

~~AN' ITS HEY TO THE STARBOARD, HEAVE HO!
WATCH OUT FOR 'EM, OR YOU'LL GO TO YOUR RUIN
MYSTERIOUS FATHOMS BELOW!~~

~~(The ship sails into the horizon. ARIEL appears, just in time to snatch the sinking fork from oblivion. She holds it up, catches the sun's rays; it makes prisms in the air.)~~

ARIEL

(admiring it) Why, it's beautiful! *(A splash, and FLOUNDER appears. He's a rambunctious young fish, and ARIEL's best friend.)*

FLOUNDER

Hey, Ariel! There you are! *(ARIEL hides the fork behind her back.)*

ARIEL

Flounder!

FLOUNDER

(gazing at the strange terrain) Whoa. Freaky.

ARIEL

What's the matter? Haven't you been to the surface before?

FLOUNDER

Yeah. Sure. Me and the other fish in my school, we come up here all the time.

ARIEL

Is that so?

FLOUNDER

Sure! We're not scared of sharks. Or boats. Or fishermen. *(with nervous gulp)* What's a "chum bucket"? Are those for real?

ARIEL

You *are* afraid, aren't you?

FLOUNDER

No, I'm not! I'm here now, aren't I? *(A telling beat)* With you.

ARIEL

Flounder, you're blushing.....

FLOUNDER

It's sunburn. You get it up here.

ARIEL

Are you flirting with me?

FLOUNDER

Gross! Blech! No way! *(then)* But if I was -- ? *(ARIEL ruffles FLOUNDER's fins and gives him a peck on the head. FLOUNDER is hopelessly smitten.)*

ARIEL

Hey, guess what I found today! It was floating in the wake of a giant ship.....