

The Sea Witch Wyndia?!

Splash.

I swooshed my tail, and water sprayed everywhere.

In the ocean.

I can swim freely.

The night sky is clearer than yesterday.

But it looks like it might rain.

On days like this, it's safer to just stay in the water.

Swimming in the ocean feels good.

It really does.

When I'm in here I feel like a bird in the sky.

It's definitely better to be a mermaid than a human.

Ac-tu-all-y.

It's been a while since I was a mermaid.

"Oh, Shinju, hey it's been a while!"

I kept hearing the same thing over and over from all the fish as they passed by.

"Oh hey, good to see you again!"

Again and again.

It was nice to swim among them again.

"Hey Shinju, have you gotten a kiss yet?"

Jeez.

If I had become a full human I wouldn't be swimming here.

Being here felt like I had to give a report.

"Ha ha ha..."

I laughed like nothing was the matter.

But, I had to at least give an update to the fish.

"Oh I see, so you haven't yet..."

I could hear the disappointment in their voices.

"I'm sorry."

"It's okay, it's alright. You've only just started out, after all."

That's true.

I did just turn 15.

And the "Legend of the Mermaid" has really only just begun.

I.

I'm not the girl that Ryuichi likes yet.

So it can't be helped that we're not in love yet.

I'll have to confess it to him somehow.

And if he rejects me I'll be sad.

I just didn't expect to have a rival for his affections.

When I look around, I see a lot of people that I could "like" I suppose.

Maybe my "liking" someone isn't the same as real "love".

If I don't like them, and I'm not in love with them, maybe there's no point in trying.

I.

I would really like to find someone to love.

Yeah.

So do your best, Shinju.

I've got to return to the human world now.

If my grandma finds me here she'll be really upset.

But you know, it's really nice to go out for a swim for a while.

Bobbing up and down between the waves.

I swam up and peeked my head above water.

Peek peek.

I took a look around.

The wind is really strong today.

I had a feeling the waves were going to get even taller.

The clouds above me were swirling around and getting darker, and I had the feeling it was going to rain soon.

This is not good.

If it rains, I'll get all wet.

And if I get wet, I won't be able to transform back into a human from my mermaid form.

My pink pearl necklace.

This is what I use to transform into a human.

But.

I've got to head back to the Kaidou residence.

If I don't hurry, I won't be able to see Ryouichi.

Or Seiko.

I wouldn't be able to see Izumi again either.

And Izumi is my friend now.

But.

I really want her to keep doing her best for Ryuichi.

She can't give up to that new transfer student girl.

The early morning coastline.

I don't think I'll run into anyone here.

But someone is walking alongside it from a distance.

Ryuichi.

It's just like the first time we met.

Walking his dog along the beach.

But Ryuichi...isn't alone...

Huh?

Who is that?

That looks like that new transfer student girl.

...No way...

As she's walking along, I can see that her whole body is covered by a black aura.

It must be because of her black pearl's magic that she was able to transform into a human, into looking like an ordinary high school student.

I swam closer.

I could clearly see her now.

She was definitely enveloped in a black aura.

"Shinju, that's Wyndia."

"Huh?"

Wyndia, as in the Sea Witch Wyndia?

But.

It can't be.

"I bet you she used her black learn magic to turn into a human so she could get in your way, Shinju."

"No way."

Without thinking I blurted it out.

But I guess that explains why that girl is so cocky.

And why she knows about me.

I could see something glimmer off of her chest.

It was her black pearl necklace.

There was no mistaking it.

The Sea Witch Wyndia appeared in our world in a bubble 1,000 years ago.

And when she came in her bubble -

When the Sea Witch Wyndia appeared, she plunged our blue oceans into a world of darkness in an instant.

Using her powers, the Sea Witch Wyndia almost destroyed our world.

And the "Mermaid's Legend" is what stopped her.

The Sea Witch Wyndia, wielding her black pearl magic.

"Shinju, he's in danger."

"Huh?"

"Wyndia is going to manipulate him to do what she wants, Shinju, by any means necessary."

By any means necessary.

W-what does that mean?!

The wind started to get stronger.

And the waves grew taller and taller.

The wind felt like it was blowing out of control.

The waves got bigger and bigger.

Ryuichi glanced over to look at them.

"Check out those waves - "

"Wyndia is making the wind stronger, he's in danger!"

"Wow, check that out, the waves are getting really huge."

I would hate for Ryuichi to get injured and have it be my fault.

Yeah.

If these waves keep getting bigger, he's going to get hurt.

The ocean was getting so restless, it was pulling me under.

But I can't let him die.

I can't let this be my fault.

I don't know if I'm in love with Ryuichi or not, but I've got to do something to save him.

Maybe my "liking him" isn't really "love" but...

I can't let anything bad happen to him because of me.

And so.

What the heck am I gonna do now?!

"Ryuichi!"

Wyndia called out Ryuichi's name.

At the sound of her voice, Ryuichi turned to face her.

And in that moment -

NOOOOOO!!

A whirlpool formed in the waves.

And it sprang up to attack Ryuichi.

In the middle of the ocean.

The water swirled around Ryuichi, and pulled him underwater.

Fwahahaha, bwahahahahaha!

Wyndia cackled and he was sucked under.

As she shook with laughter it glimmered on her chest.

The black pearl necklace.

Wyndia's chest glimmered,

And her form

Began to change.

Her jet black hair grew longer and longer.

And her eyes grew narrower.

And then,

It got dark, and her voice grew deep.

"I'm going to kill the man you love, Mermaid Princess. And the 'Mermaid's Legend' will be over, and the whole ocean will be mine!"

Wyndia turned to face me, with a gloating smile on her face.

"Moron!"

I screamed at Wyndia with all my might.

"What did you say?!"

"I'm not even really in love with Rynaichi!"



I've got to say something.

Something in my chest was crying out.

"Don't lie!"

"But it's true."

I

Was getting angry.

I puffed up my chest.

And for some reason.

A tear.

One after another.

Falling down my face.

Tears like baby pearls.

I realized I must really love Ryuichi afterall.

And because of that fact, I was crying.

"I've gotta save Ryouichi!"

"But Shinju, if he sees you like that..."

I was still in Mermaid form.

I wouldn't be able to see Ryouichi anymore.

But.

The waves were overtaking Ryouichi.

And humans can't breathe underwater.

If I don't help him, and quick, he'll die.

He's going to have to see me in my Mermaid form...

"I have an idea. If I break Wyndia's black pearl necklace, surely that'll interrupt her magic spell!"

"But, what should I do..."

I was in such a panic, I couldn't think of how best to do it.

"Shinju, we'll chew through her necklace so you can go and save him!"

"Everyone...thank you."

"Leave it to us!"

And the little fish swam off to approach Wyndia.

To chew through the chain of her necklace.

A moment later.

"Gwahhhhh..."

Wyndia cried out.

And her body started to shrink, smaller and smaller.

It sounded like her death rattle.

But, if we don't want our Mermaid world to plunge into darkness, we're not done with her yet.

The whole ocean, and everyone in it, could die.

I sped off to find Ryouichi.

He's going to see me as a Mermaid.

And we probably won't see each
other again.

He was deep, deep in the ocean.

And I swam down after him.