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Ilaria as the Little Mermaid

There was once an underwater kingdom called Atlantis, and in that kingdom lived a girl. She was one of the most beautiful mermaids in the whole ocean and her father was the king. She loved to go up to the surface and watch as boats passed by and birds flew around. But she also loved to go down in the deep sea and collect items from shipwrecks and bring them back to her cove. She often swam around and cleaned up the ocean with some of her fish friends and grabbed any trash she saw floating around. One day, she had wandered off towards the shoreline to try to spot some humans in their daily activities to see what they were like. Of course, her father didn't like it when she got close to humans so she knew she couldn't stay for too long. When she was able to be there, she got to see people running along the beach and playing games. But she eventually had to go back to Atlantis and quickly swam back hoping to arrive before anyone noticed she was gone. Unfortunately, her father, King Joshua, was waiting for her when she got back. He ordered her to follow him to the castle and when they arrived, he turned to her and started yelling and screaming.

“Never go to the surface again! It's not safe!”

Ilaria stared at Joshua and swam away from her father in a hurry, going back to her cove.

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After being stuck in her cove for days and only being able to see small rays of sunshine coming from the surface, she decided she needed to find a way to leave and went to one of the darkest places in Atlantis to go visit the almighty sorcerer for help. The sorcerer's name was

Yasmine. She was known for being the most powerful witch in all of Atlantis. But of course, asking her for a favor required something in return. Ilaria went to Yasmine seeking her help to be able to go back up to the surface and stay there for a while. Of course, Yasmine was willing to help, but asked for something in return. The deal that was eventually agreed upon was that Yasmine would give Ilaria human legs and she would be able to live among the humans for 24 hours, but in return, Ilaria had to give up chicken fajita chimichangas.

“Wait, I don’t think I can do this,” said Ilaria.

“Well, then we have no business to do. It’s either you give up the chimichangas or no deal,” replied Yasmine.

It was a hard thing for Ilaria to agree with but she eventually realized that it was worth it. Yasmine took away Ilaria’s ability to eat chicken fajita chimichangas and granted her human feet and took her to the beach. As she wobbled around, she spotted her hero, Dr. Sylvia Earle, entering a Dunkin Donuts across the street. She ran as fast as she could in order to catch up to her. When she entered, she glanced around for a second because she had never been inside a coffee shop before. When she looked around, she saw Dr. Sylvia at a table near the window. She walked over to her and tapped her on the shoulder.

“Uh, h-h-hello Dr. Sylvia,” Ilaria stuttered.

Sylvia turned around and took her shades off. She looked Ilaria right in the eye and replied with a soft “Hello there. Is there something I can do for you?” Ilaria stared at her, unable to believe that she was actually meeting one of her biggest inspirations.

“I just wanted to tell you how much you’ve inspired me throughout my whole childhood. I’m such a huge fan of your work!” Ilaria replied.

“Well, I’m glad I could inspire you and you,” responded Sylvia. “Say, would you like to come with me to work on one of my latest research projects?”

“I would love to! I can’t believe it, of course I would!”

They left the coffee shop immediately and Ilaria went with Sylvia to help her with her research.

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After having helped Sylvia with her project all day, Ilaria was getting ready to head back to Atlantis. But that’s when it all started happening. She had forgotten all about her agreement with Yasmine and her 24 hours were coming to an end. She had to explain to Sylvia that she was actually a mermaid and that she had to get back to her home. Dr. Earle, being the understanding person she was, agreed to help Ilaria get back home and picked her up and started running towards the beach. But just when they were running across the street that was right next to the shoreline, Ilaria heard the loud squeaking of wheels rapidly coming down the road towards them. Behind the cart was a man with glasses wearing a grey button down shirt, a knitted vest, and a strange pair of shoes. She looked at Sylvia and said “I’m sorry. It was fun spending the day with you though.” She pushed Dr. Earle out of the way and Ilaria was hit with the cart.