

THE LITTLE MERMAID
By Wade Bradford

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AUDITION -- for 4 m, 3 w

In this scene, Aunt Lottie narrates as the ship sinks and Kira comes to the rescue.

KID: Wait, guys, don't leave me alone... Should I try to help them? Or would I just get in the way? Should I stay here, or find some way to swim out of this story?

(AUNT LOTTIE pops out from behind a sheet.)

LOTTIE: Away they swam!

KID: Auntie, you scared me!

LOTTIE: Up to the surface, where the wind howled, and the sea grew restless.

KID: This story is getting kind of crazy.

LOTTIE: The waves tossed the prince's ship onto a reef. Nothing could set it free. All the men could do now was to wait for their inevitable destruction.

(FITZWILLIAM enters, and begins to fish. CAPTAIN enters. KIRA sneaks in, remaining unnoticed at the edge of the ship's deck.)

CAPTAIN: Fitzwilliam, how can you fish while the rest of us wait for our inevitable destruction?

FITZWILLIAM: Well, Captain, there's no need to die on an empty stomach. Captain, I caught one! *(Lifts up a fish.)* Hey, Captain, he looks just like you! Let's cook him up and have ourselves a last meal before the storm kills us all!

LOTTIE: Little did the humans realize, Kira the Mermaid was spying on them from the edge of the ship's deck, inching forward in order to save her friend.

KIRA: Are those humans?

KID: Of course.

KIRA: They look so strange. Do you think they are as wicked as my father says?

FITZWILLIAM: Yes, I say we roast him up until his eyes boil, or we could mash him up into a fishy paste and spread him on a loaf of bread.

KIRA: Oh dear! Humans are terrible!

FITZWILLIAM: Or we could always have sushi!

(HE'S about to bite the fish when PRINCE rushes in.)

PRINCE: Stop right there! Don't harm that innocent creature.

KIRA: Oh my, who is that?

KID: That's the prince.

FITZWILLIAM: But, sir, it's just a fish—

PRINCE: Just a fish? Don't you realize there is something incredible in these waters? Something breathtaking, just waiting to be discovered.

KIRA: Daddy never told me humans could be so...so handsome.

KID: Uh-oh.

PRINCE: Farewell, fish friend! *(Tosses the fish back in the water.)*

KIRA: He set Flip free. He isn't cruel at all. He's kind.

(LATCHKEY enters with a life vest.)

LATCHKEY: The ship is breaking up, Your Majesty!

PRINCE: We'll never finish the experiment now!

LATCHKEY: Sir! They are all out of life vests. Please take mine.

KIRA: That young man is sacrificing himself to save another. The prince must be the noblest human in all of Dry Land!

PRINCE: But Latchkey, you said yourself, you cannot swim. You will sink down to the bottom of the sea!

LATCHKEY: It's all right; I can walk from there.

PRINCE: You need this more than I do.

LATCHKEY: No, sir.

PRINCE: Yes, sir!

LATCHKEY: I insist!

PRINCE: I resist!

LATCHKEY: The queen would want—

PRINCE: Don't talk to me about my mother!

LATCHKEY: You're being silly.

PRINCE: Would you just obey me?! Besides, I don't look good in orange.

LATCHKEY: The kingdom needs its prince more than it needs your humble sidekick.

PRINCE: Oh, I suppose you are right.

FITZWILLIAM: Tidal wave approaching!!!!

CAPTAIN: Every man for himself!

FITZWILLIAM: What about the captain going down with his ship?

CAPTAIN: It's time you had a promotion. Congratulations, Captain.

FITZWILLIAM: Oh, thanks. Hey, wait!!

(CAPTAIN and FITZWILLIAM exit.)

PRINCE: This is it, old friend!

LATCHKEY: The end is upon us!

PRINCE: Latchkey, I promise, when I get to royal heaven, I'll come visit you in servant heaven.

LATCHKEY: Thank you, sir!

(CAPTAIN and FITZWILLIAM enter. FX: MUSIC and LIGHTING effects. ALL MEN and KIRA pantomime in slow motion as LOTTIE narrates. PRINCE pantomimes in slow motion swimming and then sinking, preferably in slow motion. KIRA, also in slow motion, comes to his rescue, pulling him to safety. The other MEN are upstage and swim to a rowboat. By the end of the speech, the rowboat is off stage and Kira and Prince should look as if they've just washed upon the shore.)

LOTTIE: Kira dove beneath the surface as the wind and the waves tore the boat to pieces. Latchkey, the captain, and Mr. Fitzwilliam were miraculously tossed into a rowboat...

LOTTIE: *(Cont'd.)* But the prince tumbled into the ocean, swirling downward into the abyss. Only one person could save him! With every ounce of strength and courage, she pulls the prince back up to fresh air, then, they swam to the shore, and as the tide washed them upon the sand, Kira realized that for the first time in her life she had touched dry land.

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