

Do you know "The Legend of the Mermaids"?

Did you know that mermaids live in the beautiful blue ocean?

The blue ocean is a gift to us mermaids.

Well,

That's an if.

If mermaids weren't there, what color would the ocean be?

The answer lies inside the world of mermaids, inside their legend.

"The Legend of the Mermaids."

1000 years ago.

A mermaid princess became a human.

Before my 16th birthday starts, I have to find my beloved.

I have to find my love.

I wonder if we'll exchange a kiss.

If

If I don't find my beloved before my 16th birthday...

If I can't find my love before then...

And if we don't exchange a kiss...

The mermaids, all of us, we would lose the bubbles we live in inside of the ocean...

Losing our bubbles wouldn't mean that we die, exactly.

But it would mean the destruction of our mermaid world.

It means, us mermaids would vanish from the oceans altogether.

And that's not all.

It also means that the evil sea witch, Wyndia, would gain control of the oceans, and plunge the world into darkness. We mermaids have been protecting the ocean from her.

So, because of that.

If us mermaids disappear, the ocean would turn black.

If the oceans are no longer blue, the entire world would plunge into darkness.

The fishes would too.

And so would the corals.

And all of the shell-fish.

Everyone.

Everybody.

They would all die.

All of the ocean would fall to the whims of the sea witch Wyndia.

Us mermaids have been guarding the oceans from the evil sea witch Wyndia for the last 1,000 years.

...However.

It's been a thousand years.

And in one thousand years.

Our kind has only spoken with her once.

And so.

I've only heard rumors about the evil sea witch Wyndia.

None of us have run into her in recent years.

I've got my suspicions about her real story.

I've thought about it a lot.

That being said.

"I'm one of the mermaids of the 1000th year of the legend!?"

Without thinking, I shouted at the top of my lungs.

All through the blue ocean depths, my voice spread out.

It surprised the fish, and in an instant, they swam over to check on me.

However,

The person most surprised was me.

Today is my 15th birthday.

Ever since I heard my mom was calling out to me, I've had a bad feeling.

It can't be.

That I'm really the Mermaid Princess that legend says will show up in
1,000 years.

But I wonder.

If the "Legend of the Mermaid" is really true.

I would be super surprised.

But.

Deep inside.

I've got this sneaking suspicion, and a feeling that it is true.

And so.

My mom said it's been maaaaany years.

Maybe it's really true, but this whole thing just seems stupid to me.

Hmph.

And then my mom stared up at me with her wrinkly old face.

Bonk.

She hit me with her stick.

"Owww~"

I began thrashing my tail around before I could even think anything else.

"So you think what I'm telling you is some stupid tale humans talk about."

"Whaaaat? How did you know what I was thinking?"

"I just figured out what you were thinking, Shinju, based on a simple guess."

"But that really was exactly what I was thinking!"

Bonk.

I guess it was just as my mom said, she could read my face.

"Shinju, the "Legend of the Mermaid" is really true. And you are the genuine Mermaid Princess the legend says would come in 1000 years."

My mother's eyes

Like piercing swords.

Even though it was just a joke.

I was trying to be funny.

I guess it really, really, really is true.

My mom's eyes told it all.

"It's not just that. The evil Sea Witch Wyndia plans to conquer and rule over the ocean with her Black Pearl."

I wonder what a Black Pearl is.

Somehow, it doesn't seem like it'd be nice.

It gives me a bad feeling.

"Wyndia has been guarding over this item to prevent us mermaids from getting it for the last 1000 years."

"So this story isn't just a myth? It's really true."

"If Wyndia got the chance, she'd rule over the entire ocean after defeating us mermaids."

So it wasn't just a legend.

The way she said it, it sounded as though if Wyndia were to take over the ocean, it would die.

And only the Mermaid Princess can protect the ocean...

"And I'm the millennium's Mermaid Princess"

My mom let out a huge sigh.

"It's not just for the mermaids. Shinju, you have to protect all of the ocean's living creatures. Their fate is in your hands."

Pang.

A jolt ran through my chest.

And in my head

The "Mermaid's Legend" began turning and turning in my mind.

Once every 1000 years.

A mermaid princess turns into a human.

But first I have to find my love before my 16th birthday.

My promised love.

And then.

I have to kiss him.

But.

If I don't find my true love before my 16th birthday.

And I don't meet with my promised love.

And I don't give him a kiss.

The mermaids, and everyone else living in the ocean will
vanish.

Our mermaid world will be destroyed.

And mermaids won't exist in the oceans anymore.

How did I end up responsible for everything.

It's all really sudden.

Anyway.

I've never even had a kiss before.

It'll be my first kiss.

And there aren't even any males in our mermaid world, so, it'll be my first love too.

Besides that, being in the human world, how am I going to get a kiss.

This all just really pisses me off.

I don't like it.

Having such a big role.

I'm the kind of mermaid who just wants to have fun with humans.

And I'm not the kind of person who does new things easily.

"Can't someone change places with me and be the Mermaid Princess instead? I don't think I'm up for the challenge of rescuing all of mermaid-kind."

I said, cheerfully trying to get out of the chore.

"Shinju ~"

Boink.

"Owwwww"

I got hit on the head again.

My mom stared intensely at me.

"Being the Mermaid Princess isn't just about turning human. Here, hold out your hand."

"Is this for me...?"

"Here."

And my mom put the smallest little ball in my end.

Was this supposed to be part of a necklace?

At its core shined a small little pink pearl.

"It's so cute! ♡"

Without thinking, without remembering myself, I shrieked out loud in awe.

This sure was a lot nicer than the Black Pearl of Wyndia's I'd heard about.

"With the pearl on that necklace, a mermaid is able to transform into a human for a short while using the pearl's magic."

"So if I just concentrate, I can use the magic..."

"Only the Mermaid Princess is able to use the necklace's magic."

So I haven't been the only one to use it.

As it turns out,

I haven't been the only one charged with protecting the world of us mermaids.

I haven't been the only...

I haven't been the only one...

I haven't...

I see.

I get it.

Grip.

I held on tightly to the pearl necklace.

And although I didn't want it to be true,

I could feel my Princess blood surge.

And I was filled with courage and power.

Me.

In an instant, I leapt from the seas and stepped out into the human world for the first time.

The human world.

Everyone would be so surprised to see me walking along on two legs.

Walking along like a regular girl with a regular boy, as though I weren't really a mermaid.

It felt really amusing.

But I couldn't really believe this world was real.

It made me uneasy.

But it'll be okay.

Yeah.

Although I had fun in the mermaid world, the human world doesn't seem as fun.

But,

This is a rare chance I have.

Right?

Right, of course right.

"I'm going to do my best for everyone's sake!"

I yelled out, summoning up all my power.

My pink tail.

Standing on end.

My chest all puffed out with courage.

But,

I wonder even if I am the Princess now, if I can really do it.

I didn't really know what to do next.

I've got to find someone I like.

Should I be the one to confess to them?

I mean, what if I tell them I like them, but the other person doesn't love me back.

Should I kiss them anyway?

It's so complicated.

Maybe I shouldn't hurry, it's not my 16th birthday yet.

I mean, I only turned 15 years old today.

There's still lots of time.

First, I should develop some interest in the human world.

And find out what this "Mermaid's Legend" is all really about.

I mean, if I really am the legendary Mermaid Princess who comes around only every one thousand years, I should do things properly.

Holding out the necklace my mom gave me.

Staring at it swing before me.

The pink pearl.

Shining.

Sparkling in my chest.

"Hey, when a mermaid turns into a human, what kind of things happen after that?"

"Hmm. Well, Shinju, I don't think I've ever heard of a mermaid who turned human turning back into a mermaid."

"What? Seriously?"

"Then again, I've never seen a mermaid transform into a human either."

"What if the transformation doesn't work?"

"I guess try again after ten minutes?"

"I see. What if the person I turn into is bad?"

I've got to stop freaking myself out.

But,

I've gotta stay brave, just focus on this cute pink pearl.

Yeah! ♡

I've just gotta follow mom's advice, do my best to fulfill the "Mermaids Legend" and

give it my all.

If I do all that, this necklace will help me out, and; it's a pretty cute one if I say so myself.

Yeeaaaah.

Somehow, I'm actually really excited about all this.

"Shinju, you've got to like the heart of the person you fall in love with."

"Yeah, yeah."

"Because he's your beloved, you have to make sure you really, really care about him too."

"Yeah, yeah, I get it."

"Shinju, your beloved's lips aren't like anybody else's, you've got to be sure he's the right one."

"I get it, I get it."

Jeaz.

I don't want to hear this talk again when I have another birthday.

"And, you have to understand that after you fulfill the 'Mermaid's Legend', you won't be able to come back to the ocean again."

The blue sea.

My beloved ocean.

That I have sworn to protect.

That somehow, I'll do my best to defend, that I'll become a guardian of justice for it.