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Eric & Grimsby

GRIMSBY

Well I don't suppose the King will be too happy when he discovers the guest of honor escaped his own party.

ERIC

Some party. Father always uses my birthday as an excuse to show off to the neighboring kingdoms. No thanks, Grim. You, me, the sea...now that's my idea of a party.

GRIMSBY

Well enjoy it while you can. Next year at this time you'll turn 18 and you must assume your royal duties. And I will no longer be your caretaker.

ERIC

Good, then maybe we can finally call it what it is -- friends.

(ERIC notices something in the water.)

Here, give me a hand with this?

(Over the following line, ERIC and Grimsby pull up a dirty, tangled net. FLOUNDER is inside, ARIEL gasps, but ERIC and GRIMSBY quickly untangle the net.)

ERIC (CONT'D)

The one good thing about being King is that maybe I'll actually make a difference around here. I think my father and his people have forgotten that our sea is more than a profitable trade route.

GRIMSBY

(With affection)

You remind me more of your mother every day. Her compassion, her energy, dare I say, her lovely voice.

ERIC

Mom did love a good sea chantey.

I'LL TELL YOU A TALE OF THE BOTTOMLESS BLUE
AND IT'S HEY TO THE STARBOARD HEAVE HO

Remember?

(GRIMSBY joins in, delighting in the memory as well.)

ERIC & GRIMSBY

LOOK OUT LAD A MERMAID BE WAITIN' FOR YOU
IN MYSTERIOUS FATHOMS BELOW

(THEY laugh.)

ERIC

I don't know why, but that one's been in my head a lot lately.

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GRIMSBY

Mermaids. Nautical nonsense.

ERIC

I don't know, Grim.

(Looking out over the dark water)

What if there's a whole world down there we don't even know about?

(ERIC runs his hand through the water, nearly touching Ariel. SHE wants to reach out and touch his hand, badly.)

GRIMSBY

(Looking through a brass spyglass)

Well if you don't stop looking below, you may miss what's happening above. A storm's coming.

We'd better get back.

(GRIMSBY hands ERIC the spyglass. ERIC looks through it.)

ERIC

Ha. That little cloud? That's not a storm.

(Pointing the spyglass in another direction)

Now THAT's a storm!

(A crash of thunder. The sky turns dark. It suddenly gets serious. The boat rocks.)

ERIC (CONT'D)

(Sternly)

Batten down the hatches, Grim!

GRIMSBY

Oh, I loathe storms...