

SCENE EIGHT: OPEN WATER

(Ariel sits, plucking an underwater flower. As she removes each petal, it floats away. Sebastian appears.)

SEBASTIAN

Child! 'Dere you are!

(beat)

A *human*? You fell in love with a *human*—?

ARIEL

I didn't choose it! It just happened ...

SEBASTIAN

Oh, child—

ARIEL

I thought maybe ... just maybe ... you'd be happy for me?

SEBASTIAN

Happy for you?

(incredulous)

Happy? 'Cuz ya gone plumb crazy now?

(shaking his head)

Child, you got to get your head outta the clouds and back in da water where it belongs.

ARIEL

But I don't belong here. I never did. I don't fit in, as hard as I try—

(then, brimming with hope)

If only I could be "up there" instead! Walking on the very same ground he is, breathing the very same air—

SEBASTIAN

Down here is your home! The human world—it's a mess. Life under the sea is better than anything they got up there—

#12 *Under the Sea*

Sebastian, Sea Creatures

ARIEL

You're wrong, I swear—

SEBASTIAN

Believe me, child, it's true!