

SCENE SIX: THE PALACE BALLROOM

(Prince Eric runs into the room, breathless and giggling over their dinner antics.)

PRINCE ERIC

Just look at the two of us, eh? What a couple of misfits.

(Ariel enters and grins. Prince Eric stares at her a moment.)

You're a quiet girl in a noisy world. I'm a prince who'd rather be a simple sailor.
We're both ...

(searching for the perfect metaphor)

... fish out of water, you and me!

(Ariel blanches.)

What? Did I say something wrong? I'm sorry. Who needs words anyway?

#19 – *One Step Closer*

Prince Eric

(PRINCE ERIC)

A smile says just as much sometimes.

(Ariel smiles, reassured, even exuberant. Too giddy to contain it, she flexes up and down on her toes.)

Nimble on your feet, aren't you? Dancing beats small talk any day.

(Ariel demonstrates the dance Scuttle taught her.)

Why, sure. It's the way your feet smile ... or laugh. It lets you say so many things:

DANCING IS A LANGUAGE THAT IS FELT INSTEAD OF HEARD

(Prince Eric does a little jig.)

YOU CAN WHISPER, SING OR SHOUT
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD
TRY IT, GO ON, LIKE SO ...

(Prince Eric repeats the step. Ariel imitates him.)

JUST LET YOUR EMOTIONS TELL YOUR BODY WHAT TO DO

(Ariel does a step of her own – she's getting the hang of it.)

SEE HOW MUCH A SINGLE GESTURE CAN REVEAL!
AND EV'RY LITTLE STEP
EV'RY SINGLE STEP
IS ONE STEP CLOSER
TO SAYING WHAT YOU FEEL

(Prince Eric patiently teaches Ariel various formal dance steps.)