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WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR(FISH)...

By

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Logline: When a hopeless-romantic starfish falls for a beautiful mermaid,
he journeys to the mermaid kingdom for a shot at true love.

ANIMATED

BLACK SCREEN.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
I remember the first day she swam
into my life.

EXT. UNDERWATER ROCK FORMATION - DAY

Sunlight filters through the waves on the ocean surface,
dancing its sparkles across the seaweed that sways with the
motion of the tides.

The rocky outcrops on the ocean floor teem with life:
countless types of fish, shellfish, urchins, and anemone.

SIRIUS, a small purple starfish sticks to a section of rock.
Fish dart away as two MERMAIDS swim past him. Sirius lifts
one of his arms and follows them with his eye spot.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
She was beautiful. The way the
light played in her hair...

ADRIANA (24), raven-haired with sparkling sapphire scales
trails behind her sister SCARLET (23), fiery red-haired and
sparkling green scales.

Sirius watches Adriana swim in loops above his rock.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
If I had a heart, it would have
skipped a beat.

SCARLET
Adriana, you're always so slow.

ADRIANA
Maybe you should stop to appreciate
the little things.

Adriana gives Sirius, his arm extended out, a smile. She runs
a finger under the arm.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
Electric.

The two mermaids swim away and disappear into the murk.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
And I thought that was it.

EXT. UNDERWATER ROCK FORMATION - DAY

Little has changed in Sirius's part of the ocean. Different fish, different colors, but he still clings to his rock.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
But then she came back.

Adriana swims past the rock with INDI (27), dark-haired and dark-skinned with yellow scales.

INDI
...and he freaked out because he
thought she said poison...but she's
French! She said *poisson*!

Adriana bursts out laughing as they disappear again.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
And she kept coming back.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

-- Adriana and Scarlet return and sit on Sirius's rock. They laugh and talk like sisters do. Sirius tries to crawl across the rock to them, but being such a slow creature they swim away before he can move an inch.

-- Adriana, Indi, Scarlet and two MERMEN swim past laughing. Sirius follows them with the eye spot at the end of his arm.

-- Adriana and a MERMAN sit on Sirius's rock and have a merfolk picnic. The merman pokes at Sirius rudely and Adriana admonishes him. She gives Sirius a fond caress. The starfish wraps an arm around her finger and closes his eye port.

-- Adriana swims up to Sirius's rock and sits down. She begins to cry. Sirius touches her hand. She smiles at him sadly, then picks him up and strokes his spine. He wiggles his arms and she laughs. She sets him down and swims away.

-- Adriana and Scarlet swim past, talking excitedly. Adriana turns back, kisses her finger, and puts it on Sirius. She swims away. Sirius relaxes his arms with a sigh.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
Like I said. Electric.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. UNDERWATER ROCK FORMATION - DAY

Sirius has two arms up, pointing in opposite directions.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

Then, one day, my moment came.

Adriana and Scarlet swim in and Sirius relaxes. The mermaids sit on the rock.

SCARLET

One more sleep until the Festival of Wishes! I can't wait. Parties! Galas! I just wish we were allowed to wish for something!

ADRIANA

I know, Scarlet but it's not for us. It's for all the other creatures to get their wishes granted to thank them for their contributions to the ocean.

SCARLET

Well if Father can grant their wishes, he should grant ours too.

Adriana shakes her head at her sister and smiles.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

We should get wishes just for putting up with the octopuses. They are always so...handsy.

(beat)

Do you have a date for the ball yet?

Adriana smiles down at Sirius. She reaches down and gives him a little tickle.

ADRIANA

I wish my little friend here could be my date. If only he were merfolk.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

And just like that, she had given me the answer I was looking for. I just needed to get to the Festival of Wishes.

EXT. UNDERWATER ROCK FORMATION - DAY

Sirius waits with his arms in the air.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

Look, I know I don't have a lot to offer anyone, especially someone like Adriana. But I had to try, right?

A SEA TURTLE floats up to the rock and settles on top of it. Sirius starts the slow climb onto the turtle's shell.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

So I called in a favor from a friend and hitched a ride.

Once Sirius is fully on the shell, the turtle pushes off and swims away from the rock.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Sirius has two arms lifted up, his eye ports taking in the sights as his turtle transport moves steadily along.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

It was my first time ever leaving the rock. I was scared, but I knew it would be worth it.

Schools of fish float past them, dart away, and swim along with them through the kelp beds and coral and rocks.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

It was amazing. So much to see.

The massive shadow of a whale passes overhead. Sirius watches it with three of his arms, his eye ports opened wide.

SIRIUS (V.O.)

And at the end of the journey I would be with--

He leans back so far watching the massive creature that the current pulls him off the turtle's back.

He flips and flaps through the water, tumbling back down towards the seabed.

Suddenly, the turtle swims beneath Sirius and the starfish lands on the shell again. All five arms are attached firmly.

The sea turtle looks back with a cocked brow. Sirius raises one arm to make blink at the turtle, who returns a wry grin, then turns back to watch where he's swimming.

Sirius secures the arm again and closes his eye ports.

The turtle paddles into a kelp forest. It moves through the gently flailing stalks and up a rocky embankment.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
So after what felt like a lifetime
of swimming...

The turtle crests the embankment and the kelp seems to part to reveal the mermaid kingdom, laid out in front of them.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
...we were there.

Huge twisting spires jut up towards the surface, glimmering with bioluminescent lights. Buildings made to look like shells and other ocean life sprawl out in a colorful mosaic.

The Festival of Wishes is in full swing. As Sirius rides the turtle through the city, he sees merfolk singing, dancing, and celebrating with all manner of other sea creatures.

Sirius watches the kaleidoscope of color and frivolity with his eye ports open wide as the turtle wends its way up the shimmering stone street to the grand castle at its center.

INT. MERMAID CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Glistening columns and shimmering floors lead up to a coral dais. POSEIDON sits astride a spectacular golden throne with his trident and presides over his subjects with a wide smile.

A line of CREATURES of all descriptions leads up the throne. Poseidon listens to each one and they walk away with a smile.

A large sign in front of the dais reads, "*One Wish Per Creature*".

The sea turtle floats in and takes its place in line.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
There she was. Radiant. The journey
was worth it.

Adriana and her sisters move about the massive throne room, smiling and mingling with other MERFOLK and SEA CREATURES.

An OCTOPUS swats Scarlet on the rear. She turns to it, livid.

The line moves quickly and, finally, it's Sirius's turn.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
It was time. I knew what my wish
was. I knew what to ask for.

Still clinging to the turtle, he turns his arm up towards the sea god. Poseidon leans down to listen.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
To be with Adriana.

INT. MERMAID CASTLE - ADRIANA'S ROOM - DAY

Adriana swims into the room past a four-poster kelp bed. She settles in front of a vanity mirror made from a large sea shell.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
And that's how I ended up here,
with her. Where I asked to be.

She takes a sea-urchin brush and passes it through her shiny black hair.

Happy with her reflection, Adriana looks down at the vanity table and smiles.

Inside an ornate box, Sirius sits next to another identical purple starfish, REGULUS. He has two arms raised in Sirius's direction, listening intently.

REGULUS
Wow, what that's some story! You're
lucky. I was just plucked off a
rock by some sticky fingered squid.

Both starfish turn their arms towards Adriana. She reaches into the box and delicately takes both starfish. She positions them over her breasts.

Adriana admires the way they look on her. Regulus lays flat, but Sirius cranes one arm up to look at Adriana.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
It's not exactly what I wished for.
But I get to be with her every day.

Adriana winks at Sirius in the mirror. He lays his arm back in place and closes his eye port.

Adriana swims out of her room.

SIRIUS (V.O.)
And that's good enough for me.

FADE TO BLACK.