

I'll protect the ocean!

"Shinju, do your best..."

"Of course I will!"

I replied, energetically.

"Shinju..."

I won't see this marina or the beach again.

Hearing the voice of all the mermaids got me all teary-eyed.

"I can't believe it. We'll really always be separated from now on."

"But...But you know, I would like to know what it's like to fall in love."

"I guess so. We Mermaid girls have never experienced it before."

But.

It'll be okay.

My story of love in the human world.

It's a difficult situation, being the "Mermaid Princess", and when I read that I feel like I should be researching something.

I'm sure it'll figure it out.

"I won't give up."

I.

I feel like my chest is burning up.

I'll do my best.

Definitely, definitely, I'll work hard.

The pink pearl necklace over my chest shining as it sways.

I'll show this ocean a side of me its never seen before I depart for good.

Into the human world...

My face broke above the ocean waves.

"It's so bright..."

Glittering.

The sun,

The waves are so beautiful,

And so,

So is the white foam against the shore.

My tail still completely submerged.

I've got to do something about that before my first appearance on land.

I peek around.

Do a proper check.

Humans can't be allowed to see me transform.

"Just as I thought, it's too early in the morning for anyone to be out here."

Now's my chance.

But.

Somehow I'm panicked.

What should I do.

I know.

Only the Mermaid Princess can protect the world of the Mermaids.

My pink tail parting the water.

Splash.

I jump above the waves.

Glittering in the sun like a diamond.

The gem in my necklace shining bright.

And then.

A strong thought.

Please.

Turn me into a human girl.



A warm light.
The sky flashes, and I've changed.

And. ☆

Ah

Ahhh

Aaaaaaack!!!!

Pant pant.

Heave heave.

I.

I suddenly shriek, feeling all the sudden changes to my body.

But.

But.

I've gotta reach the shore.

Once I'm on shore, I'll have to try out walking.

But first, I've got to get out of the ocean, I've got to swim.

How.e.ver.

Where my tail was, two legs and a pink skirt have appeared.

I really have human legs now.

No more pink tail...

I can't believe it but.

I really, really have turned into a human.

Aaaaaack. Just thinking about it freaks me out.

I've really become human...

L

I know I've turned into a human, but now I'm even more worried about what I have to do.

Because I was a mermaid, I've never worn clothes before.

And because I never had legs, I've never worn shoes.

I'm gonna have to get some clothes.

After I turned human, I thought about that - a bit too late.

But.

I'll figure out how to wear clothes properly.

And how to wear shoes.

I'll

Slowly

Figure out how to stand.

I've got no balance, so I'll probably be wobbly at first.

Oh hey, I stood!

I feel like I've been reborn, standing here.

It's amazing.

But I can feel a gust of wind.

Here goes.

I'll try to walk now.

I keep twisting my legs over themselves.

I won't be able to walk like this.

My walking is so wobbly.

I've got to walk properly.

Properly this time, without almost falling over.

I keep wavering.

But,

This is it.

This is how it feels to be a human girl.

I really have turned into a human.

The ocean,

The way humans see it.

Does the water always seem this serene?

Gentle curves.

Very beautiful.

More than anything I had seen in all my time swimming in this sea,
unbelievable.

The fate of the entire ocean rests with me, unbelievable.

Ah... something's brushing my cheek.

Is that the wind?

It's making my hair move like I'm swimming.

It feels nice.

I'm getting really excited for some reason.

"Okay, I'm going to do my best!"

I said facing the sea and taking a victory pose.

First I have to find the person I love.

But...

How do I find him?

Oh no.

I'm stuck already, all alone on this sandy beach.

I am relieved I was able to change from a mermaid into a human, but not knowing where the person I love is puts a wrench in things.

The person I love...

Well, to start with, I should try finding some men.

I can't just stand around doing nothing.

I've got to keep walking.

Okay. Time to go find the man I love!

"Ack!"

My feet got stuck in the sand, and I tumbled over.

Walking is still hard for me, after all.

Swimming is so much easier.

Oh my.

I got back up, but I'm still stumbling.

But...

??

My arm,

In an instant, gripped and held fast, so I didn't fall.

"Are you alright?"

Huh?

Huh?

When I turned in the direction of the voice, there was a man standing there.

This was the first time I'd ever seen a man up close like this.

His eyes were pitch black. They fell immediately under his bangs.

He was way taller than me. But he seemed to be about the same age as me.

He held me with his large hands.

"That's what happens if you walk without paying attention."

"Y-yeah."

He was right, I was thinking about a ton of things and trying to walk at the same time.

But that wasn't the only reason I fell.



Because I'm a mermaid, I'm not used to walking, but I can't tell him that.

"Well, take care."

He said.

He let go of me with those hands, and turned his back to me, and begun walking along the shore.

He had a big puppy with him. He was walking his dog.

"The legend of the Mermaid"

Once every 1000 years, the mermaid princess becomes human, and has until her 16th birthday to find someone she loves, and the two must swear their love. then,

They confirm their love with a kiss.

I decided! ♡

I'll fall in love with him.

He'll be the one I love.

Yeah.

That's a nice idea.

I'm so relieved I found him so quickly.

I'm super lucky.

I just have to swear my love to him, and give him a kiss.

Aahh! ♡

Now the sea will be safe.

I might be the greatest Princess ever.

But,

Even after deciding i would love him,

He kept walking further and further away.

Together with his dog, they went further and further.

What should I do?

Oh yes,

I've got to follow him quickly.

But, I can't.

I still can't walk well, so I can't follow him.

My legs won't keep up.

"W-Wait!"

I cried out without thinking.

Oh...

Oh good.

My voice reached him and he turned back my way.

I've got to use this chance to catch up to him.

This time I was able to go without stopping, so well, that I was going to pass him at this rate.

I tried to stop, but...

"Aaagh!"

Along with that loud yelp, slam!

I knocked him over.

This is terrible. ☆

But it looks like it's going to get worse, since I had knocked him over with such force, no one was there to stop me this time.

"Waaah!"

We both collapsed together.

On the shore, a hair's breadth away from each other.

"I-i-i'm so sorry..."

I stammered an apology.

He showed irritation on his face.

What do I do?

He looks one hundred percent done with me.

Colliding with him like this he must think I'm an oddball. That would be super troublesome.

But, I can't tell him the real reason it happened... All I can do is apologise profusely.

"It's fine it's not that bad."

I'm not the type to apologize for much.

That's really what he said to me.

Well, I'm glad.

"Anyway, do you have any need for me?"

"I...um..."

I was talking about falling in love when that guy -
I was talking to him about falling in love and then -
It's just as I thought.

As he walked away, I stood up straight and tall.

Sand falling from my clothes.

And off of me...

I knew it would be like this.

I've got to stand up straight and tall.

Go slowly.

Falling in love.

I can't let it defeat me.

It's no good like this.

"Ah, hey!"

I shouted out in his direction.

"Big brooooooother!"

A girl's voice.

Seemed like she was talking about him.

"Hey."

He turned to face the direction of the voice, and held out his hand.

And he began running in its direction...

But I was about to talk to him –

"Ah-Hey. Wait just a sec..."

Yay!

I finally stood up. ♡

Again.

I can't do it. I can't do it.

Ohh, not these stubborn emotions again.

I've gotta restrain myself when it comes to him.

I've got to remember that, next time this happens.

Plop.

I was standing just fine until I thought about him again.

I've just gotta take it nice and slow, build up strength in my legs.

That's all I should focus on.

But I can't.

Haunnnnnuh??

No way.

No, no, no, no!

I'm all wet.

And it got my legs,

So my mermaid tail returned,

But why?

Why did my legs turn back into a tail?

Whyyyy?

I see.

I guess I didn't think about that until now.

When I saw him, I was standing on dry land.

And when I transformed, I flew up out of the water.

Big splash.

When the water touches me, I turn back.

So I can still swim in the sea.

I really did turn back into a mermaid.

Just because my legs got wet.

I can still turn back into a mermaid.

Hey.

Maybe.

When this is all done, I can just touch water and go back to being a mermaid?

Jeez mom, why didn't you tell me about this?

Yeah.

It's like her to not tell me something like this.

But.

But.

I really did turn back into a mermaid.

Maybe my mom just forgot.

Because she's so old.

Even if she's spacey, she's not normally that weird.

But.

I don't know that she'd forget to tell me something so important.

Jenz.

I'm glad that the pearl's magic can transform me back into a human for the time being.

If I only had one shot at this human business, I'd be out of luck already.

But this is good timing with him, turned away, so he didn't notice all this.

Shake shake.

While still in mermaid form, I peeked over at his face - and stole a glance at what he was up to.

I started to peer around for what I was searching for.

Could he have disappeared in an instant like that?

Maybe he timing was bad and he saw me as a mermaid.

But then I saw him turn around to face me - standing before him as a human girl.

She called him big brother, so I'm sure that girl must be his younger sister.

I get the feeling she came to help him.

"Big brother, I saw you searching around, what are you looking for?"

"Oh, nothing, just now, there was a girl..."

"There's nobody here."

"Yeah, seems like it..."

I had dived underwater.

I wasn't where I was standing before.

Ahhh.

I almost want to jump out of my hiding spot now and tell them where I am.

But,

If a Mermaid reveals her human transformation to humans, then she won't be able to return to the human world again.

That's why if you're going to transform into a human, it's really important not to be seen.

Doing otherwise is a taboo.

"Come on big brother, let's go."

"I guess you're right".

And with that, the two of them disappeared across a bridge leading from the bay.

After a while I saw them enter into a house off in the distance.
That must be where they live.

But...

Now that he's gone,

I,

I'm alone, what should I do?

Now that I finally found a person that I could fall in love with.

I've Got It. ♡

I just had a good idea.

Maybe I've got a good head on my shoulders after all.

But,

I wonder if this will turn out OK.

I'm a little worried.

But...

But...

What should I do...

I wonder if I'll be good at this.

I'm nervous.

Yeah.

I'm worried, but it can't be helped.

I'm gonna push forward.

The fate of the ocean world is relying on me.

So I've gotta do *my* best.

"The Mermaid's Legend"

Anyway.

I found the person I love.

It turns out he and my love weren't far apart all this time.

We'll kiss.

And then.

It'll be OK to return to the ocean.

I held this thought tight, clutching my pink pearl necklace.