

After that, every night, the little mermaid would go to the island, and she would wait for the prince to appear at the balcony of his golden palace. She never spoke to him. She was too shy. But she longed to join the humans on land.

"I want to become human," the little mermaid told her grandmother one day.

"Hush, child, don't be foolish," her grandmother said. "You cannot become human. You have no soul. Even if you had a soul, you have the tail of a fish, and humans think that's ugly. They prefer two stumpy things called legs."

But the little mermaid wanted to become human, so she went to the ugly sea witch to ask for her help.



wait for ... to ... : ...が...するのを待つ palace: 城 speak to ... : ...に話しかける (speakはspeakの過去形) She was too shy: 彼女は内気すぎた。too ... は「...すぎる」。shyは「内気な、恥ずかしがりやの」 [She was too shy (to speak to him)] along to ... : ...することを切望する join: 結ぶ human: 人間 one day: ある日 hush: しっ、お静け child: お嬢ちゃん、ほうや Ichildは「子ども」だが、ここでは人魚姫への呼びかけとして使われている。お静けのchildrenも同じく呼びかけに使われる Don't be foolish.: ばかなことを言うな (命令文。foolishは「愚かな、ばかな」) soul: 魂 Even if you had ... : たとえあなたが...を持っていたとしても (evenは「たとえでも」、hadは現在の実状と反対の仮定を述べる仮定法過去) tail of a fish: 魚のしっぽ ugly: 醜い (反対はbeautiful) prefer: ...のほうを好む stumpy: 切り株のような (stumpは「木の切り株」) leg: 足 (legは普通、ももからくるふし、または足先まで、footはくるぶしより下の部分を指す) witch: 魔女 ask for help: 助けを求め (ask for ... で「...を頼む」)

