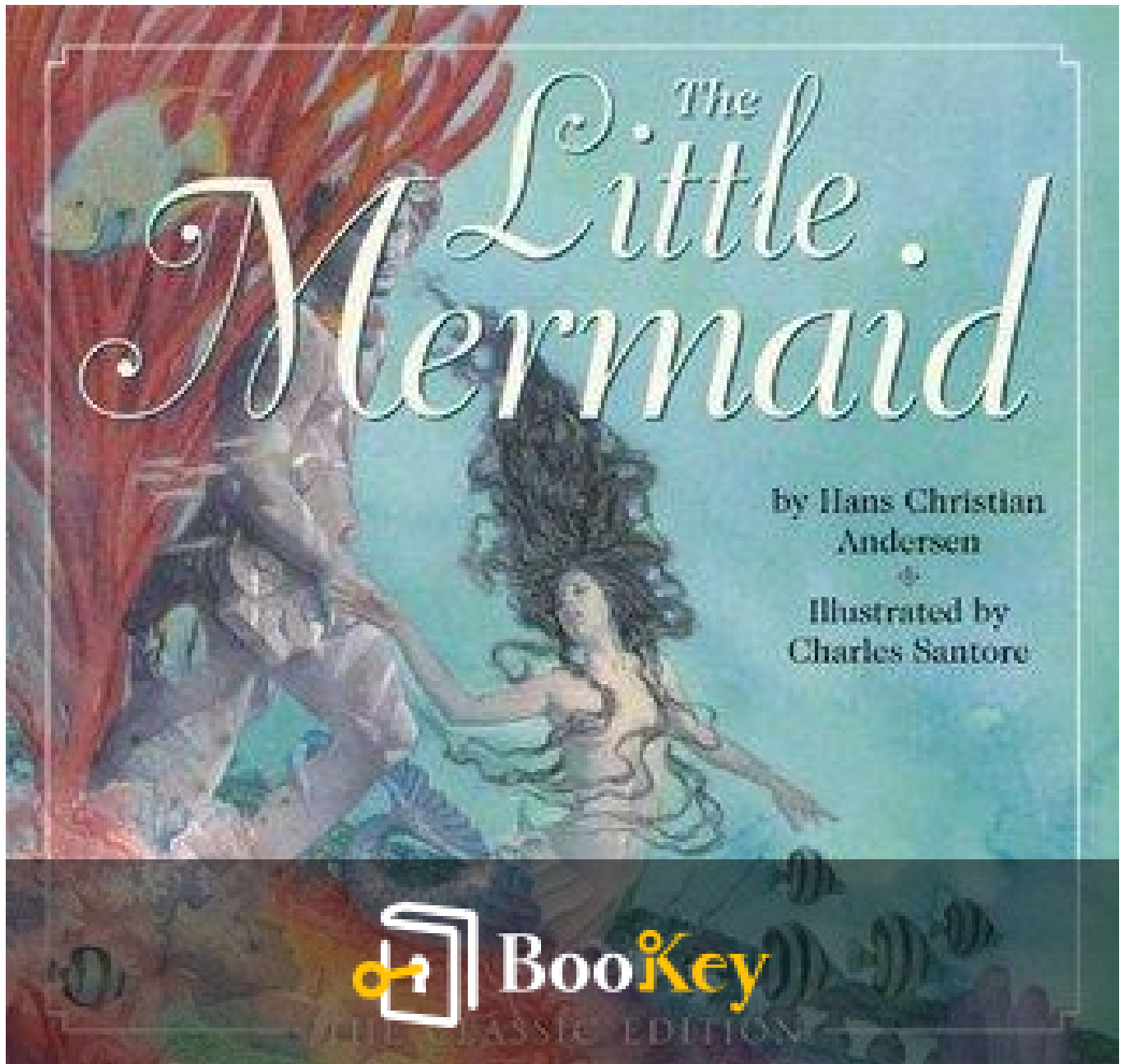


The Little Mermaid PDF (Limited Copy)

Charles Santore



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The Little Mermaid Summary

"A Tale of Sacrifice and Unwavering Love."

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About the book

Dive into a world of enchanting beauty and treacherous depths with "The Little Mermaid" by the illustrious Charles Santore. This timeless tale, brought to life through Santore's mesmerizing illustrations, explores the delicate balance of love, sacrifice, and the human spirit's resilience. Journey with Ariel, a spirited young mermaid whose yearning for a life beyond the waves drives her to make choices entwined in adventure and peril. As she bravely defies her world to chase an impossible dream, prepare to be enthralled by the little mermaid's heartfelt quest for true belonging. Santore's vivid portrayal invites readers of all ages to experience the wonders of the deep sea and the timeless struggle between wishing for more and embracing one's essence. Step into this beautifully illustrated rendition and allow your senses to be swept away by a story both haunting and hopeful, where every page reveals a new marvel and mystery of the ocean's heart.

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About the author

The renowned author and illustrator Charles Santore is celebrated for his remarkable ability to breathe life into beloved tales through his masterful artistry and narrative flair. Best known for his enchanting adaptations of classic fairy tales and children's stories, Santore has carved a distinct niche in the world of illustrated books with his vivid illustrations and compelling storytelling. Born and raised in the culturally rich city of Philadelphia, Santore honed his artistic skills at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art. Over the decades, his works have become synonymous with a timeless aesthetic that captivates both young readers and adults alike. With an illustrious career spanning many years, Charles Santore's versions of iconic tales, including "The Little Mermaid," showcase his unique gift for blending traditional elements with a contemporary edge, offering readers an immersive experience that celebrates the magic and wonder of storytelling.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

Deep in the ocean, where no light penetrates, lies a vibrant world beneath the waves. This aquatic realm is home to the sea folk, including the majestic Sea King and his daughters. The ocean floor is not barren but rather adorned with peculiar trees and flowers whose flexible branches and leaves gently sway with the water currents, akin to terrestrial creatures.

The Sea King's palace is a marvel in itself, made of coral with tall amber windows, and crowned with mussel shells that reveal shimmering pearls with the tide's rhythm. Despite the grandeur of his underwater kingdom, the Sea King is a widower. His mother, a proud and well-respected figure entitled to wear twelve oyster shells due to her noble lineage, takes on the responsibility of raising and caring for the King's six daughters, the youngest of whom is the fairest, with skin delicate as a rose petal and eyes as azure as the sea but with the familiar mermaid's tail.

The princesses enjoy the joy of playing in the grand rooms of the sea palace, interacting freely with the fish that swim through the open amber windows. The expansive garden beyond the palace is resplendent with trees bearing golden fruits and blossoms like sparks, all set against sand so blue it seems painted by fire. This garden is more than just a playground; it's a canvas for each princess to express her creativity. The youngest princess, a quiet and contemplative soul, is particularly captivated by a marble statue of a



handsome youth she discovered from a shipwreck—a treasure she guards closely.

Above all, the youngest princess is enchanted by the tales of the surface world, which she eagerly gleans from her grandmother. She is fascinated by stories of fragrant flowers, lush forests, and birds (referred to as "fish" for her understanding) that sing melodiously. Her grandmother promises them that once they reach the age of fifteen, they will be allowed to explore the world above the waves, to sit on rocks in the moonlight, and watch the ships sail by, thus piquing the curiosity of all the sisters.

The eldest princess is set to witness this wonder first, with her fifteenth year just around the corner. One by one, each sister will rise to the surface until it finally becomes the turn of the youngest, who waits five more longing years, yearning for her chance more than any of the others. The anticipation becomes her companion, frequently leading her to gaze upward from her window at the dark, mysterious water that separates her from the world she dreams of seeing.

This narrative not only introduces readers to the enchanting underwater world but also sets the stage for the youngest mermaid's eventual desire to explore the realm above the sea—a pivotal plot point that blends elements of curiosity, longing, and discovery.



Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In these chapters of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid," we are introduced to a fantastical underwater world inhabited by mermaids. This underwater realm is a place of beauty and wonder, where the sea creatures frolic in the depths, and the sky appears as a mysterious canopy from below. The story follows the lives of six mermaid sisters, daughters of the Sea King, who eagerly anticipate their fifteenth birthdays—the milestone when they are allowed to explore the world above the ocean waves for the first time.

As the story unfolds, each sister takes her turn to surface and experience the allure of the human world. The eldest sister is enchanted by the bustling life near a coastal city, complete with sparkling lights and the resonant sound of church bells that she cannot reach or participate in. The second sister, who visits the surface at sunset, is spellbound by the golden skies and the serene beauty of clouds, swans, and setting sun. The bold third sister navigates a river, experiencing nature's warmth and encountering human children and a barking dog, an animal she has never seen. The fourth, less daring sister, enjoys observing ships and aquatic life from a distance, appreciating the beauty of the vast, open sea. The fifth sister, visiting during winter, witnesses the quiet majesty of icebergs, which shimmer like jewels under the dim winter sun, creating a scene of both beauty and danger.

Despite these wondrous sights, the novelty gradually wanes for the elder



sisters, who begin to prefer their familiar underwater home with its intricate and vivid beauty. United with their voices, they sing enchanting songs, beckoning ships lost in storms, unaware that the sailors perceive these siren calls as the ominous sounds of the tempest, dooming them to the depths.

The story's focus shifts dramatically to the youngest sister, the titular Little Mermaid, who watches her sisters and dreams longingly of the human world, eager for her turn to experience it firsthand. When she finally turns fifteen, her grandmother dresses her in a majestic wreath of pearls and heavy oyster shells, fitting her station. Despite the unwelcome weight of her royal attire, she enthusiastically rises to the surface.

Her first sight above the water is breathtaking as the sun sets, with a grand ship floating serenely. It is a festive night onboard, with music, dancing, and vibrant lanterns brightening the night sky. Captivated by the prince, who is celebrated for his birthday aboard the ship, the Little Mermaid watches from below, charmed by his warm smile and graceful presence.

The joyous occasion soon turns treacherous as a sudden storm fells the ship, casting the prince into the unforgiving sea. In her bravery and love, the Little Mermaid saves the unconscious prince from drowning. She keeps him afloat amidst the wreckage, sharing deep admiration as he reminds her of a marble statue in her garden. Through the night, she carries him toward hope and safety, an act that marks the beginning of her profound longing to bridge the



gap between her world and that of the humans. As dawn breaks, the calm sea reflects her hopes and fears, sparking the beginning of her transformative journey driven by love and sacrifice.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Act of bravery and selflessness

Critical Interpretation: The pivotal moment in Chapter 2 is when the Little Mermaid saves the prince from drowning during a storm. This act of bravery and selflessness mirrors a fundamental lesson in life: the power of love and courage to inspire action beyond our comfort zone. It is a reminder that acts of kindness and sacrifice, often at great personal risk, can lead to profound connections and transformative journeys. By choosing to help another, even when faced with potential danger, you embrace the potential to alter your path and the paths of others, highlighting the important impact of compassion in our world.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

The story unfolds as the little mermaid nears the coastline, glimpsing stunning blue mountains and verdant forests. She lays the unconscious Prince carefully on the warm sands near a grand white building, hoping someone from the garden filled with citrus trees and palms might notice him. Soon, a young maiden sees him and brings help, reviving the Prince. The little mermaid hides in the water, feeling sorrowful as the Prince is taken inside, unaware of her role in his rescue.

Back in her underwater realm, the little mermaid grows increasingly pensive and distant. Despite her sisters' inquiries about her experiences above the sea, she keeps silent, sorrowfully revisiting the coast to catch a glimpse of the Prince, who remains oblivious to her presence and affection. She takes solace in a statue resembling the Prince, neglecting her garden as her heart pines for the world above.

Eventually, the mermaid confides in her sisters, who learn about the Prince. Determined to be near him, the sisters escort her to his palace—a resplendent building with marble steps descending into the sea. The little mermaid spends countless nights watching the Prince from afar, seeing him sail and hearing tales of his charm. Her yearning to become part of the human world intensifies, longing to walk and explore far-off lands that seem so expansive compared to her ocean home.



Seeking answers, she turns to her grandmother, a wise figure familiar with the world above. The grandmother explains the fleeting nature of human lives compared to the sea folk's, but emphasizes that humans possess immortal souls. These souls transcend death and ascend to an unknown, beautiful realm, unlike the sea creatures who dissolve into sea foam. The little mermaid is moved by the notion of an eternal soul, willing to surrender her long life beneath the waves for even a single day as a human.

The grandmother reveals that to gain such a soul, a human must love her deeply enough to marry her, sharing their soul willingly. However, this prospect seems impossible, as her fishtail would be deemed unattractive on land. Undeterred by the barriers and enchanted by the idea of an everlasting soul, the little mermaid becomes resolute in finding a way to transform.

During a lavish court celebration filled with music and dazzling marine displays, she is reminded of her own enchanting voice but her heart remains set on the Prince. She leaves the ball, determined to seek out the Sea Witch despite the dangers, hoping for guidance to fulfill her wish.

Her path to the witch is perilous, traversing treacherous whirlpools and past threatening polypi with tentacle-like arms that seize anything within reach. She bolts through the ominous forest filled with grotesque creatures, avoiding their grasp as she presses towards the witch's lair, a daunting



structure amidst bones and mire.

Confronting the Sea Witch, known for her cunning and dark magic, the little mermaid is undeterred by warnings of potential misfortune, driven by her love for the Prince and desire for an immortal soul. Her determination sets the stage for a fateful bargaining with the Sea Witch, the mysterious entity holding the key to her dreams.

Section	Description
Near the Coastline	The little mermaid lays the unconscious Prince on the beach near a beautiful building. A young maiden discovers him and revives him, while the mermaid hides sorrowfully in the water.
Underwater Realm	The mermaid becomes distant, keeps her experience a secret from sisters. Visits the coast yearning for the Prince, neglecting her garden.
Confiding in Sisters	The sisters learn about the Prince. They take her to his palace where she watches him from a distance, intensifying her desire to join the human world.
Seeking Her Grandmother	The grandmother explains the differences between human and sea folk souls, introducing the concept of immortal human souls obtainable through love and marriage.
Grand Celebration	A ball reminds the mermaid of her enchanting voice, but her thoughts linger on the Prince, spurring her determination to visit the Sea Witch.
Journey to Sea Witch	Dodging dangers in the marine forest, the mermaid reaches the Sea Witch's lair, driven by love and the yearning for an eternal soul despite warnings.



Chapter 4: 4

In this poignant chapter, the little mermaid is driven by her deep love for a human prince and her desire to gain an immortal soul. Living under the sea, the mermaid yearns to become human to win the prince's love. She visits a sinister sea witch to make this transformation possible. The witch offers her a potion that will turn her fish tail into legs, allowing her to walk on land. However, the transformation comes with a painful price: drinking the potion will feel like a sword cutting through her, and every step she takes will feel like walking on sharp knives.

The witch warns her of the high stakes. If the prince doesn't fall in love with her and marry her, enabling her to obtain an immortal soul, she will die of heartbreak and dissolve into sea foam the day after he marries another. Moreover, she'd lose her voice, her sole charm, and never be able to return to the sea or her family. Despite the grave consequences, the little mermaid decides to go through with it, driven by her infatuation with the prince and the hope for a soul.

The witch cruelly takes the mermaid's melodious voice and provides her with a potion. The mermaid, unable to speak, begins her journey to the prince. As dawn breaks, she drinks the potion and collapses, her tail replaced by human legs.



When she awakens, the prince finds her and is captivated by her beauty and graceful presence, even though she's mute. He takes her into his palace, where her enchanting dance wins the admiration of all, including the prince, who affectionately calls her his "little foundling." Yet, the mermaid feels the pangs of her silent sacrifice whenever she sees others sing, knowing she

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In this poignant chapter derived from Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale "The Little Mermaid," we follow the emotional journey of a young mermaid who falls deeply in love with a human prince. The mermaid saves the prince from a shipwreck and transports him safely to the shore near a holy temple. There, a girl from the temple becomes the prince's object of affection. The prince, unaware of who truly rescued him, cherishes the girl's image, believing her to be his savior, and if ever compelled to love another, he would choose our little mermaid due to her resemblance to his assumed rescuer.

Despite her aching heart, the mermaid hopes to win his love as she accepts the pain and sacrifices involved, including giving up her voice and enduring a transformation. Her love is put to the test when it is rumored that the prince will marry a princess from a neighboring kingdom. Though saddened, she remains hopeful as the prince assures her that his loyalty remains with his savior—the girl from the temple—and not the new princess.

Traveling with the prince on his ship, the mermaid is surrounded by the beauty and mysteries of the sea, things she knows intimately. As the journey concludes, optimistic festivities fill the prince's homeland in preparation for the royal wedding. However, everything changes when the temple maiden identified as the prince's savior turns out to be the princess sent to be his



bride. His happiness and commitment to her shatter the mermaid's dreams.

The wedding morn signifies imminent doom for the mermaid, as she is bound to dissolve into sea foam during sunrise, having failed to secure the prince's love. Her sisters offer her a terrible choice: to save herself by sacrificing the prince with a witch's enchanted knife. This act would restore her mermaid form and allow her to return to the sea.

In a moment of selflessness and love, she refuses to harm the prince, choosing instead to let him live happily, even if it means her own demise. As dawn breaks, she throws the dagger into the sea and leaps into the waves, where her body starts to dissolve. Yet, instead of succumbing to death, she finds herself transformed into a daughter of the air.

In this new ethereal form, she learns from her fellow air spirits that, unlike mermaids, they can earn an immortal soul through good deeds over centuries. Her selfless love and suffering have elevated her into this new existence, offering her a path to eternal happiness and an immortal soul. As she joins the daughters of the air, she finds peace, watching over the prince and his bride, unseen, as they seek her presence. The chapter concludes with the little mermaid's heart filled with tears of relief and the promise of a new beginning in the realm of the daughters of the air.

