

SIDE #5

KING TRITON & ARIEL

KING TRITON

You know Ariel as well as anybody. Who's the lucky merman?

FLOUNDER

Gee, I dunno. I didn't even know it was love until the second chorus!

KING TRITON

Sebastian? Any ideas?

SEBASTIAN

I've tried to stop her, Sire, but she doesn't listen! I tell her, "Ariel, you've got to stay away from those humans - they're nothing but trouble—"

(FLOUNDER bolts.)

KING TRITON

Humans? What about humans?

SEBASTIAN

Who said anything about humans?

(SEBASTIAN scampers off.)

KING TRITON

(pursuing SEBASTIAN)

Sebastian, have you been keeping secrets from me? Where is that girl?!?

SCENE TEN: Ariel's Grotto

(#21 ARIEL'S GROTTTO. The SEA CHORUS "follows" KING TRITON to Ariel's grotto. ARIEL enters, examining a telescope that she recovered after the storm.)

START

ARIEL

And now let me see... what did Scuttle call this one? Is it a ditty-whumper? A thumb-doodle? Whatever it is... Prince Eric held it in his own strong, beautiful human hands—

(An enraged KING TRITON bursts in.)

KING TRITON

Ariel!

(taken aback by the collection of human stuff)

What is all this?!?

ARIEL

Daddy, they're my—

KING TRITON

Human junk!

ARIEL

No, treasures!

KING TRITON

Did you save a human from drowning?

ARIEL

He would've died!

KING TRITON

That savage brute could have killed you! And it's my job to keep you safe from harm.

ARIEL

But he didn't frighten me. He made me feel... wonderful! Besides, I am not a child anymore!

KING TRITON

No? Well, you are certainly talking like one. He's a human – you're a mermaid.

ARIEL

It doesn't matter – you don't understand! I wish mother were here!

KING TRITON

(takes a moment to recover from the low blow)

Ariel, I miss your mother just as much as you do. But I am still the king. And you are not to go to the surface ever again. Am I clear?!?

END

*(Now losing his temper, KING TRITON takes the telescope from her and crushes it. He then raises his trident to destroy the other treasures in the grotto with #22 **GROTTO DESTRUCTION**. The SEA CHORUS reels from the trident's three powerful blasts. ARIEL bursts into tears then falls into a distraught mermaid heap. KING TRITON starts to swim off. SEBASTIAN enters to see the destruction. KING TRITON pauses for a moment of regret.)*

I'm just trying to protect her, Sebastian.