

SCENE TEN: URSULA'S LAIR

(Flotsam and Jetsam enter with Ariel.)

FLOTSAM

Oh, Mistress of the Deep! You've a visitor ...

ARIEL

(blanching)

I'm not so sure ...

JETSAM

Now, now ... mustn't get cold fins ...

(Ursula appears. Ariel stares, agog.)

URSULA

Don't be shy, Ariel darling! It's me—your Auntie Ursula!

ARIEL

I shouldn't be here—

URSULA

Nonsense! We're family.

ARIEL

Father says you're wicked and hateful—

URSULA

Mmm, yes! But he says the same thing of humans, doesn't he, snookums? And we both know that's not true, don't we?

ARIEL

(suspicious)

Why did he banish you?

URSULA

The ocean wasn't big enough for the both of us.

(a beat, and then pointedly)

And now he's driven you away, too ...

ARIEL

He doesn't understand me.

URSULA

Oh, but I do, dumpling. We're so very alike, you and I—gals with ambition!

(with a conspiratorial wink)

Nothing scares a man more, does it?

(URSULA)*(draws Ariel in closer)*

Now tell dear old Auntie everything.

ARIEL

I'm in love with someone. A human.

URSULA

Mmm ... yes—this Prince fellow. He's quite a catch. The answer is simple! You've got to become human yourself!

ARIEL

Can you help me?

#15 – *Poor Unfortunate Souls*

Ursula

URSULA

Help you? My dear, sweet child—it's what I live for: to help unfortunate merfolk like yourself. Poor souls with no one else to turn to ...

I ADMIT THAT IN THE PAST I'VE BEEN A NASTY
 THEY WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN THEY CALLED ME, WELL, A WITCH
 BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT NOWADAYS
 I'VE MENDED ALL MY WAYS
 REPENTED, SEEN THE LIGHT AND MADE A SWITCH
 TRUE? YES

AND I FORTUNATELY KNOW A LITTLE MAGIC
 IT'S A TALENT THAT I ALWAYS HAVE POSSESSED
 AND HERE LATELY, PLEASE DON'T LAUGH
 I USE IT ON BEHALF
 OF THE MISERABLE, LONELY AND DEPRESSED
 (PATHETIC!)

POOR UNFORTUNATE SOULS
 IN PAIN, IN NEED
 THIS ONE LONGING TO BE THINNER
 THAT ONE WANTS TO GET THE GIRL
 AND DO I HELP THEM?
 YES, INDEED!

THOSE POOR UNFORTUNATE SOULS
 SO SAD, SO TRUE