

**MIDDLE  
CHILD**  
THEATRE THAT MAKES A NOISE



# THE LITTLE MERMAID

**DIY PANTO - SCRIPT**

**WRITTEN BY PAUL SMITH**

NOT FOR COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE

## Notes on the script

*Words written in italics, like this, are stage directions. They aren't usually read aloud.*

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Words written in all capital letters, between brackets (LIKE THIS) are words said, or actions performed, by the audience.

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*(Off stage)* means the character shouts really loud, but we can't see them, while *(Aside)* means the character says it to the audience, rather than another character.

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## SONGS

Lyrics that you sing are aligned in the centre of the page,  
The writer had fun rewriting the lyrics to famous pop songs,  
so they can all be sung along to the actual music

Sometimes characters will then speak normally in between singing verses, often to share their good or evil plans with the audience.

And then they will continue to sing,  
La la la!

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This DIY panto should be accessible for all ages. If any of the language is too advanced for little ones, we recommend an adult gives them an overview of what is happening in the scene and encourages them to make up their own words.

# Act One

## Scene One

**Location:** Queen Pattie Breadcake's house under the sea

**You Will Need:** A shell, a dolphin

*Herman, the Queen's servant, blows a fanfare on a shell.*

**Herman** Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream - good evening. (GOOD EVENING). Let us hear your fishy voices. (RANDOM NOISES). Excellent. As you all know, we are gathered here this evening for a most wondrous occasion; to celebrate the downright royal coronation of our new Queen of the Ocean. Please, put your fins, tentacles, claws and other appendages together for Hull's very own Miss Pattie Breadcake!

*There is a big cheer as Pattie enters riding on a dolphin, looking fancy and dancing.  
The music hits:*

### **SONG - *Dancing Queen* by Abba**

#### **All**

She can swim, she can dive  
Having the time of her life  
Ooh, see that fin, watch that sheen  
Digging our fishy queen

#### **Pattie**

Election night and the lights were low  
Looking out for someone to rule  
One who plays the right music, getting in the swing  
You come to look for a Queen  
Anybody who is chatty  
Someone young by the name of Pattie  
With a bit of frog music (ribbit) everything is fine  
I'm in the mood for a dance  
And now I've got the chance

I am your fishy' queen  
Young and sweet, only seventeen(ish)  
Fishy queen

Feel the beat from the submarine, oh yeah

**All**

You can swim, you can dive  
Having the time of your life  
Ooh, see that fin, watch that sheen  
Digging our fishy queen

**Pattie** Oh, thank you, thank you. Finally the Dame has come back to Panto. Speech? Yes, of course. Yes, it is I your royal highness, Queen Pattie Breadcake. Hello everyone. (HELLO) I said hello everyone! (HELLO!). Good, lovely. Thanks for joining us here under the sea. Now, it's time for my speech.

*The following speech includes lots of fishy puns. See if you can find them all!*

Whale, where do we begin? (GROAN). Subjects, we are in a time of political upheaval. The election campaign was long and arduous and the rivers, seas and oceans have long been divided - in desperate need of a good leader to navigate these tricky waters. So, let me tell you this - the bait is over. (GROAN). I never really fancied being in power but I thought I'd put myself forward just for the halibut. (GROAN). Hmm, not going down brilliantly. I should dolphinate lay off the fish puns. Ah, who am I kidding? I'm hooked. Just sit back while I reel them off. Faithful subjects, everything you've been herring about me is true. Under my leadership, any fin is possible. It's a great oppa-tuna-ty for fish everywhere. As I said in my election campaign, I'm a pacifish-t and I'm making it my aim to bring peace to this plaice. Thank you, thank you.

(APPLAUSE).

Now Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream - lets address it - the elephant seal in the room. The pressing royal business. I am single and ready to fish-mate. Menfish, I'm so fancy these days even the bags under my eyes are Prada, but still, no-one to share my fishy crown with.

But I've got a good feeling that tonight is the night because can I just say Hull, you lot here tonight are some of the fittest fish I've ever feasted my fishy eyes on. No, seriously. Impressive stuff. But just so you know men, I'm sick of being treated like a piece of meat. Yeah, my last husband was a vegan and refused to touch me.

I'm going to have a closer look. *(She does)*.  
Just gonna to swim around a bit, don't mind me.

*Pattie swims around commenting on the fish folk in the audience. Pattie picks out the most reluctant looking audience member.*

Oh, hello. Uh-oh. I'm in trouble. Someone's come along and burst my bubble. Yes, my love, it's you - no point looking embarrassed, this is happening. This is the one, right here. Stand up dear and tell everyone your name. (NAME). Lovely, say hello to (Name) everyone. Now show off your fins (NAME), give us a little fishy fashion show *(he does)*. Very good. Very good. Ah, he's like a fish out of water, bless him. You're not a professional tennis player are you NAME? (NO). Good, I don't date tennis players anymore. Not since I learnt that love means nothing to them. Now, NAME, royal decree number 85 - added by yours truly - dictates that whomsoever I decide is my fishy fiancé must agree to all services, duties and responsibilities that come with that title. Do you agree? (YES/NO). Good, just sign here like so *(she takes his hand and signs for him)* and voila - everything you own is now legally mine, I can now contact you with marketing materials and we have a binding contract which means I can speak to you, refer to you and play with you relentlessly throughout this evening's panto like my very own personal little rubber ducky, ok? Now I've got the vague plot to be getting on with but come here and give me a big cuddle as an aperitif. (THEY DO). Mmmmmmm, lovely.

*Pattie swims back to the stage.*

On with the ceremony Herman.

**Herman** Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream - may I have your attention please? It's the moment you have ALL been waiting for. It's been months in the making, many pounds have been spent on the planning, and many many high profile vocal coaches have been fired as a result of the incredibly tense rehearsal period. But finally, the once-in-a-lifetime moment is here -

**Flounder** Please give it up for the Mouth of the Marina, the Sound of the Sea, the Pipes of the Pond - ARRIEEEEEEEL

*There is much fanfare, excitement and maybe even the odd party popper and Chips is revealed standing alone, without Ariel. Everyone looks at each other, unsure what's happening. Chips shrugs and looks uncertain.*

**Pattie** Where is she Flounder? Call her again.

**Flounder** ARIEEEEELLLLLLLL.

*Still nothing. Flounder looks around nervously. Herman gathers himself.*

**Pattie** *(Aside)* Flounder. Come here. *(He does)*

*(Still smiling at the audience, through gritted teeth)* You're her best friend. You know her better than anyone else. Where in the name of Poseidon is she?

**Flounder** I'm sorry M'am! I swear, she was ready when I left her -

**Pattie** Right you lot, have any of you seen Ariel? (NO) Well, will you help me shout for her? (YES) Okay I want you all to shout ARIEL after three; 1, 2, 3 (ARIEL)

*Ariel rushes on.*

**Pattie** See - that literally never fails!

**Ariel** Oh, hi everyone! (HI) How lovely to see you all. My name's Ariel and I -

**Pattie** Ah-ah-ah-ah. Stop it.

**Chips** Shhh.

**Pattie** Talk to the booty cos the hand's off duty.

**Chips** Talk to the elbow cos it's got a point.

**Pattie** Look at me.

*Chips slides over and throws shade.*

**Chips** Look at her.

**Pattie** Look at me.

**Ariel** Mum - Chips -

**Pattie** Ah -

**Chips** Shh -

**Pattie** What time do you call this young lady?

**Chips** What time?

**Ariel** Well -

**Pattie** And do you know what day it is?

**Chips** What day is it?

**Pattie** SCHNELL!

**Ariel** (*Says the day*)

**Pattie** (*Day*)? (*Day*)? Hark at her talking like it's just any day!

**Chips** Ha!

**Pattie** Like it's just a normal (*day*) and not inauguration day (*day*)

**Chips** Ha!

**Pattie** - like it's not special once-in-a-lifetime performance day. Look at your sister. Look at how crumpled and disproportionate her face is. That's disappointment doing that. Now turn around and face them. Look at the sad little ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream. Look at how excited they are to be here. Look at their little furrowed brows. They've paid a very fair and very reasonable price to be here for your once-in-a-lifetime musical performance. What do you have to say for yourself? To them?

**Ariel** I'm really sorry everyone. I'm really sorry Mum. (*Chips clears her throat loudly*)  
Chips. I hadn't forgotten - I was on my way here - but, well you'll never guess what!

**Pattie** Oh I bet I will dear. I know page 7 of this script like the back of my... (*she reads it off the back of her hand*) hand.

**Ariel** I was swimming along my usual route -

**Pattie** (*Suddenly dramatic*) Ariel. You haven't been up to the surface have you?

**Ariel** No Mum, of course not!

**Pattie** (*Suddenly calm*) Phew. Good. That would be an inciting incident no-one needs.

**Ariel** As I was saying, I was swimming along my usual route; practising my harmonies, not going up to the surface, warming up with a bit of sirening, some Britney, when I saw the single most exciting thing anyone in the history of the ocean has EVER SEEN...

**Pattie** Don't tell me: an underwater music festival featuring Enrique Iglesias, Nick Carter and Lou Bega? I would literally hurt people just to see that.

**Ariel** No Mum. Wow. No. It's 2020, no-one even knows who those people are anymore. And besides, it was EVEN more exciting than that -

**Chips** They've opened an underwater chain of Dope Burger?

**Ariel** Nope...

**Pattie** Tom Jones is here and wants a fish bride?

**Ariel** No, and ew really?

**Chips** You met fish Santa?

**Ariel** No, I -

**Pattie** You won the fish lottery?

**Ariel** No, I -

**Chips** You defeated fish Voldemort?

**Ariel** No, I -

**Pattie** I DON'T KNOW I'M EXCITED TELL MEEEEEE.

**Ariel** Okay, well - try to stay calm, but I was swimming along all chill, well away from the surface, and BOOM you won't believe it but SOMEONE. DROPPED. THIS. INTO THE WATER.

*She holds up a rusty old hubcap, everyone looks on in disbelief.*

It's from them. The Up-Abovers. I think it's a Huzzleclump, used for saving lives, or flying, or fighting fires or something else AMAZING -

**Pattie** Not only does she miss my inauguration AND the special once-in-a-lifetime musical performance but now I hear stories of her collecting RUBBISH from those land-dwellers.

**Ariel** But Mum, I can explain -

**Pattie** I don't want to hear your explanations Ariel. I'm a very liberal mother. I let you do whatever you want, I give you whatever you desire. But why can't you be a bit more like your sister, Chips? *(Ariel looks at Chips who is very proud of this surprise compliment)* She's not been blessed in the looks department, she's not very fun to be around, she's not kind, she's got a unique odour and a 33-pound head. But does she complain? Does she ask for more? No. *(Chips looks sad at how quickly the compliment deteriorated)* You're a princess now and for the good of the fish folk, I need you to obey my one golden rule. We don't go up to the surface. You are forbidden from any contact with the hoomans. Now repeat after me - 'I don't go up to the surface. I am forbidden from ANY contact with the hoomans' *(she does)* If I find out you've disobeyed me I will have no choice but to ground you for the duration of my reign. Capiche?

**Ariel** Capiche.

**Pattie** Now go to your room -

**Chips** But Mummy, what about the once-in-a-lifetime musical performance? I've worked so very hard.

**Pattie** (*Dramatically*) It's too late Chips. It's too late.

To your room young lady.

Flounder, see that she gets there.

*Ariel goes, Flounder too.*

Oooh, see that NAME? I did a serious bit. Rather sexy even if I do say so myself. I'm a social chameleon NAME. One minute I'm bringing the funny, next BANG I'm Liam Neeson. "I have a very particular set of skills." GIVE ME BACK MY DAUGHTER. Versatile. And it doesn't stop there NAME. I can be whatever it is you want me to be, whenever and wherever you want it.

Right Chips, that's probably that sorted then. I can't imagine she'll be going anywhere near the surface again.

**Chips** Me neither Mummy.

**Herman** I hope I'm not speaking out of turn, but, well - I mean, knowing a thing or two about teenagers, and well, story structure - I'd be shocked if she didn't try and go back to the surface. You know, made contact with the hoomans.

**Pattie** Go on...

**Herman** Well, I was just thinking I could, you know - go a bit Cambridge Analytica. A bit Mark Zuckerberg. Track her every move. Make sure we're always one step ahead.

**Pattie** I like your thinking Herman. Very modern, very 2020. Good idea, stay close to Ariel. If she so much as blinks I want a 500-word think piece on the reasons why.

**Herman** Right away, M'am. I promise you won't regret this.

*Herman exits.*

**Pattie** Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream please accept my sincerest apologies for my inauguration being cut so terribly short. It's what happens when your daughter is a Millennial, you see.

I blame Red Snapperchat. Come on Chips. Let's get started on our royal business - you know, waving, sponging off the state, living a lavish lifestyle tax free. Goodbye faithful servants. (BYE)

*They exit.*

## Scene Two

**Location:** Ariel's Room

**You Will Need:** Lots of random 'human objects', which Ariel has collected over the years, someone or something to play Tony the Turtle, a magical trident for Ursula (you could make this or just use a broom)

*In Ariel's 'room'. It is adorned with souvenirs from the Up-Abovers*

**Ariel** Oh Flounder, just because Mum is Queen of the Ocean now doesn't mean I should be stuck down here forever. Doesn't she know there's more to life than just finding a husband? I want danger and adventure, plot twists and parties, a thrilling Act Two with high stakes, fearless fight scenes and an underrehearsed, yet well-intentioned finale. You know, like in all the other years? How come Cinderella gets to go to the ball and I have to sit around here making small talk with Tony the Turtle?

*Someone pops up dressed as a turtle and says, 'You called?'*

**Ariel** Not now Tony.

*He disappears again.*

**Flounder** She's just worried about you Ariel. Give her some time, she'll clam down soon enough and you'll be off on another adventure in no time! For now it's back to boring old spending loads of time together having a right laugh.

**Ariel** But Flounder. I don't want to waste another day. Soon I may never be able to go Up Above ever again. Think of all the treasures I'd be missing out on, there might be hooziwhatsits or thingymagummy's within reach! My collection is all I have and if I can't add to that then what am I? Just a lonely little mermaid with a fish for a best mate. No offence.

**Flounder** None taken.

**Ariel** Oh Flounder if you could just see it up there, you'd understand! Everything's so bright and shiny, so exciting, there's so much to do - so much to see! It's nothing like down here, dull as dishwater.

**Flounder** Oh Ariel, it's rubbish seeing you like this. But, maybe things down here aren't all bad? You have me, your fishy best mate. And you have this - (*he picks up an item*) - this - thing, which you can do - this (*he improvises an action*) - with, and this one and ooooh look at this one.

*Ariel is sulking, disinterested. Flounder picks up the hubcap.*

**Ariel** Leave me alone, Flounder. I'm not very good company at the moment.

**Flounder** But, Ariel - your mum, she said -

**Ariel** Flounder. I'm not going to go anywhere, I just need some time alone. I'll see you in a bit.

**Flounder** Ok. Chin up Ariel.

*Flounder leaves, sadly. Ariel sits down, looking sad. It's all sad. Herman pops up, making notes.*

I can see you Herman. (*He looks surprised*) You're rubbish at hiding, you know. (*He tries to sneak out, looking ridiculous*) You must see where I'm coming from? Don't you ever wonder if there's something more? Something bigger? Up there, out there? Above?

**Herman** Oh Ariel. Us crabs have a saying; 'why swim forwards when you can scuttle sideways'. And I really believe that. Look around you, there's beauty here if you just look a little closer.

**Ariel** But I don't want to scuttle sideways Herman. There's so much more to life than *beauty*. I want to run full force at the future. I want to change the world. I want adventure and opportunity, excitement and electricity. Nothing ever actually happens around here. It's boring. If I just had danglers like the hoomans then no-one could stop me.

**Herman** It may seem like a better life above the water Ariel but those who live Up Above have problems too. It's not all running and jumping. I mean, they do have Brexit.

**Ariel** Oh Herman, I don't know what that is but I bet I'd take a thousand "Brexit's" just to be able to travel wherever I please, to get to know people different to me, to live in unity rather than isolation.

**Herman** Um -

**Ariel** But it doesn't matter anyway because I'm stuck here thanks to Mum.

**Herman** She just wants what's best for you Ariel. One day you'll look back and realise that. Now, how about a nice warm cup of clamomile tea?

**Ariel** Thanks Herman.

**Herman** Good things are coming for you Ariel. Keep your chin up and your heart strong.

*He goes. Ariel sits looking miserable.*

*Ursula swivels on her throne.*

**Ursula** Well, well, well just what do we have here?  
A vile, disgusting bunch of Northerners trembling in fear?

Well tremble away you pathetic two-legged creatures  
For I, the mighty Ursula have quite awful features

I'm as bad as Boris, as gross as Gove,  
A snatcher worse than Thatcher, from Farage I evolved.

Yes - that's right, I'm a monster, the Ocean's great witch  
And I'm here this Easter to scratch my evil itch.

You see, I'm going to usurp this pathetic new Queen  
And take my rightful place as the greatest dictator the seas have ever seen

I've been watching on, just like you, and guess what? Your tragic friend Ariel and her heartbreaking wittle problem have led me to the most brilliant and cunning plan. See, Poor Ariel just wants to be up there with the hoomans. And Queen Pattie loves and cares for her spoilt little daughter so much that she would do anything for her. Anything at all.

An almighty bargaining chip, incredibly useful for someone who is looking for a way to wrestle power from that shrivelled up old prune. See where this is heading? Yes, all I need is something irresistible to tempt Ariel up to the surface and get the ball rolling on my despicable plan. If only I had a magic trident which could bring the most handsome Prince to the area? Oh wait. I do.

*Ursula begins an almighty spell.*

Oceans, rivers, ponds and seas  
I call upon you, winds and breeze.  
Send this way a handsome Prince,  
With all the attributes to convince  
Poor little Ariel to give her heart  
And allow my brilliant plan to start.

*We suddenly hear the voice of a Prince, singing "City 'Til I Die" off stage.*

**Ariel** That sound! The most beautiful sound I ever heard. I must find out who that voice belongs to. It could be a gnarled old Pirate, or a brave Knight, or - or - a fearless Prince lost at sea. Either way - I smell an adventure! Sorry Mum but... I won't be long.

*Ariel swims off.*

**Ursula** Mwahahahaha. Yes, soon I'm going to rule the ocean and your beloved Pattie and Chips will be served up on a plate somewhere. Oh and I must say, having been here for at least a few minutes - this is the worst city I've ever been in. I mean, really. No wonder Amy Johnson wanted to fly away. No wonder Robinson Crusoe jumped in a boat as fast as he could. No wonder you spent so much on a massive bridge to help you get out as quickly as possible. You're right to be annoyed about being voted Worst Place To Live - twice. You should've won it at least ten times. And now audience, boo's. Oh it's so good being bad. Goodbye you disgusting sea worms.

*Ursula leaves.*

## Scene Three

**Location:** Above the water on Steve Prince's boat

**You Will Need:** a DIY boat with oars (you could use the same broom from earlier if you like!), a fishing net (or a bucket),

**Prince** Hello everyone. (HELLO) I said hello everyone! (HELLO!) My name's Prince. Steve Prince to be precise. I'm not a proper 'Prince', I'm actually the official cleaner of the River Hull! It's my job to make sure the river is kept clean and clear so that those lovely little creatures below the surface are kept safe and sound. It's the best job I've ever had. Much better than when I used to work at the Job Centre. I couldn't handle the tension, knowing that if I got fired I'd still have to come in the next day. This job isn't easy though, what with all the littering and general destruction of the planet. Hey, can I tell you all a secret? (YES) Oh great, thanks. Well, sometimes, when I'm out on the water on my little boat, I like to pretend I'm an actual Prince - navigating the seven seas and barking out orders to my crew. It's a bit silly but it does help to pass the time! I know, everyone, will you play along with my game so I can really feel like an actual Prince? (YES) Ah, that'd be mega! Right so today I'm Prince LeLux Lasong - a charming French aristocrat with really deep and important thoughts. So, if I go back there get my costume on, get my oars ready and come back on again and say 'Bonjour everybody', this time will you say 'Bonjour Prince'? (YES) Don't forget everyone!

*He goes to the back of the boat. Just as he does Ariel pops up from below. She hides and watches on. Steve Prince comes back, wearing a DIY Prince costume, carrying some oars.*

**Prince** Bonjour everybody. (BONJOUR PRINCE) Yes, that's right - it is I, ze brave and noble Prince LeLux LaSong about to set off on my world-record breaking voyage across the seven seas, determined to bring peace and prosperity to this planet. I'll just get in my bateau and be on my way!

*He winks, then heads over to his boat and begins to row, Ariel pops up again.*

**Ariel** OMG. Did you hear that? He's a charming French aristocrat with really deep and important thoughts and he's off on a world-record breaking voyage across the seven seas, determined to bring peace and prosperity to this planet! That's exactly the kind of adventure I should be going on!

Hello.

*Prince jumps, surprised to see someone out so deep in the water.*

**Prince** Oh. Hey. You're, erm -

**Ariel** Swimming, yes -

**Prince** Swimming, right. Having a good old swim.

**Ariel** Yep. I just love swimming me. Always swimming about.

*It's awkward but sweet.*

**Prince** Quite far out for swimming.

**Ariel** Yep. You know what they say? (*She doesn't...*) The deeper you swim the better the... swim.

**Prince** Of course. Yes. They do say that don't they. They really do.

**Ariel** And you? In your boat?

**Prince** Yep. Just, in my boat. Boating. In the old boat.

**Ariel** It's a nice boat.

**Prince** Thanks.

*A pause.*

I actually watched a documentary recently about how boats are kept together. Riveting!

**Ariel** Yeah?

**Prince** Yeah.

*A lull...*

**Ariel** (*Suddenly excited, plucking up the courage to ask all the questions she has in her head*) Are you a Prince? Are you going on an adventure? What's it like to be so brave? What's the best adventure you've ever been on?

**Prince** (*He hesitates*) Oh. Er. Yes. Yes I am. I am a Prince. My name is Prince LeLoux Lasong. I mean (*he assumes the role*) - it is I, ze brave and noble Prince LeLoux LaSong - the accent comes and goes, I've er- been here a while. I'm about to set off on my world-record breaking voyage across the seven seas, determined to bring peace and prosperity to this planet. How do you do...mademoiselle?

**Ariel** Oh, again, I'm just having a swim. Tell me more about this voyage!

**Pattie** (*Off stage*) Ariel? Ariel? Where are you?

**Ariel** Mum! Cripes. Oh everybody, I've lost track of time what with all the chatting. If Mum finds out I've been up here I'll be grounded for the entirety of her royal reign. I'm really sorry Prince LeLoux LaSong, I need to be getting back.

**Prince** Right. Yes. Of course. I best be going too. This record won't break itself. (*He gets lost in her eyes for a moment*) Well. It was a pleasure to meet you. Farewell.

*He begins to row faster. Ariel drifts into the distance but stays watching him.*

**Ariel** Farewell brave Prince. There he goes everyone, off on his adventures while I head back to boring old reality.

*This is where you get to make your own incredible SFX - maybe spray the actors with water bottles or play a collection of sea sounds.*

Wow, there he goes, off into the wild river. Look at that! Wow. Goodbye brave Prince.

*They wave goodbye and keep waving, not wanting to depart.*

**Prince** Oh-em-gee. I don't want to speak too soon but wow. That girl! So friendly, such thrilling conversation, it was like we'd known each other for years. I'm usually a bit of a

shy one, but that? Little bit steamy if I do say so myself. It sounds silly but while she was here, I really did feel like a Prince. I felt like I could do anything!

But I didn't even get her name! How will I ever find her again? Oh who am I kidding?

There's no way a girl like that would fall for plain old Steve Prince. No, someone like her would only be interested in Prince LeLoux Lasong and his really deep and important thoughts. Oh well, back to boring old reality, cleaning up the river for the fish folk.

*The tone changes as Ursula spins around on her throne.*

**Ursula** Well, that was hardly Fifty Shades of Grey was it peasants? I mean, really? Swimming? Adventures? Terrible special effects? Maybe I've overestimated the power of this thing called 'love'. Well, if there's one thing I do know about Ariel it's that she won't be able to say no to playing the hero. I think it's time we raised the stakes and made things a bit more interesting for our little adventurers. Let's see how they contend with this ALMIGHTY STORM!

Starry sky and clouds above  
Help our pathetic heroes fall in love  
Serenade them with lightning's flash  
And bind their hearts under thunder's crash

*She waves her trident and with a flash, there is an almighty storm on the river. The Prince's boat starts to shake. This is the time to play a storm playlist or make your own storm sounds by clashing pots and pans together.*

**Prince** Woooah. Ah. Oooh. Oh - er. This doesn't look good at all! Help. Help me! Please, someone, help!

*Ariel reappears.*

**Ariel** Oh no! A storm! I have to save him. The peace and prosperity of the world depends on it! There's no way he can survive this on his own.

*She goes towards him. As she does, Ursula begins to sing. As the song builds, so too does the storm. Why not create your own slow motion, high stakes storm scene where Ariel rescues the Prince and drags him back to safety?*

**SONG: Set Fire To The Rain by Adele**

**Ursula**

I let him fall, your Prince,  
And as he falls you'll swim to save him  
It is dark, clouded over  
Until you kiss his lips and you save him  
My storm, is strong  
And your Prince is far too weak  
To swim to your arms  
Without falling down too deep

But there's a storm for you  
That you never knew, never knew  
When the Prince you'll save  
Falls in love with you, love with you  
See the games I play  
I will always win, always win

*During this chorus the storm builds and peaks. Eventually Ariel drags the Prince to safety and he lays crashed out on the shore.*

And I set fire to the rain  
Watch it pour as you touch his face  
Well, it burns while he cries  
Can you hear him screaming  
Out your name,  
Your name  
I set fire to the rain,  
And I threw you into the flames  
Well, it felt something died  
'Cause I knew that, that was the first time  
The first time  
Let it burn  
Let it burn  
Let it burn

**Ursula** Hahahahahaha. Oh this is just SO MUCH FUN. Those pathetic little weeds, falling into each other's arms and not knowing it's all playing right into my tentacles. It's nice isn't it - breaking out of the tradition and having a Panto where a baddie is so clearly going to come out on top.

Gotta run. Plans to hatch and all that. Bye now.

*Ariel is left on the shore with the Prince. He is unconscious but safe.*

**Ariel** Oh, brave Prince. Wake up, please wake up.

*Prince begins to stir, he sees her.*

Yes, that's it - hello.

**Chips** (*Off stage*) ARIEEEEEL!

**Ariel** I'm sorry, I must go. You'll be safe here.

**Prince** But I - I must thank you, for saving my life - take this, to remember me by.

*He hands her his cleaning net*

**Ariel** A grabblefl obber? Wow, thank you.

**Prince** Your name - ?

**Ariel** (*Hesitates and then*) Goodbye Prince. Oh everyone. I'm in real trouble! Will you do me a favour? (YES) If Mum asks if you've seen me, just say no - got it? (YES) Mega. Thanks team!

*She is gone. The Prince sits up and with all his might says -*

**Prince** Farewell my love-

*And then collapses again.*

## Scene Four

**Location:** Ariel's Room

**You Will Need:** a mug, the same net (or bucket) from before, a book for Ariel to hold

*Pattie and Chips enter.*

**Pattie** Hello ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream (HELLO) And NAME, (*aggressively*) tell me - what's your biggest existential fear? (*HE ANSWERS, OR NOT*) I will soothe you my fishy prince. I will pull you into my bosom and ease your worried mind. I will massage your internal tremors and replace fear with ecstasy.

**Chips** Erm, Mummy - the Panto -

**Pattie** Right you are, panto, yes - panto. Which scene is this?

**Chips** Four.

*Instantly.*

**Pattie** So here I am, in Ariel's room, but she's nowhere to be seen. You lot haven't seen her anywhere have you? (NO) You wouldn't be keeping something from your Queen would you? (NO) Hmm. FLOUNDER!

**Chips** Flounder!

*Flounder enters.*

Flounder. Any sign of her?

**Flounder** Um, well - she's not - I couldn't -

*Herman enters, carrying a cup of clamomile tea.*

**Pattie** Herman!

**Chips** HERMAN!

**Pattie** where is my daughter?

**Herman** Awaiting this soothing cup of clamomile tea, sat just over there.

*They turn and look. She isn't there.*

**Chips** Erm, well, not being funny or nuffink but she's clearly not just sat over there, is she Herman?! Is she Mummy? She's clearly not.

**Pattie** Herman, tell me you didn't let her out of your sight.

**Herman** Well - I - she -

*Ariel enters, cool as you like and hiding the net behind her back*

**Pattie** Well, well, well. Look what the catfish dragged in.

**Chips** Look what the catfish dragged in Mummy. Punish her Mummy, punish her.

*Herman breathes a sigh of relief.*

**Ariel** (*Casually*) Hi Mum. Chips. Herman. Flounder.

**Pattie** Hi Mum. Chips. Herman. Flounder? Hi Mum. Chips. Herman. Flounder? She disappears off the face of the Ocean and then waltzes back in here with nothing more than a 'Hi Mum. Chips. Herman. Flounder'? Where, may I ask, have you been?

**Ariel** Me? Oh I was just in the... library.

**Pattie** The library eh? Seems plausible. Yeah I was in the library recently. I asked the librarian for a book about turtles, she said 'hardback?' and I was like 'yeah and little heads'.

**Ariel** Yeah I was just, reading. Just reading some books. And I lost track of time until Flounder here found me in the library. Isn't that right Flounder? (*She shoots him a look*)

**Flounder** Um... yep. That's right. Found her in the old library.

**Pattie** You were just reading some books and you lost track of time until Flounder here found you in the library? Hmm. Tell me, dear, what books were you reading? *Lies Miserable?* Lord Of The *Lies*? Or maybe Crime (*she points to Ariel*) and Punishment (*she points to herself*)?

**Chips** Yeah! Tell me, Ariel, what books were you reading? Harry Potter?

**Pattie** That doesn't work Chips. Well?

**Ariel** No, Mum. I was actually reading this. (*she pulls out a book*) The Dummies Guide To Being A Good And Obedient Daughter To A Newly Appointed Fish Queen.

**Pattie** Hm, specific.

**Ariel** Yep, I've thought about what you said and you were right. I have added responsibility now. I need to be more careful. More like Chips. (*Chips looks on surprised*) So I've decided I won't ever go up to the shore again. Ever. (*She winks at the audience*)

**Pattie** Wow. How mature. I've gotta say Ariel, I really wasn't convinced about you. You know, as a daughter. Was a bit like 'hm, she's a bit of a headache, she's always whining, was she really worth the hassle of childbirth etc etc' but this? Well this could really be a turning point for us. It's the first time I've ever truly engaged with the possibility of actually loving you. You know, why not? I love you!

**Ariel** Oh right. Er, wow. Thanks Mum. Love you too.

*Chips waits for her moment of affection. Pattie looks at her, takes a second, and doesn't say anything.*

**Pattie** (*to Ariel*) Let's do coffee soon, hun. I'll DM ya. Right, gotta run bbz. Royal duties and all that. Chips, Herman with me.

*She goes, followed by a sheepish looking Herman and a sad looking Chips.*

**Flounder** Oh Ariel, I'm so relieved you've given up on the whole 'going to the surface'

thing. It was never going to work out well.

**Ariel** Flounder! That was just a lie to chill Mum out. In fact, it's almost exactly the opposite! You'll never guess what but I have met a charming French aristocrat with really deep and important thoughts and he's off on a world-record breaking voyage across the seven seas, determined to bring peace and prosperity to this planet!

**Flounder** Ah, so that's your type is it? Explains a lot. And there I was, hoping that 'friendly fish' was your bag.

**Ariel** What was that?

**Flounder** Oh, nothing. Just my heart's deepest desires.

**Ariel** Oh, ok.

Oh, Flounder. It really was so exciting. A glimpse of what life could be like if only I had danglers like them. I really think I could help him on his mission, and help bring peace. If only I could live Up Above with him. With the *hoomans*!

And look, he gave me this -

**Flounder** A grabblefl obber?!

**Ariel** A grabblefl obber!

*Pattie re-enters with Herman and Chips in tow.*

**Pattie** Oh Ariel -

*Ariel doesn't hear or notice and continues talking. Pattie listens on with interest. After everything Ariel says, Chips lets out an audible gasp to add to her mother's tension.*

**Ariel** I've got to see him again Flounder -

**Flounder** Ariel -

**Ariel** I know what you're going to say Flounder -

**Flounder** No, Ariel -

**Ariel** - about what Mum would say? Me hanging out with a hooman? But, what does she know really? She's lived her whole life down here, never ventured out of the Humber -

**Flounder** I really think -

**Ariel** - there's no way she'd understand. I'll just have to go behind her back. I can't be like Chips - happy to just float around feeding off of scraps. (*Chips goes to say something, Pattie hits her*). There's no two ways about it Flounder, I'll look Mum in the face, lie to her, swim to the shore, find that fearless hooman and go on the adventure of a lifetime. My mind's made up - there's nothing that can stop me - I've just got to fool (*she turns*) Mum.

*Pattie takes a deep breath, is close to exploding with anger*

**Pattie** I have never, in all my years, been so angry, disappointed and hurt all at once.

**Chips** And she's been to the New Theatre Panto so that's really saying something.

**Ariel** Mum, I -

**Pattie** I've heard enough from you young lady. And to think. I said nice things to you, I used the L word. There's nothing else for it but to ground you. Indefinitely.

**Ariel** No Mum, please!

**Pattie** I won't hear another word Ariel. You're not to leave this room until I say so. And as for you Herman. Well, I can't have someone on my staff who I cannot trust to keep my daughter safe. In the words of Alan Sugarfish, it is with regret that you're fired.

**Herman** Fired? But - well - I - NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.

**Pattie** Pack your bags Herman. I never want to see you round these parts again.

**Herman** Yes M'am. Yes, of course. Right you are. Goodbye.

*Herman leaves, miserable. It is really sad. He takes the long way out.*

See ya Ariel. Flounder. Chips. Bye NAME. Hey everyone, great working with you. Take care. Enjoy the rest of the show audience.

**Pattie** Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream. With great power, comes great responsibility.

Farewell.

## Scene Five

**Location:** The Prince's Boat

**You Will Need:** The magical trident

**Prince** Hello everyone. (HELLO) Oh, I've been looking *everywhere* for the girl I met on the River. The one who saved my life. Maybe I'll never see her again. Maybe it's just not meant to be.

### **SONG: *Iris* by The Goo Goo Dolls**

And I'd give up forever to see you  
'Cause I know that you get me somehow  
You're the closest to happy that I've ever been  
And I don't wanna go home right now

And all I can taste is that moment  
And all I can breathe is your life  
When sooner or later it's over  
I just don't wanna miss you tonight

And I don't want the world to see me  
'Cause I don't think that they'd understand  
When everything's made to be broken  
I just want you to know who I am

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I just want you to know who I am  
I just want you to know who I am

**Prince** I can't give up Hull. I've never felt like this before, so alive, so excited. I would clean a thousand oceans just to spend one single second with her. I must find her. But how? How? What would Prince Charming do? A party! Yeah! Who doesn't love a party? But how to make sure she definitely comes? Yes! Got it. A beach party. She loves swimming, she'll love a beach party! I just need to spread the word. A few fancy flyers,

maybe an A3 poster or two? To Scribes!

*He leaves, buoyant. Ursula reveals herself from the water.*

**Ursula** Like shooting fish in a barrel. It's just too easy. This pencil-necked puppy-dog Prince is doing all of the hard work for me. All I need to do is make sure Ariel hears about this little soiree and she'll be running into his arms in no time. But how to get word of this bash at the beach down there to our bottom-feeding friend?

*As Ursula stands thinking, Herman appears.*

**Herman** (*Muttering to himself sadly*) You've only got yourself to blame Herman. You dropped your standards and now you're paying the price. Miss Breadcake deserves only the best, and you will be rightly replaced. When it comes to service, there's plenty more fish in the sea. You shan't be missed Herman, not one bit. Now, to enter a period of quiet contemplation.

*He sits, mournfully, making sad noises akin to a sickly manatee. Ursula approaches.*

**Ursula** Well, well, well - what do we have here?

**Herman** Sorry M'am, I'm in a period of quiet contemplation and I don't have time to -

*Ursula puts Herman under a spell, making him drift into a dreamlike state.*

**Ursula** Drift away old crab, don't struggle or fight  
I need your help for the rest of the night

Venom of viper and slither of serpent  
Turn this crustacean into my faithful servant

*Herman's eyes glaze over and he goes into a trance*

Decapod. Are you there? Can you hear me?

*Herman nods*

**Herman** (*Dazed*) Yes M'am.

**Ursula** Good. Go to Ariel and spread the news  
Of how her loverboy is looking to schmooze

Once she hears about LaLoux LaSong's desperate do  
Send her straight to me for Evil Plan, Part Two.

**Herman** (*Blankly*) Yes M'am.

**Ursula** Oh, and - maybe, you know - put a bit of effort in.

**Herman** M'am?

**Ursula** A bit of enthusiasm. A bit of pizazz. Make it sound like fun.  
Oh never mind. If you want something doing...

*She picks up her trident and as the spell hits, Herman immediately begins to move like a pop star.*

Moves like Jagger and a pelvis like Elvis  
As eager as Bieber and as cool as Kanye  
Mountain, tree, river, ravine  
Turn this old crab into a party machine

*Eventually Herman's inner James Brown awakens, signified by a snippet of 'I Feel Good' playing, which Herman dances to.*

Now run along my funky friend  
It won't be long before Pattie's untimely end

**Herman** Groovy M'am. See you on the flippity flop.

*He dabs and backs out of the room*

**Ursula**

Audible sigh. As for you lot - shut up, sit back and relax. There's nothing you can do but watch my thrilling climax. Goodbye urchins. (*She leaves*)

## Scene Six

**Location:** Ariel's Room

**You Will Need:** Lots of random 'human objects' which Ariel has collected over the years, an invite to the Prince's party given to Ariel by Herman, Tony the Turtle

*Note: The song below is one we made up. Why don't you make up your own tune, or even better - make up your own song for Ariel?*

### ORIGINAL SONG

#### Ariel

To be a mermaid, they say  
You must look a certain way  
To be a mermaid, they think  
Your ambition has to shrink  
To be a mermaid, they said  
You must soon be wed  
Sit on a rock, sing pretty songs  
Wait for your saviour to come along  
That's the mermaid way  
Year on year, day by day  
There's no other way

But I -

Don't wanna be a damsel in distress  
Or a lady in waiting  
I'm not built to sit at home  
Or be a princess atop a throne  
My world needs to progress  
No longer suppress  
A mermaid so done with doing nothing,  
So bored of being bored.  
Oh so tired of treading water,  
So wasted not making waves.

I wanna be there, don't wanna be here

I wanna smash through the glass ceiling above  
To the surface, through the sea  
  
And while I may meet a Prince  
Yeah he'll soon be convinced  
That this mermaid must soar  
In the sea and on shore.  
Through adventure and action  
Excitement and passion  
This mermaid will fashion  
A world fit to live in

I wanna be there, don't wanna be here  
I wanna smash through the glass ceiling above  
To the surface, through the sea  
  
To be a mermaid, I say  
I won't look a certain way  
To be a mermaid, I think  
My ambition won't shrink  
To be a mermaid, I said  
I don't have to be wed  
Or sit on a rock, or sing pretty songs  
Won't wait for a saviour to come along  
That's my mermaid way  
Year on year, day by day  
There's no other way  
No, there's no other way

**Ariel** I can't do it. I can't sit here and waste my life away. I've got to find a way to get out of here and go on an adventure. The world won't change itself!

*Herman runs in, the life and soul of the party, like we've never seen him before. He's picked up some shades from somewhere. He's dancing.*

**Herman** Yo, Ariel. What do you say we bust out of this joint and drop in on the Prince's party? Go on a bit of an adventure?

**Ariel** Herman?! You're back? What's going on? What party? Are you alright?

**Herman** Me? Oh yeah babes. I feel good. (*James Brown's I Feel Good plays again*)

**Ariel** Okaaaay. What was that about the Prince?

**Herman** Lol. Haven't you heard? All the cool kids are talking about it. My group chat hasn't buzzed this much since Love Island finished.

**Ariel** Herman. The Prince?

**Herman** (*He is now texting*) Yeah. Word on the street is he's throwing a party, a shin-dig, a soiree. (*To his phone*) Ha! (*Back to Ariel*) Sorry, classic meme. Oh em gee, it's going to be like, totally rad. You coming?

**Ariel** But Herman - what about before? Scuttle sideways and all that?

**Herman** Oh forget all that. I'm livin' la vida loca. I'm gettin' jiggy with it. I'm coming up so you better get this party started! Come on Ariel. Life is for living. Don't sit around here moping all day long - let's get up there and start livin' our best lives.

**Ariel** But what about Mum?

**Herman** Mum, schmum. Check this -

**SONG: Good As Hell by Lizzo**

**Herman**

I do my hair toss  
Check my claws  
Ask me how I'm feelin'?  
Feeling good as shell  
Hair toss  
Check my claws  
Ask me how I'm feelin'?  
Feeling good as shell

Woo child, tired of this pondlife?  
Go on dust your shoulders off, keep it moving  
Yes babes, tryna out a new bit  
In there, swimwear, going to the pool bit

Come now, come dry your eyes  
You know you a star, you can touch the sky  
I know that it's hard but you have to try  
If you need advice, let me simplify  
If you don't love home anymore  
Just walk your fine tail out the door  
Come on, with me -

**Ariel & Herman**

I do my hair toss  
Check my claws  
Baby how you feelin'?  
Feeling good as shell  
Hair toss  
Check my claws  
Baby how you feelin'?  
Feeling good as shell  
Feeling good as shell  
Baby how you feelin'?  
Feeling good as shell

**Herman** Now, are you ready to pa-rtay with the Pa-rince?

**Ariel** Oh Herman. I love Lizzo as much as anyone, but, well - the Prince - if he sees me like this? Like I really am. There's no chance he'll let me go on adventures with him.

**Herman** Mmm. I see what you're saying. You need me to hook you up with a real good MUA? Bit of Botox? A personal trainer? I'll airdrop you their contacts but -

**Ariel** No Herman. Just, no. I mean this. (*She grabs her tail*) The Prince doesn't know. He thinks I'm one of them. A hooman. Just a normal hooman having a swim.

**Herman** Oh, you should have said hun. That's easily fixed. I know just the person.

**Ariel** Really? Who?

**Herman** A close pal of mine. Yeah we go waaaaaaay back. She'll have that sorted before you can say 'mine's a WooWoo'. Come on A, time is money and it's been a minute now.

**Ariel** (*Slightly unsure*) A? Er-okay. Well, see you ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream.

*They go.*

**Pattie** (*Off stage*) Ariel? Ariel my dear? I'm coming in, don't try and stop me.

*Pattie enters, assuming Ariel is in her room, but not looking upstage.*

Ugh it's filthy in here. I should never have thrown our Hoover out, but it was just collecting dust. Now Ariel, don't speak - just listen. Firstly, I just want to say, I'm sorry. I'm under a lot of pressure at work at the moment - you know, what with being Queen and all - and I've said some things that I don't mean. I'm putting unrealistic expectations on you, I realise you're your own woman. The truth is Ariel, I love you so much. I always have and I always will. I just want to say I am so proud of you. In fact, I wish I could be a bit more like you myself. I wish I had your honesty. Your integrity. Your bravery. I guess Ariel, what I'm trying to say is...let's start again. I promise to be nicer. Kinder. More loving. So how about it Ariel, me and you?

Ariel? ARIEL? (*Suddenly transformed*) Ohhhhhh Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream I am beyond ANGRY. I'm about to go Factor 50...

Flounder enters, cautiously - followed by a curious Chips.

**Flounder** Er, M'am, is everything -

**Pattie** (*Roars like a T-rex towards Flounder*)

**Flounder** Perhaps I'll come back...

**Pattie** That useless, untrustworthy, dishonest, lying little mermaid -

**Flounder** I'm sure she's just, er, popped to the loo or maybe to -

*Chips sees the invite on the floor and picks it up.*

**Chips** Mummy, mummy - LOOK!

**Pattie** What's this? Hm? Read it. Aloud.

**Chips** (*Ahem*) THE GREAT FRENCH ARISTOCRAT, PRINCE LALOUX LASONG IS HAVING A....oh....wow, this really is great quality paper, must be from Scribes, I -

**Pattie** Keep going...

**Chips** ...is having a BEACH BASH BBQ SO BRING YOUR BEST SELVES TO THE BAY AND DON'T DELAY!

**Flounder** I'm sure this is just a coincidence, I mean a hooman's probably thrown this into the water, it doesn't mean Ariel's -

**Pattie** Any more?

**Chips** Um. STRONG SWIMMERS WHO ARE STRONG SINGERS ESPECIALLY WELCOME - P.S ORANGE HAIREG GIRL I MET IN SCENE THREE, DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ME, winky face.

**Flounder** Ah.

**Pattie** 'Ah' indeed Flounder. 'Ah' indeed.

Now, there's only one thing for it. Chips, we have to find her before she puts herself in danger. Tony the Turtle?

*Tony the Turtle reappears.*

**Tony** Yes?

**Pattie** We need a ride. Pronto. Follow that mermaid.

*Flounder is left with the invitation.*

**Flounder** Oh this is not good. Not good at all. I need to think of a plan. Wish me luck gang!

## Scene Seven

**Location:** Ursula's evil lair

**You Will Need:** A cauldron for Ursula to stir, a magic potion

*Meanwhile, in the darkest depths of the ocean, Ursula is stirring a cauldron.*

**Ursula** Double, double, toil and trouble  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble

Create a potion to help a young girl stand  
And meet her handsome Prince on land

*A knock on the door.*

**Ursula** Come in. I've been expecting you. My name is Doreen. A kindly but magical old woman who smells of lavender and always has a pocket full of sweets. No-one's ever been scared of a Doreen, right? At ease, girl, at ease.

**Ariel** Well, my name is Ariel and Herman said you could help me -

**Ursula** I know who you are dear.

**Ariel** There's -

**Ursula** - a Prince. Oh a Prince. *Beautiful* Prince. *Brave* Prince. But this isn't about the Prince is it? Not really. This is about adventure. You want more out of life.

**Ursula** I can make your wildest dreams come true, I can give you *danglers*, make you one of the *hoomans*, make him blind to who you really are, BUT in exchange for your heart's darkest desire, I require your voice so pure and true.

**Ariel** No, no way. I will never give up my voice. You can take anything else from me, but you can never take my voice.

**Ursula** Very well. That bit of the story hasn't aged well, admittedly. There is another option. If you promise, beautiful girl, to never return to the water I will grant your wish.

**Ariel** Leave behind the river? For good? But, what about Mum? And Flounder? And Herman? And Tony the Turtle?

**Ursula** And Chips?

**Ariel** Sorry?

**Ursula** You didn't mention Chips.

**Ariel** Oh yeah. And Chips. I know I moan about it a lot but it is home, after all. To *never* be able to come back here, *ever* again?

**Ursula** Then stay here. Stay grounded in your room, a damsel in distress, a lady in waiting. Leave behind a world of excitement, adventure, possibility. Honestly, no presh.

**Ariel** No. You're right. I love my life here but, well, I need to stand on my own two feet. Quite literally. I'll do it. I'll leave everything behind, just help me become one of them.

**SONG: *Human by Rag'n'Bone Man***

**Ariel**

Maybe I'm foolish  
Maybe I'm blind  
Thinking I can get through this  
And leave this behind  
But I gotta do it  
So maybe I'm blind  
I wanna be hooman after all  
Wanna be hooman after all  
So put your spell on me  
Put your spell on me

**Ursula**

Take a look in the mirror  
And what do you see  
Do you see it clearer  
Or are you deceived  
In what you believe  
You wanna be hooman after all?  
Wanna be hooman after all  
Don't put the blame on me

Don't put your blame on me

Some people got the real problems  
Some people out of luck  
Some people think I can solve them  
Lord heavens above  
She will be human after all  
She will be human after all  
Don't put the blame on me  
Don't put the blame on me

*(Spoken)* Beautiful girl, take this potion. Drink up now.

Don't ask my opinion  
Don't ask me to lie  
Then beg for forgiveness  
For making you cry  
Making you cry  
You wanna be human after all  
Wanna be human after all  
Don't put your blame on me  
Don't put the blame on me

Oh, some people got the real problems  
Some people out of luck  
Some people think I can solve them  
Now girl just drink up

*Pattie and Flounder enter and gasp at what they see happening. Ursula sees and quickly hits them with a spell which freezes them on the spot.*

**Ariel**

I wanna be human after all  
Wanna be human after all  
So put your spell on me  
Put your spell on me

*Ariel drinks the potion*

**Pattie & Chips** Nooooooooooooo!

*Ursula uses a second spell to take Pattie and Chips' voices away. As this happens, she grabs Ariel and moves her in the opposite direction.*

**Ariel** Wanna be human  
**Ursula** I make mistakes  
**Ariel** Wanna be human  
**Ursula** That's all it takes  
Don't put the blame on me  
Don't put the blame on me

I'm no prophet or Messiah  
So go looking somewhere higher

*Ariel has transformed and now has legs instead of a tail.*

**Ariel**  
I'm only human after all  
I'm only human after all  
Don't put the blame on me  
Don't put the blame on me  
I'm only human  
I do what I can  
I'm just human  
I do what I can  
Don't put the blame on me  
Don't put your blame on me

**URSULA** (*Performing this for Pattie and Chips*) Don't forget what you promised beautiful girl. Go and find your adventure but remember, you can never, ever come back.

**ARIEL** Thank you kindly Doreen. It's everything I ever dreamed of. Well, I guess this is it. Goodbye ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream. Goodbye forever.

*Ursula cackles and sheds her old woman disguise as Ariel swims up to the surface. Once Ariel has gone Ursula gives Pattie and Chips their voices back. They continue screaming and shouting. She takes them away again.*

**URSULA** Ugh. Queen Pattie Breadcake, her disturbing daughter Chips and the hopeless hype man. I'm going to need that crown. Both literally and figuratively. Make me Queen of the Ocean and I'll see to it that you see your daughter again. (*She has her fingers crossed behind her back*)

**PATTIE** (*Quietly*) What do you think everyone? Should I do it?

(NO)

*Pattie looks uncertain. Looks at Chips. Then mimes 'I have to. I need to see Ariel again'. She then nods, Ursula bows down and Pattie puts the crown on her head. The second this happens, Ursula grows in power. She stands and cackles. Everything turns red and evil, like that bit in Aladdin when Jafar becomes Emperor.*

**URSULA** Finally, I have taken my rightful place as ruler of the oceans, rivers and seas. And now it's time for my evil plan, part three.

Ha! You thought I was finished? You really believed that I would help you see your pathetic lovesick daughter again? No way.

I'll be joining Ariel at the Prince's little beach party, and it'll be me that becomes his bride, taking his power and allowing me to be the ruler of both land and sea when every single living creature serves me! Mwahahahaha.

**Ariel & Ursula**

Gonna be human after all  
Gonna be human after all  
It's up above for me  
It's up above for me

**Ariel** I'm doing it everyone! I'm going to the Up Above! See you after the interval!

*As Ursula begins her ascent to the surface Pattie, Chips and Flounder break free of the spell and drink some of the potion, transforming them into humans.*

# Act Two

## Scene One

**Location :** The surface

**You Will Need :** n/a

**Ariel** Oh, hi everyone - am I pleased to see you! Everything is so strange up here. It's nothing like I imagined. I'm not sure I like it, and I can't seem to find Prince LaLoux LaSong anywhere. Maybe I've made a mistake coming up here. This isn't an adventure, it's a nightmare! But I can't give up just yet. After all, I've got nowhere else to go. I just have to find the Prince and get to changing the world! Wish me luck, everyone.

*They do. She goes.*

## Scene Two

**Location:** Steve Prince's Beach Party

**You Will Need:** beach towels, drinks with umbrellas in, fancy drinking glasses, sea sound effects.

*Steve Prince's beach party. Prince rushes on, flustered, dressed in his best summer gear. He is followed by a chorus of party guests who are all harassing him like he really is the Prince. Eventually he shakes them off enough to be able to talk to us. They stand around talking, holding glasses of champagne. As the music starts, they begin to dance, trying to impress the Prince.*

**Prince** Hello everyone! (HELLO) It's me, Steve. Steve Prince. Oh, I can't do it - there are so many people here at my little party! It's all got a bit out of hand. They all think I really am an exotic French prince, here to find a bride, you know - after Brexit and everything. Some of the people here are really full on. I just wanted to find her. My mate. Someone to go on real adventures with.

**SONG: *I Don't Care* by Justin Bieber and Ed Sheeran**

**Prince**

I'm at a party I don't wanna be at

And I don't ever wear a suit and tie  
Wonderin' if I could sneak out the back  
Nobody's even lookin' me in my eyes  
Wish you'd take my hand  
Finish my drink, say, "Shall we dance?"  
Hell, yeah  
I know I like you, will I ever tell you?  
I think I'd really like that

Don't think I fit in at this party  
Everyone's got so much to say, yeah  
I always feel like I'm nobody, mm  
Who wants to fit in anyway?

'But I won't care when I'm with you baby, yeah  
When the bad things disappear  
And you're making me feel like maybe I am somebody  
I can deal with the bad nights  
When I'm with you baby, yeah  
Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh

*There is a sudden chord which changes the tone completely. The guests turn and stare as Ursula enters.*

**Ursula** Prince-y wince-y. Where are you? You're not getting away from me that easily  
Prince LaLoux LaSong.

**Prince** (*Slipping back into the accent*) Oh, er - sorry, was just getting some fresh air - (*he moves away*)

**Ursula** Oh you lot are back are you? Had a good interval, tucking into your cheap Poundland sweets you smuggled into the venue in your broken Bags 4 Life? Did you get told by the adults not to worry about Ariel because it'll all work out alright in the end? Well, they're lying to you kids and not for the last time. Look you'd better not get in my way - the Prince and I are getting on swimmingly. Pun very much intended. Watch and learn everybody, watch and learn. (*She pushes other characters out of her way*)

### **SONG: *Bad Guy* by Billy Eilish**

**Ursula**

Nice shirt, well bred, your wealth it shows  
Dancing, get on my tippy toes

Creeping around like no one knows  
Oh we're so criminal  
Move in, I'll cut my keys for you  
Don't say thank you or please  
I do what I want when I'm wanting to  
My soul? So cynical

So you're a French guy  
Like, a really hench guy  
Just can't get quenched guy  
Liftin' from the bench guy  
I'm that bad type  
Make your mama sad type  
Make your girlfriend mad tight  
Might seduce your dad type  
I'm the bad guy, duh

**Ursula** So how about it Prince-y?

*Ursula has moved close to the Prince, when suddenly the music cuts out and we see Flounder walk on awkwardly, pretending not to be a fish.*

**Flounder** (*Reading from a piece of paper*) Fellow human beings. Please put your hands together for the much-anticipated arrival of the gorgeous, charming and single, Lady Human Landdweller

**Chips** And her daughter...Carol.

*Polite applause from the guests.*

**Prince** Oh Hull, I've got a good feeling about this. 'The gorgeous, charming and single, Lady Human Landdweller'? It could be her - oh.

*He turns and sees an odd-looking Pattie and Chips who are also pretending not to be fish. The guests look on confused.*

**Pattie** Look at me everyone. I'm literally a fish out of water.  
Take this, servant.

*She throws her scarf to Ursula who catches it but looks affronted.*

Prince LaLoux LaSong, charmed I'm sure. I am the rich, famous and frankly hilarious Lady Human Landdweller. *(She kisses his hand)* And this is my daughter, Carol.

**Chips** Hi.

**Pattie** Don't let the hoity-toity name fool ya Princey. I'm a freak.

**SONG: Mother's Daughter by Miley Cyrus**

**Pattie**

Nice to meet ya, I'm a freak  
I'm a freak, nice to meet ya  
Every day of the week I'ma woo ya  
Like I want to  
I'm a vile Crocodile, a Piranha

**Chips**

Oh my God, she got the power  
Oh, look at her, she got the power

*Ursula and Pattie begin facing off, competing for the Prince. In the spirit of competition the other guests begin squaring off competitively too.*

**Ursula**

Don't mess with my kingdom  
I came here to get me some  
I'm nasty, I'm evil  
Must be something in the water or that I'm my mother's daughter

**Pattie**

Don't mess with my kingdom  
I came here to get me some  
I'm nasty, I'm evil  
Must be something in the water or that I'm my mother's daughter

**Pattie & Chips**

So, back up, back up, back up, back up, girl, ooh

**Ursula**

Back up, back up, back up, back up, girls, ooh

**Ursula**

Nice to meet ya, I'm a witch  
I'm a witch, nice to meet ya  
Swish swish, I'm a three-point shooter  
I blow through ya  
Like a hot wind out in the bayou, ya

Oh my God, I got the power  
Well, look at me, I got the power

Don't mess with my kingdom  
I came here to get me some  
I'm nasty, I'm evil  
Must be something in the water or that I'm my mother's daughter

**Pattie**

Don't mess with my kingdom  
I came here to get me some  
I'm nasty, I'm evil  
Must be something in the water or that I'm my mother's daughter

**Pattie & Chips**

So, back up, back up, back up, back up, girl, ooh

**Ursula**

Back up, back up, back up, back up, girls, ooh

**Prince** I've just got to go and - erm -

*They push and pull the Prince between them until eventually a fight breaks out between all of the guests. This allows the Prince to break free and run off stage. As they do Ursula and Pattie come fully face-to-face for the first time.*

**Ursula** Do I know you?

**Pattie** Well, that depends. Us Landdwellers are very well known.

**Herman** (*Breaking out of the spell at the sight of Pattie*) M'am, is that you - I've had the strangest dream -

*Ursula puts Herman back under the spell.*

**Ursula** Of course. It's the former Queen of the Ocean, Pattie Breadcake, Nemo's puny cousin. (*Chips coughs*) Oh yes, and Pattie's always surprising-to-look-at daughter Chips. How very retro.

**Pattie** What's the matter? You look shell-shocked. You're not the only one with magical powers you know Ursula. I'm here to take back what's rightfully mine, save my daughter and bag a handsome royal fitty en route.

**Ursula** Ha! You really think you can defeat me? A washed-up mermaid from Hessle Road beating an all-powerful sea witch?

**Pattie** Honey, I dunno if anyone's mentioned it but I've been doing this Panto grind for a while now and I'm kind of a big deal. I've taken down baddies bigger and badder than you in my time. Trust me, I got 99 problems but a witch ain't one. Come on Flounder. Chips. Er, Carol. We've got a royal fitty to reel in.

*Pattie and Chips turn with attitude and strut off after the Prince.*

**Ursula** Ugh. I hate that mermaid. Well, if the Prince isn't convinced by my natural charms then perhaps I'll have to up the ante. Herman, bring me my trident. (*He does*) And as for you lot, you'll all be first on my list once I'm ruler of land *and* sea. Goodbye Hull scum.

## Scene Three

**Location:** Hessle Foreshore, a beautiful twilight lagoon.

**You Will Need:** The sound of gently running water, two oars, boat

**Prince** Hi everyone. I'm here on Hessle Foreshore. I couldn't stay at the party anymore - not without my mate there. I was so sure she'd turn up but there's just no sign of her anywhere. I was hoping I'd find her down here, having a late night swim or something but no luck so far. Might as well do some late-night cleaning while I'm here.

*He ducks down to get his net. Ariel enters*

**Ariel** Oh, finally some people I know! How are you all doing? Ugh, I had to get out of that party. I'm no good at networking. I've just been stood in the corner, scrolling through Fishbook and Instaclam. Everyone else is having a great time but no one seems interested in me. This is nothing like the adventure I dreamed of, I should never have come up here.

*Prince pops up with his net and makes an excited and nervous sound as he unexpectedly locks eyes with Ariel.*

**BOTH** It's you -

**BOTH** Yeah, it's -

**BOTH** Ha, I -

**Prince** You go.

**Ariel** It's great to see you.

**Prince** It's great to see you too. Would you like to - erm?

*He gestures towards his boat.*

**Ariel** Oh, I'd love to - erm.

*She climbs in the boat. They are both suddenly aware of how close they're sitting.*

**Ariel** Wow, this place is beautiful. It reminds me of home.

**Prince** And where is home?

**Ariel** Um - not far from here.

**Prince** Ah. I've been looking everywhere for you since that first time we met. And I thought, the water - you know, swimming.

**Ariel** Oh. Right. Yeah. And here I am!

**Prince** Here you are!

**Ariel** Your accent - it's gone...

**Prince** Oui. Er, when I get nervous, er - excited, I - er. *(Sigh)* Oh. I can't pretend anymore.

**Ariel** Pretend?

**Prince** I'm really sorry. I'm not actually French. I've never even been to France. The furthest I've ever been is Thorngumbold - which is lovely by the way. So, yeah. I'm not actually a Prince. I'm not much of anything at all actually. My name's Steve.

**Ariel** Oh, right. Steve.

**Prince** Yeah. I'm sorry. I don't know you very well but I'm already CERTAIN that you'd never lie about who you are. It's just - pretending to be a Prince - it's a game I play - to make myself feel a bit more - special. And, well, you overheard and we got on so well and I just thought -

**Ariel** What do you do Steve?

**Prince** Sorry?

**Ariel** What do you do, really?

**Prince** Oh. Erm. I clean the river. In this boat. I'm a river cleaner. I keep it clean for the fish folk.

**Ariel** (*Aside*) SWOON

**Prince** Not the most glamorous of jobs, I know. My dad, Martin, was a fisherman, but he quit because his net income wasn't enough. I guess I always wanted to be like him but I never was any good at fishing so I did this instead. Now I just really care about those little guys and, well, people don't seem to think about them enough. Or about the environment. Or about anything really.

**Ariel** I think being a river cleaner is a much better job than being a Prince.

**Prince** You do?

**Ariel** I really do. All the best kind of adventures let you help someone out along the way! And what better adventure than going on a mission to make the world safer and better for others?

**Prince** Oh. I guess I'd never seen it like that before.

**Ariel** And who wants to be a Prince or a Princess anyway? Boring. What do they even do, just sit around counting their money all day?

**Prince** Yeah, like 'ooh another one hundred million pounds to put in the bank today'

**Ariel** Yeah, or 'ooh just found another gazillion pounds'

**Prince** Or, or 'ooooh more money...just found..more money.'

*The game has run its course but they're having fun regardless.*

**Ariel** Yeah.

**Prince** So, what about you? What do you do? What's your big secret?

**Ariel** Oh. Er. Lol.

**Prince** Go on.

**Ariel** Trust me, you wouldn't believe me if I told you.

**Prince** Try me.

**Ariel** I'm a mermaid.

*A moment and then...*

**Prince** Hahahahaha. That is a stone-cold classic. Haha. Brilliant. A mermaid? Like in the film? Imagine! With a little fishy tail and everything.

**Ariel** Ha. Yeah. Just joking. Not really a mermaid, no. Er - funnily enough (*French accent*) I am also a French aristocrat. Mademoiselle Amelie...Mermaid.

**Prince** Oh really?

**Ariel** Oui. Pleasure to meet you Monseieur LaLoux LaSong.

**Prince** (*French accent*) A pleasure to meet you too. Ha. Mermaid. That'll have me laughing for days. Wait til I tell my Nan about that one! What are you like?

*(They smile and laugh, enjoying the silliness)*

### **SONG: Señorita by Shawn Mendes**

#### **Prince**

I love it when you call me LaLoux Lasong  
I wish I could pretend I was the King's son  
Now every touch is ooh la la la  
It's true, la la la  
Ooh, I should be running  
Ooh, you keep me coming for you

Down by the Foreshore  
The air is hot from summer rain  
Sweat dripping off me  
Before I even know your name, la la la  
It feels like ooh la la la

Yeah no

**Both**

Sapphire moonlight  
Let's dance for hours in the sand  
Tequila sunrise

**Ariel**

Your oar it fits right in my hand, la la la  
It feels like ooh la la la, yeah

**Prince**

I love it when you call me LaLoux LaSong  
I wish I could pretend I was the King's son  
Now every touch is ooh la la la  
It's true, la la la  
Ooh, I should be running

**Ariel**

Ooh, I know you love it when I call you LaLoux LaSong  
I wish it wasn't so damn hard to be gone  
But every touch is ooh la la la  
It's true, la la la  
Ooh, I should be running  
Ooh, you keep me coming for ya

Down by the Foreshore  
There's just some things that never change  
We say we're both French  
But 'French' don't beat the way you clean, la la la  
'Cause I know you spend a long time cleanin'  
And that's real cool  
Ooh, when you have sea debris  
Caught in your net  
Ooh love, your net is deadly  
Don't stop

**Prince**

I love it when you call me LaLoux LaSong  
I wish I could pretend I was the King's son  
Now every touch is ooh la la la  
It's true, la la la  
Ooh, I should be running

**Ariel**

Ooh, I know you love it when I call you LaLoux LaSong  
I wish it wasn't so damn hard to be gone  
But every touch is ooh la la la  
It's true, la la la  
Ooh, I should be running  
Ooh, you keep me coming for ya

**Both**

All along I've been looking for you  
And I hope it meant something to you  
Call your name, I've been looking for you  
Looking for you, looking for you, looking for you  
For you  
For you  
Ooh, I should be running  
Ooh, you keep me coming for you

**Ariel** I -

**Prince** Yeah, I - well I've never said this to anyone before but I -

*Ursula enters, cackling.*

**Ursula** Well, well, well. What a genuinely surprising thing to happen. You two, falling in love with each other? Who'd have thunk it?! Oh wait, me. I thunk it. Because I made it happen.

**Prince** Excuse me but we're -

**Ursula** Shut it jabroni.

*Ursula freezes the Prince.*

**Ariel** What - who are you?

**Ursula** You mean you don't recognise me, "beautiful girl"?

**Ariel** Kindly old Doreen? No-one's ever been scared of a Doreen! It can't be!

**Ursula** Oh yes it can

**Ariel** Oh no it -

**Ursula** Shut up. Yes, it is I that bought the Prince to this shore and created the almighty storm helping you two fall in love. And it is I who can put an end to it too. You see, I've already wrestled power away from your disgusting mother (*Ariel gasps*) and soon I will be ruler of land and sea when I marry this Prince -

**Ariel** This Prince?

**Ursula** Yeah, why?

**Ariel** Oh, no reason.

**Ursula** Good. Then I'll continue. When I marry this Prince and he hands his entire kingdom over to me! Mwahahahaha.

**Ariel** No chance. He'll never marry someone as mean-spirited as you -

**Ursula** Well, we'll see what my old friend Mr Magical Trident has to say about that shall we?

Salt of the Earth and spirit of the sky,  
Make me the apple of this Prince's eye

Let him look upon me with furious desire  
And let our love spread like sexy wildfire

*She points the trident at the Prince and with an almighty flash and crash he opens his eyes. He looks straight at Ursula and climbs out of the boat towards her.*

**Prince** But soft. What light through yonder window breaks? It is my lady, oh it is my love. My rose. My angel. Where have you been? I've been searching for you for so long.

**Ariel** But Steve-

**Ursula** Steve?!

**Ariel** Yes. Steve. Steve. It's me. Your mate.

**Prince** Out of the way peasant. No-one stands between me and my Princess.

*He walks towards Ursula, drops to his knees.*

The most beautiful, intelligent, charming, funny woman I have ever seen.

**Ursula** Well, yes obvs. That bit's probably not even anything to do with the magic tbh.

**Prince** I've long awaited this moment so I'll delay no longer. Will you marry me?

*Big gasp!*

**Ariel** But Steve -

**Prince** Please? Will you rule over this kingdom by my side?

**Ariel** You're not even a -

**Ursula** Oh go on then.

*The Prince is delighted.*

**Prince** To the Lamplight Lagoon. The most romantic place in the world. I've always dreamt of marrying my true love there and now, well, 'it shall be so'. Come my love.

*He rushes off, ecstatic*

**Ursula** I hate to say 'I told you so' but I literally did. Loads of times.  
See you later suckers. I'm off to take over the world.

*She leaves, following the Prince who we hear shout madly about his love from offstage.  
Ariel is left alone in the boat, holding the oars until Flounder rushes on.*

**Flounder** Ariel! Ariel, is that you?

**Ariel** Flounder! I am so glad to see you.

*They embrace.*

And look at you! You're a hooman!

**Flounder** (*Showing off*) I'm a hooman! Check out these bad boy danglers. So what happened? Why are you all the way out here on your own?

**Ariel** Have you seen the film?

**Flounder** Course! "*Under the...*"

*Everyone shushes him.*

**Ariel** Well, basically that's what's happened but without any of the actual songs and the weird 'taking my voice' bit. There's no time Flounder. We've got to save the Prince before it's too late. Grab an oar. We've got to get to the Lamplight Lagoon. We're going on an adventure Flounder!

*They begin to row, not really moving much but the scene clunkily changes around them.*

## Scene Four

**Location:** The Lamplight Lagoon.

**You Will Need:** The Magical Trident

*At the Lamplight Lagoon. Ursula and Prince are ready to be wed. Herman serves as the vicar. Both Herman and Prince are still under Ursula's spell and as a result the entire scene has a dreamlike quality to it.*

**Herman** Dearly beloved. We are gathered here today to witness the joining together of Ursula and Prince Steve. Ursula, if it is your intent to marry Prince Steve, please respond with "I do".

**Ursula** I do. Now hurry up.

**Herman** Prince Steve, do you take Ursula to be your wedded wife, to share all of your power, your possessions and your general Prince-lyness with her?

*A dramatic pause, Prince seems to be waking up a bit. Ursula gives her trident a waggle.*

**Prince** I- I- I do.

**Herman** Good. Now, does anyone have any reason why these two people should not be wed?

*There is lots of noise from the audience, hopefully. Ursula looks on angry, telling the audience to shut up.*

**Ursula** Listen up you nasty little gremlins, when you open your mouths I can smell your breath and it makes me literally vom -

**Prince** What are they saying my dear?

**Ursula** Nothing, honeybunch...

**Herman** Excuse me? You there, *(picks a child in the audience)* what are you saying? Why can't they be wed?

*The child responds.*

Wait! This child said -

**Ursula** (*Ursula freezes Herman with her trident*) Oh come on, did you really think it'd be that easy?

Call of crow and bark of dog,  
Make this crab finish the job.

**Herman** Then, by the power vested in me I do declare you husband and -

*Pattie bursts in with confidence.*

**Pattie** STOP! It is I, Pattie, Stormborn of the House Breadcake, First of Her Name, the Unburnt, Queen of the Ocean and the Fish Men, Ruler of the Great Green Sea, Breaker of Hearts, and Mother of Mermaids.

There's no hiding from me. I can smell a man in need a mile off. LET HIM GO.

**Ursula** Audible sigh. (*She clicks and Pattie falls immediately and dramatically to the floor*) Oh it's just so embarrassingly easy. Please, give me a Giant to conquer or a wild beast to tame. My skills are wasted on this cast of kindly clowns. Let us continue. (*She turns back to the Prince*)

*Enter Chips.*

**Chips** NOT SO FAST. I am Chips Spicimus Breadcake, commander of the Anchovies of the North, General of the Fish Legions, loyal servant to the true emperor, Pattie Breadcake. Daughter to a wicked mum, sister to a courageous sister. And I will have my vengeance, in this scene or the next.

*Chips bravely and furiously runs at Ursula, screaming as she does so. Ursula uses her magic to slow Chips and transform her violent run into a ludicrous song and dance routine.*

**Chips** I'm a little teapot, short and stout. Here's my handle and here's my spout.

*Chips then collapses.*

**Ursula** I swear, if I am interrupted one more time. Herman - finish it, quickly.

**Herman** By the power vested in me I do declare you husband and -

*Enter Ariel.*

**Ariel** Not so fast sea witch. It's me. Ariel, and my best mate Flounder. You tried to take my voice. You tried to take my home, and you tried to take my mate. Well, I'm not standing for it anymore. Let's end this, once and for all.

**Ursula** I see your human form has given you confidence? Well, how about I show your little Prince who you really are? *(She clicks and brings Steve Prince back to himself. He immediately recognises Ariel)*

**Prince** My love! It's you! It's really you. I had the strangest dream -

**Ariel** Steve, don't -

**Ursula** It's about to get a lot stranger dear.

Clocks tick and time turns

Seas change and candles burn.

Take this girl back to her former glory

And show this Prince the true story

*An almighty spell returns Ariel back to her fishy form. Prince looks on, shocked.*

**Prince** You're a...fish?

**Ariel** Yes. Yes, I'm a fish. A mermaid in fact. I'm sorry, I did kind of try to tell you in Scene 5 but -

**Ursula** Yes, that's right. A silly little mermaid who is well out of her depth. Hahaha bless you, you really thought you could be a Panto hero? Thought you could overcome the almighty Ursula? Well you were wrong. As the Prince so accurately points out...*(with*

*attitude*) you're a fish. Mwahahahahahaha. Come on Herman, laugh with me. *(She clicks and he does)* Mwahahahahahaha. Audience, laugh with me - embrace your dark side!

**Prince** That's not what I said Ariel. You're not just a fish. You're a FISH. I literally love fish. Fish haven't been corrupted by capitalism, by greed, by selfishness. You're the kindest, bravest creature I ever met, that's for sure. If being a fish means being like you, then sign me up.

**Ursula** OMG. Cringe. I bet he says that to all the fish, you know. Now come on Prince, let's get back to it -

**Prince** Prince? You keep calling me Prince? For an all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful baddie you're not very bright are you? I'm no Prince. I've never been a Prince and I'd never want to be a Prince. I'm a river cleaner and I'm proud of it.

**Ursula** A river cleaner? Ew, gross. Okay, that's enough from you for now Popeye, have a little sleepy-poo while I take care of this little drop in the ocean.

*She puts Prince back to sleep.*

**Flounder** Wait a minute

*Ursula sighs and puts Flounder to sleep too.*

**Ariel** You know what? Steve's right. I'm also sick of pretending I'm something I'm not. I'm proud to be who I am, unlike you Ursula. You think being a shapeshifter is some kind of magic? But really you spend your time hiding behind disguises, forcing people to like you, to love you. Being yourself, that's true magic. See, I don't have to change in order to change the world. The world needs to change to help people like me. Like Steve. Good, hard working decent beings who are kind and nice and true.

Ursula. I think I've found my fearless fight scene.

*It's big battle time - why not create a slow motion fight scene where the good guys overcome the evil Ursula?*

**SONG: Rise by Katy Perry**

**Ariel**

I won't just survive  
Oh, you will see me thrive  
Can't write my story  
I'm beyond the archetype  
I won't just conform  
No matter how you shake my core  
'Cause my roots, they run deep, oh

*Ursula laughs at her.*

**Ariel**

Oh, ye of so little faith

**Ursula**

I doubt it, I doubt it

**Ariel**

Victory is in my veins

**Flounder**

I know it, I know it

**Ariel**

And I will not negotiate

**Ursula**

I'll fight it, I'll fight it

**Ariel**

I will transform

**Ursula**

Oh when? When the fire's at your feet again  
And the vultures are all circling  
They're whispering, you're out of time  
And so, I rise  
This is no mistake, no accident  
When you think the final nail is in, think again  
Don't be surprised, I will still rise

*Ursula is winning the fight; Ariel battles to hold on.*

**Ariel**

I must stay conscious  
Through the badness and chaos  
So I call on my angels  
They say

*Her friends start rising up, still dazed and under Ursula's spell.*

**Flounder, Pattie, Chips, Prince**

Oh, ye of so little faith

**Ursula**

I doubt it, I doubt it

**Flounder, Pattie, Chips, Prince**

Victory is in her veins

**Ariel**

You know it, you know it

**Flounder, Pattie, Chips, Prince**

And she will not negotiate

**Ursula**

I'll fight it, I'll fight it

*Ariel starts fighting back.*

**Ariel**

I'll be transformed  
'Cause when, when the fire's at my feet again  
And the vultures all start circling  
They're whispering, you're out of time  
But still, I rise

*Herman catches the trident. Looks at it. A pause. Everyone shouts at him and tells him what to do. After a moment, he breaks the trident in half, or pulls an important looking bit off the end, whatever's cheaper. As soon as he does this, the spell is lifted and Herman, Prince, Pattie and Chips all wake up and return to normal. They surround Ursula.*

**All the goodies**

This is no mistake, no accident  
When you think the final nail is in, think again  
Don't be surprised, she will still rise  
Can't fight it, can't fight it

Oh, oh, oh, oh  
You know it, you know it  
Still rise  
Can't fight it, can't fight it  
Don't be surprised, she will still rise

*There is a huge cheer as Ursula is defeated. Ariel stands over Ursula, triumphant.*

**Ursula** No, please! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be so mean. Forgive me, please forgive me?

**Pattie** Never!

**Chips** Never!

**Pattie** What should we do to her? Something horrible and nasty?

**Chips** YEAH

**Ariel** In this day and age I think we need kindness more than ever. We need to take care of each other. Work together to be better.

**Pattie** Oh yeah, absolutely.

**Chips** That's what I was just saying.

**Pattie** Uh-huh, me too.

**Ursula** Thank you, thank you. I'll do anything - anything to make it up to you. Anything at all.

**Prince** Well, actually, there is one thing. I've always had an affinity for you fish-folk, but, well now I've seen just how kind and courageous you are. Ursula, how about you use your powers for good for once in your life? I want to live under the sea. I want to dive and swim and soar and I want to help you clean, undo all of the bad things us hoomans have done to your beautiful homes. But mostly, Ariel - *(He goes down on one knee and there is a surge of excitement and shock)* will you come on a sea-cleansing adventure with me?

**Ariel** Yes! *(She hugs him)* Yes, I want nothing more. But I want Flounder to come too *(Flounder celebrates and hugs Ariel)*, and Herman, and Mum and, well, even you Chips.

**Chips** I love you sister. *(She gives Ariel a big, strong, firm bearhug)*

**Ursula** ...can, can I come? On the adventure? All I've ever wanted was to be a part of something. To make a difference to the world.

*The rest of the group responds badly to this - 'no way', 'fat chance', 'yeah right' but Ariel stops them.*

**Ariel** You know, I think we could use a sea witch on our adventures. There's a lot of rubbish to sort and we're gonna need all the help we can get to clean up BP's mess for a start. If you promise to be good, you can come too.

**Ursula** I promise I won't let you down. Pattie Breadcake, you are the rightful ruler of the sea. *(She takes off the crown and hands it back to Pattie.)*

**Pattie** I think I've lost my faith in hierarchical power structures. For our kingdom to truly thrive, we need input from everyone - everyone working together, celebrating our differences and creating a fairer society for all. I'm totes keeping the crown though because it makes me look me banging.

*Herman steps forward, heroically.*

**Herman** M'am-as-in-clam, there's something I need to say. Something I've hidden deep down for too long now. Serving you has been the greatest honour but the truth is, long ago my feelings for you grew far beyond professional courtesy. Pattie Breadcake, I love you. With all of my heart. Will you be my, be my baby?

*Pattie is stunned*

**Pattie** Herman, I - well, I - YES

*She jumps on him, cuddling him vigorously.*

**Ariel** Oh Mum, Herman - I'm so happy for you, though maybe - get a communal bedroom you two.

**Chips** Stop! I WANT ONE. If Mummy has a new Hubby I need someone to look after me. Mummy has always had impeccable taste. NAME, get up here. Tonight baby, I want to get freaky with you.

*Pattie gasps, then:*

**Pattie** Don't worry NAME, I understand, I'm just pleased to see you go to a good home you naughty little pup. Get up here.

*NAME comes up to the stage and is asked nicely to give Chips a kiss on the cheek. As he does, she turns her head and pretends to snog him on the lips.*

**Flounder** (to NAME) Are you okay?

**Ariel** I'm so sorry. Now come on lovebirds, we've got an adventure to plan! The oceans won't clean themselves you know! Ursula, can you do it? Turn us all back and transform Steve (and now NAME too) into one of us?

**Ursula** My trident - it's broken -

**Ariel** You don't need a magical trident Ursula. Magic lives in the heart and mind. You can do it. We believe in you, don't we gang? (YES)

**Ursula** Okay, well. Here goes nothing -

Sky and sea, sun and sand  
Take us away from this strange land

We have a job we need to do  
To turn our waters from brown to blue

So take us home to where we belong  
And for the ride bring this brave Prince (and NAME) along.

*Magic fills the air and each of the characters begin transforming into fishier versions of themselves.*

**Pattie** Come on NAME, you too - be fishier! BE FISHIER!

*As they swirl around and transform they all say goodbye.*

**ALL** See you in a bit everyone!

## Scene Five

**Location:** Nowhere specific!

**You Will Need:** Nothing

**Pattie** Right, that's that settled then. It's time for the underrehearsed but well intentioned finale!

*The Finale. The cast run on, bags packed and ready to go on an adventure. They get the audience clapping along.*

### **SONG: I Believe in a Thing Called Love by The Darkness**

**Pattie**

Can't explain all the feelings that you're making me feel

**Herman**

My heart's in overdrive and you're behind the steering wheel

**Pattie & Herman**

Touching you, touching me

Touching you, oh you're touching me

I believe that a fish can love

Just listen to the rhythm of my heart

There's a chance we could make it now

We'll be cleanin 'til the sun goes down

I believe that a fish can love

Ooh!

**Chips**

I want to kiss you every minute, every hour, every day

You got me in a spin but everything is A.OK!

**Chips**

Touching you

**Flounder**

(scared) Touching me

**Chips**

Touching you,

**Flounder**

Please stop touching me

**Ursula**

I believe that a fish can love  
Just listen to the rhythm of my heart  
There's a chance we could make it now  
We'll be cleanin 'til the sun goes down  
I believe that a fish can love  
Ooh! Guitar!

*Pattie plays a guitar solo as everyone else dances around and cheers*

**Prince & Ariel**

Cleaning two, cleaning three  
Cleaning spree, sea we're cleaning thee  
Owwwwwww

**Ariel**

Let's hear it for James the Musical Mollusc!  
Technology Adam!  
The Sea Slugs!  
Tor the Turtle!  
DSM Danni!

And everybody, let's put your hands together - one last time!

**All**

*(with claps after each line)*

I believe that a fish can love  
Just listen to the rhythm of my heart  
There's a chance we could make it now  
We'll be rocking 'til the sun goes down  
I believe in a thing called love  
Ooh!

**THE END**

## **Create Your Own Pantomime**

### **Cast List**

The hero is called \_\_\_\_\_

The villain is called \_\_\_\_\_

The hero's best friend is called \_\_\_\_\_

The Dame is called \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Beginning**

Once upon a time there was... (who is the story about?)

---

Every day.... (what does their normal life look like?)

---

Until one day... (what happens that changes everything?)

---

### **The Middle**

Because of that... (what happens next?)

---

Because of that... (what happens next?)

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### **The End**

Until Finally... (what happens at the end?)

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