever mermaid! I'm just a crustacean! Surely you ought to pick someone higher on the evolutionary ladder...

SCENE SIX: Ariel's Grotto

*(**#12 PART OF YOUR WORLD**. The SEA CHORUS reconfigures to form Ariel's grotto, filled with "human treasures." ARIEL, distraught after her fight with Dad, sits among her treasures holding her newly acquired fork. FLOUNDER floats nearby.)*

ARIEL
If only I could make my father understand. I just don't see how a world that makes such wonderful things could be so bad.

Prince Eric - Grimsby

(Music continues under dialogue.)

PRINCE ERIC
Now, suppose I don't want to be King—

GRIMSBY
I swore an oath to your dear father on his death bed that I'd turn you from a roustabout into a royal and have you married to a princess—

PRINCE ERIC
Ugh!

GRIMSBY
– by your next birthday, which is now just three days away!

PRINCE ERIC
Did you ever try to take a princess sailing? It's a joke! Their dresses get caught in the rigging. And most of 'em can't even swim—

GRIMSBY
You know, there's more to a woman than her flutter kick. Our kingdom needs a queen!

PRINCE ERIC
Where am I gonna find her, Grimbsy? A girl who's as carefree and alive as the sea itself. Where?

(ARIEL and FLOUNDER bob up to the surface. SCUTTLE hovers nearby.)

FLOUNDER
(staring up at the ship)
Wow...

(PRINCE ERIC stares out to sea over their heads.)

PRINCE ERIC
It's too much to hope for, isn't it? Somewhere, out there... a girl who's a match for a guy like me?

GRIMSBY
Perhaps you're not looking hard enough.

(ARIEL tries to avoid being seen or heard, but can't help but stare at PRINCE ERIC.)

Ursula - Ariel

(URSULA appears. Her TENTACLES reach out toward ARIEL, who stiffens in fear.)

URSULA

Don't be shy, Ariel darling!

ARIEL

I – I shouldn't be here. Mother died because of you.

URSULA

Oh child... what happened to your dear mother was a terrible, unfortunate accident – poor soul.

ARIEL

An... accident?

URSULA

Of course! I did my very best to save her.

ARIEL

You did? But Father told me—

URSULA

The truth is that the ocean wasn't big enough for both your father and me, so he sent me here. And now I see he's driven you away, too...

ARIEL

He doesn't understand me.

URSULA

Oh, but I do, dumpling. We're so very alike, you and I – gals with ambition! Now tell me absolutely everything.

(FLOTSAM and JETSAM swim next to URSULA, who pets them for a job well done. With the entrance unguarded, FLOUNDER and SEBASTIAN peek in and observe, unnoticed.)

ARIEL

I'm in love with someone. A human.

URSULA

A prince, I hear. Quite a catch! Well, the answer is simple: you've got to become human yourself!

ARIEL

Can you do that?