

GULLS

(exasperated)

POSITOOVITY!

SCUTTLE, GULLS

POSITIVELY WORK FOR ...

YOU!

(Prince Eric bounds onto the beach, ready to go shipboard. Catching sight of Ariel, he stops abruptly.)

PRINCE ERIC

Hey, what have we got—?

(to gulls)

Shoo, shoo.

(The gulls flap and scatter.)

Miss, are you all right?

#16A – *On the Beach*

(PRINCE ERIC)

You ... you seem very familiar. Have we met? Yes ... of course! I've been looking for you, everywhere! Please, you must tell me: what's your name?

(Ariel can only shrug.)

Excuse me? You don't speak English?

(This time, Ariel mouths her name.)

Sore throat, eh?

(Ariel draws a finger across her throat, sadly.)

I'm sorry. You don't speak at all, do you? For a moment, I mistook you for somebody else.

(Frustrated, Ariel stands and tries to pantomime the truth – she's the one!)

What is it? You're hurt? No, no ... You need help ...?

(Suddenly, all the excitement – and her new legs – take a toll on Ariel. She wobbles and falls, right into Prince Eric's arms.)

A bit dizzy, aren't you? I've got just the remedy! A warm bath, and a hot meal! Come on now ... you'll be fine. The palace isn't far.

(Prince Eric lifts and carries the fragile Ariel toward the palace. As they disappear, Scuttle looks on with self-satisfaction.)