## the little mermaid

the little mermaid has enchanted audiences for generations, capturing imaginations with its timeless story, memorable characters, and stunning visuals. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of "The Little Mermaid," covering its origins as a beloved fairy tale, its adaptation into a popular Disney animated feature, and its cultural impact on entertainment and society. Readers will discover the key elements that make this story enduring, including its plot, iconic characters, symbolism, and key themes such as transformation, love, and sacrifice. The article also delves into the legacy and influence of "The Little Mermaid" across literature, film, and popular culture. Whether you are a fan of the original Hans Christian Andersen tale or the vibrant Disney musical, this guide provides valuable insights and information about "The Little Mermaid." Continue reading to uncover the fascinating history and significance of this classic story.

- Origins of The Little Mermaid Story
- Disney's Adaptation of The Little Mermaid
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Key Themes and Symbolism
- Cultural Impact and Legacy
- Popular Merchandise and Spin-Offs
- The Little Mermaid in Modern Media

### Origins of The Little Mermaid Story

The roots of "The Little Mermaid" trace back to the early 19th century, when Danish author Hans Christian Andersen penned the original fairy tale in 1837. This story, written in Andersen's signature style, blends elements of fantasy and moral lessons, captivating readers with its tragic and poignant narrative. "The Little Mermaid" follows a young mermaid who dreams of becoming human after falling in love with a human prince. The tale explores themes of longing, transformation, and self-sacrifice as the mermaid faces difficult choices to pursue her desires.

The original story is renowned for its emotional depth and bittersweet ending. Unlike many fairy tales, Andersen's version does not conclude with a traditional happily-ever-after; instead, it presents a powerful lesson on

love, loss, and personal growth. Over time, "The Little Mermaid" has been translated into numerous languages and adapted in various literary forms, securing its place as a classic in world literature.

## Disney's Adaptation of The Little Mermaid

Disney reinvented "The Little Mermaid" in 1989, introducing it to a new generation through its animated musical film. Directed by Ron Clements and John Musker, this adaptation reimagines the story with vibrant animation, unforgettable songs, and a more uplifting conclusion. The film centers on Ariel, a spirited young mermaid who longs to explore the human world and falls in love with Prince Eric. Disney's version emphasizes adventure, romance, and the importance of following one's dreams, while still retaining the essence of Andersen's original narrative.

The film's critical and commercial success marked the beginning of the Disney Renaissance, revitalizing the studio's animation department and setting new standards for storytelling and production. The soundtrack, featuring songs by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, such as "Part of Your World," "Under the Sea," and "Kiss the Girl," became instant classics and contributed to the film's enduring popularity.

#### Main Characters and Their Roles

"The Little Mermaid" is defined by its memorable cast of characters, each contributing to the story's development and emotional resonance. The central figures in both the original tale and Disney's adaptation are distinct and influential.

#### Ariel

Ariel is the curious and adventurous protagonist who dreams of discovering life beyond the ocean. In the Disney adaptation, she is portrayed as independent, courageous, and determined to follow her heart, making her a relatable heroine for audiences of all ages.

### **Prince Eric**

Prince Eric serves as Ariel's love interest. He is kind-hearted, brave, and open-minded, playing a key role in Ariel's journey. His character represents the allure of the human world and the potential for connection between different realms.

#### Ursula

Ursula, the sea witch, is the primary antagonist in Disney's version. She is manipulative and powerful, offering Ariel a dangerous bargain in exchange for her voice. Ursula's cunning and theatrical personality make her one of Disney's most iconic villains.

### **Supporting Characters**

- King Triton: Ariel's protective father and ruler of Atlantica, symbolizing authority and the challenges of letting go.
- Sebastian: The loyal crab advisor, known for his comic relief and memorable musical numbers.
- Flounder: Ariel's best friend, who supports her adventures with unwavering loyalty.
- Scuttle: The eccentric seagull who provides comedic insights into human culture.

## **Key Themes and Symbolism**

"The Little Mermaid" explores a range of powerful themes and symbols that resonate with audiences worldwide. These elements contribute to the story's depth and universal appeal.

### **Transformation and Identity**

The theme of transformation is central to "The Little Mermaid." Ariel's desire to become human reflects the search for identity, personal growth, and the willingness to embrace change. The story highlights the importance of self-discovery and the courage required to pursue one's true self.

### Love and Sacrifice

Love is a driving force in "The Little Mermaid," motivating Ariel's actions and decisions. The narrative examines the lengths one will go for love,

including self-sacrifice and the willingness to face adversity. In Andersen's original tale, this theme is expressed through poignant choices and bittersweet outcomes.

#### Freedom and Independence

Ariel's journey embodies the quest for freedom and independence. Her longing to explore the unknown and make her own choices reflects universal desires for autonomy and self-expression.

## **Cultural Impact and Legacy**

"The Little Mermaid" has made a profound impact on literature, film, and popular culture. Andersen's story inspired countless adaptations, including ballets, stage plays, and illustrated books. Disney's animated film introduced the tale to global audiences, influencing generations of fans and creatives.

The success of the Disney adaptation led to the creation of sequels, a television series, and a Broadway musical, further cementing the story's legacy. "The Little Mermaid" continues to inspire new works, from contemporary retellings to visual art, ensuring its enduring relevance.

## Popular Merchandise and Spin-Offs

The popularity of "The Little Mermaid" has resulted in a wide range of merchandise and spin-offs, appealing to fans young and old. Disney's branding extends to toys, clothing, home décor, and collectibles, making it one of the most recognizable franchises worldwide.

- Action figures and dolls featuring Ariel and other characters
- Soundtrack albums and musical recordings
- Apparel and accessories for children and adults
- Books, comics, and illustrated adaptations
- Home décor items such as bedding and posters
- Theme park attractions and live shows

Spin-offs include animated sequels like "The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea," TV specials, and a successful Broadway adaptation that brought the story to the stage with new songs and choreography.

#### The Little Mermaid in Modern Media

The influence of "The Little Mermaid" extends into modern media, with recent adaptations and ongoing relevance in contemporary entertainment. Live-action remakes, fan art, and social media trends continue to celebrate the story and its characters.

In 2023, Disney released a live-action version of "The Little Mermaid," starring Halle Bailey as Ariel. This adaptation introduced the tale to a new generation, updating the visuals and music while remaining faithful to the original spirit. The film was praised for its performances and diversity, highlighting the evolving nature of classic storytelling.

"The Little Mermaid" remains a touchstone in discussions about fairy tales, animation, and cultural representation, making it a subject of study and admiration in academic and fan circles alike.

# Q: Who wrote the original "The Little Mermaid" story?

A: Hans Christian Andersen wrote the original "The Little Mermaid" fairy tale in 1837.

# Q: What are the main differences between the original story and the Disney adaptation?

A: The original story by Andersen is more tragic and focuses on themes of sacrifice and loss, while Disney's adaptation features a happier ending, memorable songs, and emphasizes adventure and romance.

## Q: Who is Ariel's primary antagonist in Disney's "The Little Mermaid"?

A: Ursula, the sea witch, is the main antagonist in Disney's version of "The Little Mermaid."

### Q: What are some key themes found in "The Little

#### Mermaid"?

A: Transformation, love, sacrifice, freedom, and identity are central themes explored in "The Little Mermaid."

## Q: Which songs from Disney's "The Little Mermaid" are considered classics?

A: "Under the Sea," "Part of Your World," and "Kiss the Girl" are among the most famous songs from Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

## Q: How did Disney's adaptation impact the animation industry?

A: Disney's "The Little Mermaid" helped start the Disney Renaissance, revitalizing animated feature production and setting new standards for storytelling and musical integration.

# Q: What is the significance of Ariel's transformation in the story?

A: Ariel's transformation symbolizes the search for identity, personal growth, and the courage to pursue dreams despite obstacles.

## Q: What merchandise is popular among "The Little Mermaid" fans?

A: Popular merchandise includes action figures, dolls, apparel, soundtrack albums, books, and themed home décor.

## Q: Has "The Little Mermaid" been adapted into other formats besides films?

A: Yes, "The Little Mermaid" has inspired stage musicals, television series, illustrated books, and theme park attractions.

# Q: Who starred as Ariel in the 2023 live-action adaptation?

A: Halle Bailey starred as Ariel in the 2023 Disney live-action adaptation of "The Little Mermaid."

#### **The Little Mermaid**

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# The Little Mermaid: A Deep Dive into Disney's Beloved Undersea Classic

#### Introduction:

For generations, Disney's "The Little Mermaid" has captivated audiences worldwide with its enchanting tale of Ariel, a rebellious princess who dreams of a life beyond the ocean's depths. More than just a charming animation, the story resonates with timeless themes of longing, sacrifice, and the pursuit of one's dreams. This comprehensive blog post will explore the enduring legacy of "The Little Mermaid," delving into its fascinating history, iconic characters, captivating music, and lasting cultural impact. We'll dissect what makes it a cinematic masterpiece and examine its various adaptations across different media. Prepare to dive deep into the magical world beneath the waves!

# A Whirlwind History: From Hans Christian Andersen to Disney Magic

Before the shimmering animation and catchy tunes, "The Little Mermaid" originated from a far darker tale penned by Hans Christian Andersen in 1837. Andersen's version, while beautiful in its prose, features a tragic ending far removed from the Disney adaptation's happy conclusion. This stark contrast highlights the creative liberties Disney took, transforming a melancholic fairy tale into a vibrant, family-friendly spectacle. Understanding this original story offers a fascinating perspective on the evolution of the narrative and the Disney magic that transformed it. The adaptation process, which spanned years of development and creative decisions, is a testament to the power of storytelling and the enduring appeal of a classic fairytale.

#### The Birth of a Disney Princess: Ariel's Enduring Appeal

Ariel, Disney's intrepid mermaid princess, is a pivotal figure in the Disney Princess canon. Unlike her more passive predecessors, Ariel is proactive, fiercely independent, and willing to risk everything for

her dreams. This rebellious spirit, combined with her youthful exuberance and undeniable charm, cemented her place as a fan favorite. Her character arc, from naive princess to determined young woman, resonates with audiences of all ages, making her a relatable and enduring icon.

#### Ariel's Transformation: From Tail to Legs

Ariel's transformation from mermaid to human is arguably one of the most iconic scenes in the film. This pivotal moment is not just a visual spectacle but a representation of Ariel's commitment to her desire. The sacrifice she makes, the risks she takes, and the vulnerability she displays during this sequence are critical elements that contribute to her character's strength and relatability. This visually stunning sequence remains a high point of the film's technical achievements even to this day.

# The Music That Made a Splash: Alan Menken's Masterpiece

Alan Menken's score for "The Little Mermaid" is an undeniable triumph, seamlessly blending classic Disney charm with Broadway-caliber musical numbers. From the upbeat "Under the Sea" to the poignant "Part of Your World," each song perfectly captures the emotional nuances of the story. The enduring popularity of these songs underscores their timeless quality and contributes significantly to the film's overall success. The soundtrack's impact on popular culture is immeasurable, with its songs continuing to be performed and enjoyed worldwide.

## Beyond the Screen: Stage Adaptations and Live-Action Remakes

"The Little Mermaid's" influence extends far beyond its original animated form. The Broadway musical adaptation further solidified its place in popular culture, earning critical acclaim and captivating audiences with its spectacular sets and powerful performances. Recently, Disney's liveaction remake has added another layer to the film's legacy, sparking fresh discussion and reintroducing the story to a new generation while also sparking debate regarding casting choices and the faithfulness to the original source material.

## The Lasting Legacy: A Timeless Tale for the Ages

"The Little Mermaid" continues to resonate with audiences across generations due to its potent themes of self-discovery, perseverance, and the importance of following one's dreams. The film's

visually stunning animation, unforgettable music, and relatable characters have cemented its place as a Disney classic and a cornerstone of animated cinema. Its enduring legacy speaks volumes about its quality and the timeless appeal of its core message. The film's influence can be seen across various mediums, inspiring artists, musicians, and storytellers to create their own interpretations of this captivating tale.

#### Conclusion:

From its humble beginnings as a dark fairy tale to its current status as a beloved Disney classic, "The Little Mermaid" has endured the test of time. Its enduring popularity stems from its captivating story, unforgettable music, and relatable characters. The film's continued adaptation and reinterpretation across different media only serve to reinforce its lasting impact on popular culture and its position as a true cinematic masterpiece.

#### FAQs:

- 1. Is the Disney version of "The Little Mermaid" faithful to the original Hans Christian Andersen story? No, the Disney adaptation significantly alters the original story's darker and tragic elements, creating a more lighthearted and family-friendly narrative.
- 2. What makes Ariel such a compelling Disney princess? Ariel's proactive nature, independence, and willingness to sacrifice everything for her dreams set her apart from more passive Disney princesses.
- 3. What is the significance of the "Part of Your World" song? "Part of Your World" is a pivotal song that encapsulates Ariel's longing for a life beyond the sea and her unwavering pursuit of her dreams.
- 4. How successful was the Broadway musical adaptation of "The Little Mermaid"? The Broadway musical adaptation was a critical and commercial success, solidifying the story's place in the world of musical theatre.
- 5. What are the major differences between the animated and live-action versions of "The Little Mermaid"? While the live-action remake stays largely true to the plot of the animated version, it features updated visuals, enhanced special effects, and updated interpretations of the characters and their relationships. The casting also generated significant discussion.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Hans Christian Andersen, 1991 A little sea princess, longing to be human, trades her mermaid's tail for legs, hoping to win a prince's love and earn an immortal soul for herself.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid, 2023 Ariel adores being a mermaid and loves all her family and friends under the sea. But she also longs to know what life is like on land with the humans. How can Ariel be happy when she wants to live in two very different worlds? -- Back cover.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Hannah Eliot, 2018-12-18 A classic fairy tale gets a fresh twist in this vibrant Caribbean spin on the Little Mermaid! The Little Mermaid longs to know about the world above the ocean. When she's finally old enough to visit, she falls in love with a prince! A sea witch agrees to give the mermaid a potion that will make her human—but the spell will be broken if the prince doesn't love her too! Set in the Caribbean, with beautiful illustrations by Puerto Rican illustrator Nivea Ortiz, this fifth book in the Once Upon a World series is the same

beloved fairy tale but it's totally reimagined. Once Upon a World offers a multicultural take on the fairy tales we all know and love. Because these tales are for everyone, everywhere.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Hans Christian Andersen, 2020-09-01 The classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, illustrated by the legendary European artist Bernadette Watts. There is only one way the Little Mermaid can win the prince's heart and gain an immortal soul: she must agree to the sea witch's terrible deal—give up her voice in return for a pair of legs. But will her dream come true? Bernadette brings to new life this world-famous, unabridged fairy tale—immersing the reader in the magical world beneath the sea.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Disney Book Group, 2016-01-05 Ariel is fascinated with life on land. On one of her visits above the surface, she meets a human prince and falls in love. Determined to be with her true love, she makes a risky deal with an evil sea witch and trades her voice for legs. Ariel embarks on the adventure of a lifetime, but soon finds that the fate of her father's kingdom is in her hands. This storybook includes beautiful, full-color art in the style of the beloved film, The Little Mermaid.

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**the little mermaid:** The Little Mermaid Hans Christian Andersen, 2010-10 This magical story tells of a mermaid's thwarted love for a land-born prince, and her quest for an immortal soul that brings her face to face with an evil seawitch. Full of love, sacrifice and magic, 'The Little Mermaid' is a charming classic.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid (Disney Princess) Michael Teitelbaum, 2013-11-27 Ariel is a curious young mermaid. She likes to explore sunken ships, swim up to the surface, and learn all she can about the world above the sea. Children ages 2-5 will love finding out what happens when this Disney Princess falls in love with a human in the full-color Little Golden Book retelling of Disney The Little Mermaid!

the little mermaid: Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales, The (Illustrated with Interactive Elements Hans Christian Andersen, 2018-03-13 Featuring beloved characters such as the Little Mermaid, Thumbelina, and the Snow Queen, a deluxe full-color edition of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytales, illustrated with stunning drawings and interactive artwork from MinaLima, the award-winning design studio behind the graphics for the Harry Potter film franchise—the perfect companion for fans of the Disney live-action film The Little Mermaid which will include a mix of songs from Hamilton's Lin-Manuel Miranda and Alan Menken. Nearly two hundred years after its publication in 1837, Hans Christian Andersen's timeless fairytales continue to inspire young imaginations. This beautiful unabridged edition brings together many of the Danish writer's favorite stories that have become literary classics, including The Little Mermaid, Thumbelina, The Snow Queen, The Princess and the Pea, The Ugly Duckling, The Emperor's New Clothes, and more. The thirteen stories in The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales are illustrated with specially commissioned artwork and ten exclusive interactive features including: A dial with six mermaids A Duckling transforming into a swan Mattresses that pull away to reveal a pea The Snow Oueen's palace Gorgeously designed, this keepsake illustrated edition—the fourth book in Harper Design's series of reimagined children's classics—will be treasured by readers of all ages for generations to come.

the little mermaid: Disney: The Little Mermaid Editors of Canterbury Classics, 2022-04-05 The Little Mermaid fans will be fascinated by the full script, complete lyrics, hundreds of rare archival images, sketches, insider notes, and historical details gathered from the Walt Disney Archives. The Little Mermaid has enchanted audiences of all ages since its release in 1989, and now you can dive deep into the full script, complete lyrics, and the film's history with this stunning volume. Disney fans will be delighted by the hundreds of archival photographs, original sketches, and historical images curated from the Walt Disney Archives and Walt Disney Animation Research Library, along with insider stories from Ron Clements and John Musker, the writers/directors of the film. This special edition provides an in-depth experience of the beloved Disney classic, giving readers a deeper appreciation for the animators, musicians, and voice actors who brought the story of Ariel to

audiences around the world.

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the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid's Song Andy Mangels, 2020-12-15 This fractured fairy tale weaves the story of Marilla. After the talented swimmer saves her classmate Denys when he is pushed into a pool, they become friends. She teaches him how to swim, and he encourages her love of singing despite her parents' wishes. But with a big swim meet and singing competition coming up, a jealous teammate offers to help Marilla get an audition slot if she throws their match. Will Marilla sink or swim? Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Graphic Planet is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

the little mermaid: Disney: The Little Mermaid (Tiny Book) Brooke Vitale, 2020-03-17 Relive the magic of Disney's 1989 animated classic The Little Mermaid with this collectible tiny book featuring story art from the beloved film. When Ariel the mermaid falls in love with a handsome human prince and trades her voice and tail for legs, she begins an adventure that will test her courage in ways she never imagined. With its unforgettable soundtrack, beautiful animation, and endearing characters, Disney's The Little Mermaid has been one of the most celebrated animated films for generations. Now with this tiny storybook retelling, fans can cherish this classic fairytale and keep it right in their pockets! Part of a continuing series of tiny Disney storybooks, this is a unique collectors item that adult Disney fans can treasure for years to come.

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on land, but must return to the sea to save her family--

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid: A Special Song Disney Books, 2015-05-26 Read along with Disney! It's King Triton's birthday, and Sebastian has planned a very special performance in his honor! Ariel will sing while the orchestra plays a brand new tune. But when a young mermaid named Coral plays her instrument poorly at rehearsals, Sebastian angrily storms off. Ariel sees that Coral is upset and embarrassed, so she shows the little mermaid some of her favorite spots to cheer her up. The next day, Ariel hear Coral singing a beautiful song at the grotto and thinks Coral should sing for the king, too! Can Ariel convince the timid young mermaid to overcome her fears and sing for King Triton? Follow along with word-for-word narration to find out!

**the little mermaid:** The Little Mermaid H. C. Andersen, 2003 A little sea princess, longing to be human, trades her mermaid's tail for legs, hoping to win the love of a prince and earn an immortal soul for herself. With an unsigned, illustrated essay, Edvard Eriksen's statue of The Little Mermaid following the text.

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the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Robert Sabuda, 2013-10-01 A beloved under-the-sea tale is now a pop-up masterpiece, from expert craftsman Robert Sabuda. Come along on a magical journey under the sea in this stunning pop-up adaptation of the beloved fairy tale "The Little Mermaid," expertly crafted by renowned paper engineer Robert Sabuda. Amazing three-dimensional paper structures pop off each page, bringing this classic underwater adventure to life. This visually stunning tale of adventure, true love, and sacrifice is sure to become a favorite in any story-lover's library.

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the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid H. C. Andersen, 2014-11-13

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**the little mermaid:** The Little Mermaid Hans Christian Andersen, 2004 Adaptation of Andersen's classic tale by acclaimed writer Pam Gems.

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discover. FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: With stunningly detailed pop-up scenes and hidden surprises to discover, this pop-up book is sure to delight Disney's The Little Mermaid fans of any age. BEAUTIFUL NEW ILLUSTRATIONS: Featuring gorgeous original artwork, this pop-up book captures the beautiful world of The Little Mermaid in a whole new way. PLAY AND DISPLAY: Disney Princess: The Little Mermaid Pop-Up Book is ideal for displaying on a bookshelf and reading at story time or small enough to carry around and enjoy wherever you are. COMPLETE YOUR COLLECTION: Disney Princess: A Magical Pop-Up World, Disney Princess Affirmation Cards, Disney Princess Baking, and Disney: The Little Mermaid Tiny Book also available.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid - The Golden Age of Illustration Series Hans Christian Andersen, 2012-10-01 This volume of the Golden Age of Illustration Series contains Hans Christian Andersen's most famous tale 'The Little Mermaid', first published in May of 1837. This classic fairy tale has been continuously in print in different editions since its first publication, with many, many, different artists illustrating the story over the years. This edition features a beautiful collection of the best of that art, taken from the likes of Arthur Rackham, W. Heath Robinson, Harry Clarke, Honor Appleton, Anne Anderson, Edmund Dulac, Mable Lucie Attwell, among others. This series of books celebrates the Golden Age of Illustration. During this period, the popularity, abundance and - most importantly - the unprecedented upsurge in the quality of illustrated works marked an astounding change in the way that publishers, artists and the general public came to view this hitherto insufficiently esteemed art form. The Golden Age of Illustration Series, has sourced the rare original editions of these books and reproduced the beautiful art work in order to build a unique collection of illustrated fairy tales.

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the little mermaid: Truth of the Divine Lindsay Ellis, 2021-10-12 Sequel to instant New York Times bestseller Axiom's End, in Truth of the Divine, Lindsay Ellis deepens her exploration of a world faced with the presence of extra terrestrial intelligence. The human race is at a crossroads; we know that we are not alone, but details about the alien presence on Earth are still being withheld from the public. As the political climate becomes more unstable, the world is forced to consider the ramifications of granting human rights to non-human persons. How do you define person in the first place? Cora Sabino not only serves as the full time communication intermediary between the alien entity Ampersand and his government chaperones, but also shares a mysterious bond with him that is both painful and intimate in a way that neither of them could have anticipated. Despite this, Ampersand is still keen on keeping secrets, even from her, which backfires on both of them when investigative journalist Kaveh Mazandarani, a close colleague of Cora's estranged whistleblower father, witnesses far more of Ampersand's machinations than anyone was meant to see. Since Cora has no choice but to trust Kaveh, the two must work together to prove to a fearful world that intelligent, conscious beings should be considered persons, no matter how monstrous-looking, powerful, or malicious they may seem. Making this case is hard enough when the public doesn't know what it's dealing with, and it will only become harder when a mysterious flash illuminates the sky, marking the arrival of an agent of chaos that will light an already unstable world on fire.

the little mermaid: Junior Encyclopedia of Animated Characters (Refresh) Disney Book Group, 2020-06-09 From Ariel to Zazu, this jacketed hardcover guide features fun facts, tricky trivia, and cool quotes about over 150 Disney heroes (and villains!). Readers will also learn about the stars of the latest Disney and Disney\*Pixar films, like Frozen II, Moana, Onward, and more! Plus there are sections on each page for character autographs and the book jacket reverses to reveal a poster!

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid , 1986 A little mermaid falls in love with a handsome prince and sacrifices a great deal in hopes of marrying him.

the little mermaid: The Little Mermaid Michael Lassell, 2009-05-12 From its first publication

as a fairy tale told by Hans Christian Andersen, The Little Mermaid has been enthralling children and adults alike with its story of the transforming power of love. In 1989, Disney put little Ariel on film, gave her flaming red hair and an Oscar-winning musical score, and, in the process, reinvented the animated feature as a viable art form. Now the creative powers at Disney have reimagined the mermaid and her friends again, bringing one of Disney's most beloved princesses to the stage. The Little Mermaid: The Story of a Tale is a look at the process of morphing a 19th-century story and a 20th-century film into a stage event for the 21st century. This oversized, profusely illustrated book traces the evolution of The Little Mermaid from its inception in Denmark, through its triumphant animation, to the hit Broadway stage version now playing in New York. In addition to photographs of the show and its rehearsals, the book will explore the creative process with extensive looks behind the scenes. Writer Michael Lassell interviews Francesca Zambello and choreographer Steven Mear, writer Doug Wright and composer Alan Menken, designers George Tsypin and Tanya Noginova as well as all the stars in the show's extraordinarily talented cast. This is a grown-up book for children of all ages.

the little mermaid: Happily Ever After Alex Field, Hans Christian Andersen, 2018-03-29

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