The Little Mer…durer/ 877

Rocks plummeted into the water. Ariel swam up to above. The fire reflected in her eyes as a grin creeped across her mouth. The sailors' screams for help drifted into the black night. Arial plunged down through the dark water.

Eric floated motionless. His hair was plastered to his forehead. The red stream had made its way down to the darkest part of the reef. The smell tickled someone's nose. They swam up. A fin peeked out of the water. The gray fin was unmistakable in the water. The water rippled as it approached. And just like that, Eric was screaming. ¨Help! Please! Somebody!¨ Eric thrashed to get away from the beast. More red seeped down into the deep blue ocean. Eric tossed and turned, he thrashed around in the water. Eventually he rolled onto the sand. He wiped the sand off his leg to discover past the knee, there was nothing. Part of his left leg was gone.

Eric clawed up the beach to a palm tree. He rested his back against the tree and took a deep breath. He stared down at his leg. The sand had covered what was left of his leg. He sighed and closed his eyes.

When Eric woke up he saw a light in the water. Eric was curious so he crept closer. He stuck his hands into the water in an effort to grab the light. Then a sharp pain zinged up his arm. Eric yanked his arm out of the water. Attached to his hand was a yellow and blue fish. Its teeth were like daggers. He flailed his arm to have the fish lose its grip. The fish splashed into the water. Eric whipped his forehead, clearing the sweat. Then Eric crawled up the beach to take a breath. He closed his eyes yet again for an attempt to sleep.

When Eric stirred, the sky was dark, the only sound was far away crickets. Then out of the silence came a song. The music seemed to seep through Eric's ears and into his brain. He crawled down the beach to the water. It was like Eric had no control of his own body. The water splashed up Eric's wrists. He crawled to the ocean. The water was at about neck level when his eyes adjusted to the darkness. About 20 feet ahead of him was a woman. Eric had never seen a girl so beautiful in his life. She had beautiful dark red hair and dark black eyes. He dragged himself closer. He was curious. The water filled up his mouth. Eric collapsed into the deep blue.

When his vision cleared he was back where he was before, on the beach where dawn was just hitting. Eric stumbled and let his arms drag him up the beach. Not long after four minutes, Eric dropped exhausted. He caught a glimpse of a town. He pulled together all the strength he had and within a day he had reached the town. He drew his eyes up to look at the buildings. The paint was peeling and there was not a person in sight. Crickets were the only sign of life. Eric pulled himself into an old hotel. The wallpaper peeling and the whole place in disarray. Eric hoisted himself up onto a chair. The legs of the chair broke underneath him. The door wished shut. The silence started to vanish, there was a song, more beautiful yet alike the one before. Eric slouched to the floor. Then his eyes focused on the stains on the floor. Holes in the walls. The rusting metal. The cracked lights. The piano keys scattered all over. Paper in the corner. The torn wallpaper. The spiders. Then the door swung open. A woman with red hair and black eyes walked in. Eric knew he saw her somewhere before but could no place quite where. She walked up to Eric.¨How can I help you?¨ Eric asked. The woman had no reply. ̈Excuse me ̈ Eric said. The woman stayed silent. She motioned for him to follow. Eric crawled out the door into the dusk.

As soon as the cold air wrapped around his body his vision started to blur, and then went black. Something wet on his skin, most likely the ocean water. His lungs lacked air and it felt like they were collapsing under pressure. When he opened his eyes, the salt stung so badly that he winced in pain. He choked on the water. The sun pierced through the water like a dagger. He anchored his leg to the rocks below and pushed up. He placed his right foot on the tallest rock he could find. He used it to thrust himself out of the water. The rock was like an sea urchin. The tip of the rock pierced Eric's foot. He screamed, releasing only bubbles. He looked up to see the woman, fish tail, blood red hair, and sharp teeth glinting in the moonlight. As he drifted down he thought to himself, "A leg for a woman, fair trade.¨ He smiled as he hit the sandy ocean floor.That was the last he remembered.