

THE SIREN

Written by

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INT. LORELEI'S ROOM/MAKESHIFT LAB

Open on an eclectic, charmingly cluttered work space. We hear the gentle WHIR of machines and BUBBLING of science experiments. A little mermaid is curled up in the midst of the clutter, nose in a book.

Suddenly, a loud RINGING startles LORELEI. She rushes to a screen flashing symbols, confused by the results.

Lorelei takes a PIPET and extracts a few droplets from the offending sample to look at under a MICROSCOPE.

LORELEI
(muttering to herself)
And what might you be?

Lorelei pipets a few drops of another chemical on the slide.

CLOSE UP - SAMPLE UNDER MICROSCOPE

A foreboding black foam spreads across the sample.

CLOSE UP - LORELEI

Lorelei lifts her eyes from the scope, grim. Her hands absentmindedly move to her neck, where a LOCKET rests.

INT. ROYAL COUNCIL CHAMBER

Four regal figures gather round a table of glowing limestone, Lorelei's father OKEANUS the most powerful and imposing of all. The group's political debate is as dry and stagnant as usual.

We hear ARGUING coming from behind the room's DOOR.

LORELEI O.S.
(muffled)
Let me through, you idiot!

Lorelei, pushing past the sentry, bursts in.

OKEANUS
Lorelei! You know better than to-

LORELEI
(flustered, intense)
It's happened again, we have to
evacuate, act quickly, all of you!

OKEANUS

Lorelei, what are you -

LORELEI

The Sickness is back, I've found it
in samples from near the surface
and if we don't-

OKEANUS

(angry)

The surface!

LORELEI

(frustrated)

Well yes, but listen, the Sickne-

COURTIER 1

Why is this hysterical girl
interrupting us, Okeanus?

COURTIER 2

Myths of the Sickness have long
been stamped out, young lady.

COURTIER 3

Okeanus, has your daughter been
venturing up top again? You
remember what happened last time.

COURTIER 1

(shaking his head)

No respect for our laws,
endangering us all, dredging up old
fears. *Reprehensible*, truly.

LORELEI

Listen to me! We are all in danger.
I've confirmed it, the molecular
structure is identical to the
hydrocarbon that made mother si-

OKEANUS

ENOUGH!

(To the others)

I apologize for this unseemly
outburst. You must forgive my
daughter, I'm afraid her emotions
often get the better of her.

(To Lorelei)

We will speak of your recklessness
later. Go.

Lorelei is at a loss for words as the men turn their backs on
her. She storms out.

EXT. UNDERWATER REEF

Lorelei swims furiously back and forth, blowing off steam. In a huff she allows herself to float down and settle onto a rock outcrop.

As she lays back and looks up at the surface, her hands find the locket again. She looks at it, turns it over in her hands, opens it.

Lorelei stares hard at the image inside.

A beat of silence.

With sudden renewed determination, Lorelei vaults upward, swimming furiously toward the surface.

FADE IN:

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAWN

Black screen, white noise.

The SOUND OF WAVES slowly fades in, followed by the picture of a rough sea, a haze of dark smoke tainting the air.

We are seeing the world from Lorelei's eyes. As we surface and look around, we find the source of the smoke: a giant, ugly metal structure in the distance. We dive through the waves towards it.

A strange shimmer on the water ahead stops Lorelei short of reaching the structure. Dead fish float past. Birds coated in petroleum struggle to take flight. Lorelei rushes to help one, grabbing the drowning albatross. She frantically tries to rid its wings of the viscous black liquid, which soon spreads to coat her hands, arms, throat.

CUT TO:

EXT. OIL RIG - DAWN

The structure is revealed to the audience as a damaged oil rig, partially engulfed in flame and smoke.

Suddenly, one of the rig's flames flicks over the water. Flame alights atop the pool of oil.

BACK TO:

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - SAME TIME

Lorelei has managed to wring enough oil off the bird that it takes flight. In the commotion, her NECKLACE is wrenched off and swallowed by the waves. Lorelei dives down after it.

Oil-saturated waves erupt in flames just as Lorelei is fully submerged below, safe from the intense heat of the surface fire.

Lorelei looks up, entranced by the light from the blaze above, its luminance refracted and intensified by the water.

She has never seen fire before. It has a cruel beauty.

Her eyes shift from the inferno above to the water column directly in front of her. An ominous black cloud of oil hovers ahead.

Lorelei stares at the cloud, then down at the water beneath her, where the safety of her kingdoms waits.

She slowly opens her palm; she had caught the locket. Lorelei carefully puts it back over her head, around her neck. She clutches the pendant, taking a breath.

LORELEI

(whispered)

Glad someone's with me, at least.

Lorelei's attention returns to the foreboding black cloud.

LORELEI (CONT'D)

(stronger)

I wont let it happen again, mom. I promise.

Lorelei swims forward into the blue water below the mass of floating oil, towards the rig.

As she proceeds into the distance, her silhouette is dark against the blue background, and dwarfed by the black cloud towering over her like a giant.

As she gets farther and farther, the black cloud reaches the camera and takes over our view until it is as if we too have been consumed by the oil.

FADE TO BLACK.

