

## KING TRITON

Ariel!

*(taken aback by the collection of human stuff)*

What is all this?!?

## ARIEL

Daddy, they're my—

## KING TRITON

Human junk!

## ARIEL

No, treasures!

## KING TRITON

Did you save a human from drowning?

## ARIEL

He would've died!

## KING TRITON

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

## ARIEL

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

## KING TRITON

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

## ARIEL

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

## KING TRITON

*(takes a moment to recover from the low blow)*

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

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

**(KING TRITON)**

I'm just trying to protect her, Sebastian.

**SEBASTIAN**

She'll be all right, Sire. Just give her some time.

*(KING TRITON exits. SEBASTIAN gingerly approaches ARIEL.)*

**ARIEL**

I hate him!

**SEBASTIAN**

Ariel, don't say—

**ARIEL**

And some friend you turned out to be – spilling everything—

**SEBASTIAN**

I couldn't help it! He had my claws in a clamp!

**ARIEL**

I don't need you. I don't need any of you! Go away!

*(SEBASTIAN drops his head.)*

I said, go away!

*(SEBASTIAN exits. ARIEL sobs.)*

I don't belong here. If only I could be up there...

*(FLOTSAM and JETSAM, who have been ssspying, as usual, ssslither in and approach ARIEL.)*

**JETSAM**

Poor, sssweet, misssunderstood child.

**FLOTSAM**

She has a very ssserious problem, hasn't she?

**JETSAM**

Who will ease her woes and worries?

**FLOTSAM**

Who will help her get her man?

*(FLOTSAM and JETSAM circle a startled ARIEL.)*

**JETSAM, FLOTSAM**

Perhaps the Sea Witch can!