

(The Mersisters reassemble to pave the way for Ariel.)

(MERSISTERS)

SISTER, ARIEL!

SEBASTIAN

Not again, child!

#4A - *Where's Ariel?*

KING TRITON

Ariel! Where in the name of Poseidon has that sister of yours gone?

(As all scatter, Sebastian and the Mersisters overlap in a tumult of words, creating a general kerfuffle.)

SEBASTIAN

Apologies, sire, but that girl—she's gonna be the death of me! Swimmin' when she should be singin'.

AQUATA

If I'd had that solo, this would never have happened.

ARISTA

That girl is angling *for trouble*—

ATINA

I say, give her the hook—

ALLANA

Fish puns? Aren't we better than that?

AQUATA

Honestly, Daddy! You let Ariel get away with *everything*—

KING TRITON

(trying hard to keep the peace)

Now, now. I love all my daughters equally—

ATINA

Oh, please. That answer's as canned as tuna and twice as oily!

AQUATA

Arista's prettier than Ariel. Andrina's smarter. Allana's sweeter, Atina's— *older*, and Adella! Let's face it, Daddy; you're the only male attention Adella's ever gonna get—

ADELLA

Hey! What've *you* got that Ariel doesn't?

AQUATA

Naked ambition and a willingness to kill.

KING TRITON

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!

(blustering to Sebastian)

One son, Sebastian! Was that too much to hope for?

SEBASTIAN

Please, sire! Don't go pointin' your Pappy's trident at me!

KING TRITON

Oops. Sorry, Sebastian ...

SEBASTIAN

Ya might go whippin' up a hurricane by mistake.

(A contrite Ariel bursts into the court, followed by Flounder.)

AQUATA

Well, look what the catfish dragged in!

ARIEL

Daddy, forgive me, I'm so sorry—

KING TRITON

Ariel, young lady—

ARIEL

I just forgot, that's all—

KING TRITON

As a result of your careless behavior—

SEBASTIAN

Careless and *reckless* behavior!

KING TRITON

—the entire celebration was—

SEBASTIAN

Ruined! Completely destroyed! This concert was going to be the pinnacle of my distinguished career.

KING TRITON

Sebastian—

SEBASTIAN

Now, thanks to you, I'm the laughing stock of the whole Kingdom!

(The Mersisters erupt in a chorus of overlapping protests:)

ATINA, ARISTA

We gave up a date with a whale of a guy—

AQUATA

I don't sing backup for anybody—

ADELLA

Mama loved me best, but she's gone—

KING TRITON

DO YOU MIND?!?

(The Mersisters hastily exit. King Triton is finally alone with his youngest and speaks tenderly.)

Ariel. Please. You've been given such a gift...

ARIEL

I know—my mother's voice.

KING TRITON

It's a wondrous talent, one that demands stewardship and care. So please. Ariel.

(raises Ariel's chin so that her eyes meet his)

For the sake of her memory—

ARIEL

I will, Daddy. I promise.

(Ariel embraces King Triton.)

FLOUNDER

(unable to keep silent any longer)

It wasn't even Ariel's fault! That know-it-all seagull started goin' on and on—

KING TRITON

Seagull? Seagull!

(really angry now)

You went up to the surface again?

ARIEL

(guilty)

Nothing happened.