

SCENE NINE: KING TRITON'S COURT

(King Triton enters with Sebastian and Flounder.)

SEBASTIAN

Most merciful Triton, I pray that you'll keep calm—

KING TRITON

Where is she? Where is Ariel?

SEBASTIAN

She'd be so angry if she knew I was here!

KING TRITON

I entrust my youngest daughter to you! And what happens? I ought to have you cracked! I ought to have you shelled—

FLOUNDER

He almost was, Your Greatness. And all for Ariel—

KING TRITON

You ought to be ashamed of yourself, too! What kind of tragedy will it take—

SEBASTIAN

A tragedy involving the Sea Witch, to be exact.

KING TRITON

(his alarm growing)

What did you say?

FLOUNDER

(chiming in, unable to stop truth-telling)

These two eels came and they took her straight to Ursula, and she traded her voice for a pair of legs, and if the Prince doesn't kiss her—

KING TRITON

Her voice? She bartered away her voice to become human!?!?

SEBASTIAN

By sunset tomorrow, that child could be giving up her very soul—

KING TRITON

Her soul?

SEBASTIAN

— and all to that wicked sister of yours.

(The full gravity of the situation dawns on King Triton.)

KING TRITON

It's time I settled things with her once and for all.

(King Triton, Sebastian and Flounder exit.)