

**SEBASTIAN**

Now, thanks to you, I'm the laughing stock of the whole Kingdom!

*(The Mersisters erupt in a chorus of overlapping protests:)*

**ATINA, ARISTA**

We gave up a date with a whale of a guy—

**AQUATA**

I don't sing backup for anybody—

**ADELLA**

Mama loved me best, but she's gone—

**KING TRITON**

DO YOU MIND?!?

*(The Mersisters hastily exit. King Triton is finally alone with his youngest and speaks tenderly.)*

Ariel. Please. You've been given such a gift...

**ARIEL**

I know—my mother's voice.

**KING TRITON**

It's a wondrous talent, one that demands stewardship and care. So please. Ariel.

*(raises Ariel's chin so that her eyes meet his)*

For the sake of her memory—

**ARIEL**

I will, Daddy. I promise.

*(Ariel embraces King Triton.)*

**FLOUNDER**

*(unable to keep silent any longer)*

It wasn't even Ariel's fault! That know-it-all seagull started goin' on and on—

**KING TRITON**

Seagull? Seagull!

*(really angry now)*

You went up to the surface again?

**ARIEL**

*(guilty)*

Nothing happened.

**KING TRITON**

You could've been seen by one of those barbarians! One of those humans!

**ARIEL**

Daddy, they're not barbarians!

**KING TRITON**

They're dangerous—traps and harpoons!

*(softening for an instant)*

Like it or not, Ariel, you're my youngest. My baby! And so I worry about you the most—

**ARIEL**

But I'm old enough to look after myself—

**KING TRITON**

*(flaring again)*

As long as you live under my reef, you'll obey my rules!

**ARIEL**

If you'd just listen to me for once—

**KING TRITON**

That's the last time you're ever swimming to the surface! Understood?

**ARIEL**

You're so unfair!

*(Ariel bursts into tears and swims away, followed by Flounder.)*

**KING TRITON**

*(a father's frustration)*

Agh! Heaven help me! She's headstrong! Willful! Stubborn as a barnacle—

**SEBASTIAN**

Teenagers! Give 'em an inch, and they swim all over you.

#5 - *If Only (Triton's Lament)*

King Triton

**KING TRITON**

I can govern a kingdom, but I can't control my own daughter. I was too harsh. She'll learn to fear me—I don't want that. She needs her mother, Sebastian. And so do I.

IF ONLY SHE WERE HERE,  
SHE'D KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY.