

RUSALKA: A MERMAID'S TALE
LIBRETTO

URCHINS:

Ho, ho, ho,
Ho, ho, ho
We have a secret you don't know.

Dear Rusalka, mermaid daughter she loves one above the water!
Now she's rescued him who sought her!
Ho, ho, ho, try to catch us off we go!

SEA KING:

My loyal creatures.
Naughty creatures of the coral reef.

Hail! I'm the Sea King full of majesty.

Now hear my orders: Tell me all the gossip and the news concerning kingdom folk!

Is the Blacktip Sharky acting kind of snarky?
Or does Angel Fishy move her tail too swishy?
Tell me of my daughter!

Spiny little schemers
Help romantic dreamers!
Youthful wishes, mermaids, fishes, I'm a patient Sea King!

RUSALKA:

Oh it's you, my father, dear.

SEA KING:

Where have you been sneaking?
Where you in the shallows near on the surface peeking?

RUSALKA:

Oh my father, listen, please!
I am full of sadness! It is lonely underseas.
How I yearn for gladness!

SEA KING:

You call this lonely?

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RUSALKA:

Won't you hear my joy

SEA KING:

But is it foolish?

RUSALKA:

It's about a boy.

SEA KING:

Is the merman kind of odd, funny looking like a cod?

RUSALKA:

Stop all this teasing, won't you hear my honest plea.
I must be human to find joy beyond the sea.

Help me find my love!
Human I must be.

SEA KING:

Daughter, daughter, do not ask for this.
For beware the magic you are seeking!
You will suffer, you will suffer painfully!
You must drink a potion foul and reeking!

RUSALKA:

Oh my father, I must go.
Please show me the way.
Let me join him, above oh, please don't make me stay.

SEA KING:

Woe is me! Woe is me! Woe is me!
My daughter, my daughter, such a fate!

Heed me now: mortal love is your doom!

Jezibaba that ugly witch, she's the only one who can help you!
Mermaid, daughter, woe!

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RUSALKA:

Moonlight now shines on the ocean shore
Gleaming path leads to a meeting
Once again love to me restore
Vision of joy ever fleeting!

Once again love to me restore
Vision of joy ever fleeting!

Oh, moonlight mystic glow hover
Gently my love your beams cover.
Oh, moonlight mystic glow hover,
Gently my love your beams cover!

How I long for the man I saved!
Mermaid dream, transform me truly!
A human mortal maid!

The water's chilly, chilly!

Jezebaba, Jezebaba!

SEA KING:

Careful now, Rusalka, danger, danger, danger!

RUSALKA:

Jezebaba! Jezebaba!

JEZIBABA:

Wailing, weeping, no more sleeping, can you not see dawn is creeping?

RUSALKA:

Jezebaba, Queen of urchins.
Hear my honest plea: I need help!

JEZIBABA:

Noisy bubble! I hear trouble!
Who's disturbed my coral rubble?

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RUSALKA:

Jezibaba, I am yearning
I'm the daughter of the Sea King.

JEZIBABA:

Little mermaid swim before me!
What's this favor, you implore me.

RUSALKA:

Change my fins so I may stand.
Make a potion to walk on land.

JEZIBABA:

Down your gullet trickles, tickles,
Yummy combos taste like pickles!
Saline liquid steeping, brewing, let us see how well it's doing!

Mooshie gooshie muck, mooshie gooshie muck,
mermaid begs for human luck.

Tentacle of jelly, tooth of spotted moray,
stinky ink and belly on to earthly foray.

Eyeball of a hammerhead, granulated minnow dead,
magic potion do not dread,
drink it up now do not dread!

Mooshie gooshie muck, mooshie gooshie muck,
mermaid begs for human luck!

Take this prickly urchin, careful, little swimmer.
Mix with sturgeon, hope beings to glimmer!
Sucker of an octopus, blend it in a slimy juice,
sauce is thin but will reduce,
quite delicious slimy juice.

Mooshie gooshie muck, mooshie gooshie muck,
little humane on your way.
With a curse, with a curse: he won't hear a single word you say.

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PRINCE:

Beside the ocean will I see today
a little mermaid as she swims away?

What kind of magic rescued me?
I was overcome, who set me free?

Some one's emerging from the sea.
Do you think this could be the one for me?
Could I but dare to touch or hold her, being so close just makes me bolder!

What is this vision oh so sweet?
Wakening spirit, dearest soul.
Fantasy standing here, now we meet.
You were my unforeseen goal!

Beautiful dream come true, I am in ecstasy!
Are you a reverie?
Speak to me, my lovely.

You are a fairy tale standing her by the shore.
Walk along by my side I can feel my heart soar.
What is your name who can you be, my rhapsody!
Why are you silent, won't you speak to me,
my darling, my dearest, speak to me!

SEA KING:

Now what? Now what?
What is happening?
Tell me, tell me, all of you, all of you,
Tell me now, tell me now!

URCHINS:

Such a rumpus what a party!
But to stare is not polite!
First, the Prince is so charming,
don't look now it's alarming,
how that foreign Princess tries to break up romance here tonight!

First the Prince is so charming, don't look now, it's alarming,
how that foreign Princess tries to break up romance, break up romance here tonight!

This one starts to flirt now,
that one looks so hurt now,

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scandal might become a brawl soon!
What is happening in the ballroom?

PRINCE:

We've been together seven days.
All week she spoke with silent gaze.
A mystery from my fantasy
if only she could speak to me.

Did she appear to me by sorcery?
Won't you explain, it's not too late?

FOREIGN PRINCESS:

You have been waiting quite a while
with no response or answer.

RUSALKA:

Just look at this princess blush and smile!
She sees most clearly that all this talk will entrance him.

PRINCE:

I'm felling rude and horrible!
We two can chat so easily.

FOREIGN PRINCESS:

Her chatting skill's deplorable
not even weak or measly!

RUSALKA:

I cannot stop the pounding of my heart

PRINCE:

I cannot bear the thought of us apart!

FOREIGN PRINCESS:

Now say goodbye and face the music, tooteloo!

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PRINCE:

What is she feeling?

RUSALKA:

Feeling, feeling?

PRINCE:

What is she feeling?
I need to know!

RUSALKA:

Oh, my heart is breaking!

Can it be? Who is she?

Is this the witch?

Oh, no, that cannot be!

My precious dreams of are shattered now!

Oh, pity, oh pity, oh pity me for all eternity!

PRINCE:

What?

Tell me!

Dearest,

Tell me now why can't you be like me

Why this mystery, silent one, so secret, strangely quiet

different, mystery, my mystery for all eternity!

FOREIGN PRINCESS:

How successful my clever little plan!
The guests are wondering what is happening.
Well, shall we all go home and say goodnight?
We hope that you'll be happy, come what might.

PRINCE:

Forgive my bad behavior, I beg your pardon.
Your kind remarks have awakened my attention.
This ball must be a celebration,
my troubled heart I must not mention.

Let us celebrate, my trouble heart I shall not mention!

FOREIGN PRINCESS:

I see this lady has a patient talent.
She tolerates it thought you display your manners fine and gallant.

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Or do smoldering eyes full of passion deep
hold you in bondage, bondage, you a prisoner keep.

ALL:

Ah, such a lovely night
oh, will my dream take flight?

See the glowing firefly,
feel the wafting breeze.
Life is full of promise
change is in the air!

Skies being to darken, to the discord harken.
All my life for one I've waited, is it he?

Oh such a lovely night,
will our dream take flight?

Oh what a party, I wish that I were glad.
There is no chance for me, not one, I fear!

Oh my, what a party, I wish that I were glad,
but there is no chance, no chance for me I fear!

SEA KING:

Though it was romance brought you hear
silence and sadness remain near.

You were a mermaid beautiful
now return, daughter, dutiful.
Leave behind human suffering,
coral reef creatures love to sing.

You were enchanted by a man.
Unions like this lead to misery.
Though he will promise all he can
heartbreak will plague you eternally.

Woe is you, Rusalka, sorrow!
Facing a lifetime full of woe!

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RUSALKA:

Forsake, forsaken!

Ah me, forsaken, forsaken am I,
I may not lead a happy life,
I'm neither mermaid nor a woman,
my love rejects me as his wife.

I'm neither, I'm neither, not woman nor a mermaid,
oh, my love rejects me as his wife.

Forever lonely,
I am so lonely, I am so lonely!
Ever cursed am I, doomed to fail, he can't hear me say goodbye!

Warm blooded human, his heart is cold!
Warm blooded human, his heart is cold.
His heart is cold!

He could not hear me,
he did not try!
And now forever I say goodbye!

Yo-ho! Who is this ugly creature
can it be you who needs a teacher.

Were you that little mermaid who believed her love could transform a man,
that handsome prince who could not hear you, maybe he just would not hear!
You now ask me to help you again?

RUSALKA:

Ah, Jezibaba, what's my life to be?
An undersea urchin and not a wife to be?

JEZIBABA:

That romance went somewhat badly, no you're living rather sadly!
Though he charmed you with a kiss, told you tales of wedded bliss,
human marriage you will miss!

You made a promise, now you live with it!
I might have cheated, but you never fit!
Your pretty realm of love cannot come true,
so stop this whining, there's work to do!

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PRINCE:

Pulled as if by tide I'm drawn to shore!
Might I find her whom I adore?
I could not hear, nor could I see
this was my love, the one for me!

Tangled and captive as was I,
now let me rescue her or I'll die!

RUSALKA:

Oh my love, join me in the sea.
Give up your human life on land,
live underwater, come to me.

ALL:

Life above, life below, with understanding love can grow!

On the land or in the ocean, we communicate emotion
with a pledge of true devotion, ho, ho, ho
Happily future off we go!

On the land or in the ocean,
we communicate emotion with the pledge of true devotion.
Ho, ho, ho, ho
happy future off we go!

THE END