

## Anarchy Episode: Group 2 Show Notes

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English 104  
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Show Notes

## SUMMARY:

In the Little Mermaid written by Hans Christian Andersen, the readers follow a 15 year old mermaid that has patiently been waiting to visit the dry land and observe the human life above. She desperately wants to experience the human life so she turns to the evil witch in the sea and sacrifices her voice and her tail in exchange to obtain legs. Additionally, she meets a prince along the way and wishes to get him to fall in love her so she can remain human. Through heartbreak and pain we see a sense of unconditional love from her sister's efforts to save the innocent little mermaid. However, with failure, the little mermaid turns into seafoam and dies.

## ARCHETYPES:

- Age
  - Treated as child/ left out until fifteen years old
  - Literally has "little" in the title of the story
  - Represents freedom/ coming of age/ becoming a woman/vs immortality
    - When you have reached your fifteenth year," said the grandmother, "you will have permission to rise up out of the sea, to sit on the rocks in the moonlight, while the great ships are sailing by; and then you will see both forests and towns."
- Appearance
  - Tail
    - Fish tail
    - Represents her mermaid body/ restriction placed on her
  - Legs
    - Granted by the evil witch
    - Causes her pain but she powers through
  - Hair
    - sisters cut it off in order to free the little mermaid
    - Doesn't work because little mermaid will not kill the prince
  - Voice
    - She loses her voice to the evil witch but still is determined to get the prince's attention/ love in other ways
    - Only supposed to use her appearance to entice the prince to fall in love and marry her
- Relationships
  - Prince:
    - Love
    - Betrayal
  - Family:
    - Sisters
    - Dad (sea king)

- Evil witch:
  - not intentionally evil
  - Magic abilities
- Gender
  - Female choices/ desires
    - Silent woman
  - Male dominance
- Weather is a significant archetype because it uses a storm to foreshadow
  - Storm foreshadows
    - Bad and negative issues that the mermaid deals with and works to overcome
  - Sunset represents
    - New beginnings
    - However she turns into seafoam and dies
  - Seafoam
    - Indicates her going back into the ocean and being one with nature again
    - The little mermaid also indicates the archetype of weather when she dies and ends up turning into seafoam

#### ANALYSIS:

#### Bailey

- Retelling of Aquamarine (2006) directed by Elizabeth Rosenbaum.
  - 14 year old best friends, hailey and claire
    - Relates to little mermaids age of 15 years old
  - violent storm occurs
    - Similar to weather in the fairytale
  - Girls notice blue hair and blue tail in pool
    - mermaids name is aquamarine
    - she must prove to her father that love exists or else she will have an arranged marriage at home
    - she has only 3 days
- If someone helps a mermaid they will get a wish
  - Same aspect of mermaid having magical powers in the original little mermaid
- sets eye on Raymond
  - claire and hailey have had crush for years
    - Competition similar to the prince's other woman he marries
- Mermaid doesn't understand that love isn't instant/ at first sight
- mermaid hangs out w/ Raymond but must leave because her legs will turn into a tail @ any sunset
  - Little mermaid turned into sea foam @ a sunset

- Raymond has not fallen in love with aquamarine
- Aquamarine's father calls her back home through a huge storm
- discover friendship and platonic love
  - father is satisfied to know love is real
- girls don't use wish but promise to love each other forever

### Casey

I decided to focus on the 1989 animated retelling of the little mermaid. In Disney's animation of the little mermaid, we see a rebellious 16 year old mermaid named Ariel who becomes fascinated with life on land. After visiting the forbidden dry land as stated by her father, King Triton, she falls in love with a human prince. In an effort to be with her new found love, Ariel makes an uncertain deal with an undersea creature, Ursula, in order to become human for three days in which she can spend time with her human prince. When plans go awry for the two lovers, King Triton takes the ultimate sacrifice for his daughter in order for her to accomplish her life goal of finding true love with her human prince. In the end of the animation Ariel marries the prince and becomes a human forever which contrasts the original telling of the fairy tale in which the mermaid becomes seafoam and died.

Imani--

Retelling:

The Lure (2015) was directed by Agnieszka Smokzyska and written by Robert Bolesto.

A really good summary of the musical film was found on RogerEbert.com and written by film critic Simon Abrams.

“two sisters use their siren-like powers to seduce humans as cabaret singers, but one of them wants to assimilate, while the other seems to exist solely to remind her sister how stereotypically voracious teen girls... can be... Characters wallow in their isolation, try to get ahead through sex, song and/or murder, then repeat that same cycle of manic effusiveness...” (Abrams).

Argument: The Lure is a retelling of The Little Mermaid that takes a lot of the concepts of the original Hans' The Little Mermaid, but plays more on the idea that human life is more involved with a harsher, consequence-oriented lifestyle. The Lure is a coming-of-age story that involves girls maturing and facing the “real” world and turning into grown women; this means sacrifice, lust or hunger, and blood.

### Similarities to Hans':

Mermaids; prominent voices; like children; falls in love with a man; she gets legs; she loses her voice; he marries another woman; mermaid in love chooses not to kill him; at dawn, she turns into sea foam.

### Differences from Hans':

Two mermaids instead of just one; they can transition from tail to legs depending on water; they seem to have more than just their voice, they can communicate through sonar; one is more cynical and objective; different types of sacrifices (tail surgery for female genitalia, wheelchair, no voice=no performing); cares the most for her sister; Triton is a human and mentioned later in the film rather than as one of the main characters in the beginning; one of the sisters follows Triton more than the other girl; sharp teeth only come in when they're about to eat people; they progressively become hungrier for love and blood; no magical (god)mother, just a regular one that watches over the girls; no evil villain (the villain are their choices?); sisters were exploited; the sisters eventually follow the lifestyle and smokes cigarettes, drinks alcohol, flirts and sleeps with and kills the people of the town; cabaret father "kills" the mermaids and the family throws them into the ocean and they come back to life; the other sister kills the man after her sister turns to sea foam.

The retelling of The Little Mermaid I chose, The Lure, chooses to tell the story of The Little Mermaids as a coming-of-age story that involves girls maturing and facing the "real" world and turning into grown women; this means sacrifice, lust or hunger, and blood.

### Acheson Questions:

1. What quote stands out?  
"The city will tell us what we need"
2. Is there anything about how it's written that stands out?  
The way it's directed and written is interesting because of the scenes and script. The film really emphasizes that the mermaid sisters are truly children and exploring this harsher and darker world with cigs and alcohol and strip clubs and love and death and so many consequences and sacrifices.
3. What feelings does it give me?  
A lot of empathy for the sisters and some confusion due to scenes that were very much up for interpretation.
4. Do I identify with any of the people represented?  
I identify with both of the sisters in some ways.

Golden was much more cynical and detached and objective and logical, but also cares greatly for her sister's well-being.

Silver was a lot more impulsive and gentle and let herself cave to love and would do anything for love and the happiness of the man she fell for.

5. Do I like the work?

Overall, I liked *The Lure*. I enjoyed that they kept a lot of the same concepts the original story used, but they added darker and more intense lifestyle to it.

Citations:

Abrams, Simon. "The Lure Movie Review & Summary (2017)." RogerEbert. February 01, 2017. Accessed May 01, 2018.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-lure-2017>