

Booktalk!



This is a one person dramatic skit

For this Book Talk you will need:

- A female volunteer
- To dim the lights for atmosphere
- To have a shawl or scarf around you shoulders
- Maybe have someone at the front of the stage with a mister to generate a light mist of water in the air, or to cue sea sounds playing in the background. You want to set the mood as your character is speaking at the water's edge
- If possible, when you get to the point "I hear her singing" below, you can play haunting music softly when the mermaid sings.

(In a nervous voice) Look...I don't have much time – Auntie Minnah will have my head if she catches me talking to you. *(look around the crowd and off in the distance)*

Do you remember the old stories? *(pause and firmly clutch the shawl in front of your chest)*. You know – the ones about how the mermaid stole away Lady Laretta never to be seen again...*(glance around nervously – as though you are looking for someone)* I can't let anything happen to my family...*(lower your voice to a loud whisper)* She tried to take Cecily, my little sister. And now, if the villagers find out that I'm cursed, I don't know what will happen *(pause with a loud and sad sigh, desperately wringing your hands)*.

(Nervously) Do you hear that? She's calling me now...I hear her singing *(cue mermaid's song and look off, distracted, into the distance as if you're in a trance)*...She wants me to walk into the water. I don't know how long I can resist.

(quickly snap out of the trance and clutch your shawl nervously again and glance around darting your eyes around the room). Why me? *(shouting more emphatically now)* Why does she want me! *(look up and around, scared...almost as if you're surprised by your own voice—gasp!)*

She's calling me...I have to go...*(exit stage)*

* Please note this title was selected specifically for our middle school audience.