

# Part Of That World

## The little Mermaid

- MUSIC AND LYRICS: Alan Menken and Howard Ashman
- TYPE: Modern Musical Theatre
- YEAR: 1989
- CHARACTER: Ariel

### SYNOPSIS:

Prince Eric is eighteen years old and sailing ship. From the sailors, Eric learns about Triton, the ruler of the sea who can control the oceans. He rules a kingdom of merpeople in the watery depths.

A sixteen-year-old mermaid princess named Ariel is dissatisfied with life under the sea and curious about the human world. Ariel, with her best friend, a fish named Flounder, collects human artifacts, and visits the surface of the ocean to visit a seagull named Scuttle, who offers comically inaccurate knowledge of human culture.

**Ignoring the warnings of her father, King Triton, and the court musician, Sebastian the crab that contact between merpeople and humans is forbidden, she longs to be part of the human world; to this end she has filled a secret grotto with all the human artifacts she has found. She sings 'Part Of That World'.**

Ariel and Flounder travel to the surface to watch a celebration for the birthday of Prince Eric, with whom Ariel falls in love. The birthday celebration is cut short by a storm, during which the ship is lost. Eric almost drowns, but is saved by Ariel, who drags him onto a beach. She sings to him, but when he stirs awake, she dives underwater. Eric has a vague impression that he was rescued by a girl with a beautiful voice; he vows to find her, and Ariel vows to rejoin Eric.

Ursula the Sea Witch makes a deal with Ariel to transform her into a human for three days. Within these three days, if she plans to remain a human, she must receive from Eric the "kiss of true love"; otherwise she will transform back into a mermaid on the third day and be owned by Ursula. In exchange for her voice, Ariel is turned into a human by Ursula's magic which turns her tail into legs.

She is eventually found by Eric but when he learns that she cannot speak, he discards the notion that she is the one who saved his life. Ursula takes the disguise of a beautiful young woman named "Vanessa" and appears onshore singing with Ariel's voice, which is housed in a magic nautilus shell around her neck. Eric recognizes the song, and "Vanessa" casts a hypnotic spell of enchantment on Eric. The next day, Ariel finds out that Eric will be married to "Vanessa" on a ship. She is left behind when the wedding barge departs. With the help of various animals, the nautilus shell around Ursula's neck is broken, restoring Ariel's voice back to Ariel and breaking Ursula's enchantment over Eric. Realizing that Ariel was the girl who saved his life, Eric rushes to kiss her, but the sun sets and Ariel transforms back into a mermaid. Ursula reverts back to her true form and she kidnaps Ariel.

Triton appears and confronts Ursula, but cannot destroy the contract Ursula made with Ariel. Triton chooses to sacrifice himself for his daughter Ariel and is transformed into a polyp. Ursula takes Triton's crown and trident and declares herself queen, which was her plan from the beginning. Eric dives into the sea and throws a harpoon at Ursula. Just as Ursula is set to destroy Ariel, Eric rams the ship's splintered bowsprit through Ursula's abdomen, killing her in a huge explosion. Her power broken, the polyps in Ursula's garden, including Triton, turn back into merpeople. Later, Triton willingly changes Ariel from her mermaid form into a human using his trident. She runs into Eric's arms, and the two finally kiss. The final scene is Ariel and Eric's wedding, with both humans and merpeople as attendees