

The Legend of the Sirens

NARRATOR

The Empire of the humans, known as the Kingdom of Corvikus, reaches from coast to coast. Beyond the shore live the Sirens. Magical Creatures that are half-woman, half-fish, the Sirens are unparalleled in beauty. When they sing, humans, both male and female, are magically captivated by their voices so much so that they will mindlessly walk to the source of the singing, even if it means walking off their ships to their deaths. A long time ago both sides treated each other as threats, attacking each other on sight. Eventually, both sides stopped fighting and decided to live harmoniously, eventually trading and becoming friends. Everything was peaceful for many generations... until recently.

INT. THE MEETING ROOM - DAY

[SCENE 1]

The stage shows a long rectangular table, CASIMIR seated on one end and the KING and QUEEN on the other. SERVANT is standing in a corner sweeping floor. GUARDS at the corners.

CASIMIR

Father, Mother, please, LISTEN!
(pauses for effect)

The rubbish we're dumping into the ocean is killing off the fish - the Sirens' only source of food! We've got to stop this!

KING

(sounding weary as he speaks, as if he has heard this many times before)
Casimir, our- *my* -kingdom has been expanding rapidly. With the amount of trash we are producing, there will soon be insufficient space for the growing population. Besides, the ocean is huge. It'll have enough space to handle the waste.

CASIMIR

(protests)

But they're already so angry: they might actually wage war against us! I don't want to disrupt the peace between us... Our relation with the Sirens is already strained enough as it is...

KING

We have an army to deal with them. Besides, if they do try to wage war, we have the whole might of the empire's great navy to search the seas.

(When CASIMIR opens his mouth to argue again, the KING bellows, his voice booming)

KING

SILENCE! I've had enough of your protests, boy. I am the King: no matter if you are my son or servant, you will obey my rules!

(THE KING thumps a fist on the table, startling CASIMIR.)

I've lost my appetite!

(King leaves. GUARDS follow. Queen looks at CASIMIR and shakes her head. She also leaves.)

CASIMIR

(to himself)

Darn it, will they ever listen? I'll have to take things into my own hands.

EXT. AT THE SEA SHORES

[SCENE 2]

CASIMIR is at the ocean's shores. He summons the Sirens by ringing the bell that hangs around his neck. A few female figures rises out of the water, miraculously dry, and walks towards CASIMIR.

MARIELLA

(angrily)

Prince Casimir! Calling us in the middle of the night! I should sing you into the waters!

(about to sing, JUNIPER holds MARIELLA's arm as CASIMIR is about to cover his ears)

JUNIPER

Mother, no!

CASIMIR

(uncovers his ears and gets straight to the point)

Look: I wish to strike a deal. In three days' time, I will convince my parents to change their foolish behaviour. In exchange, you will... you will let me marry your daughter!

(JUNIPER gasps)

MARIELLA

(sounding doubtful)

Yes, yes I've heard about you and my daughter. Pfff. Why would I ever agree to it? What do you have to offer should you fail?

CASIMIR

I won't fail! My dad just needs a bit more convincing!

MARIELLA

Look, I don't care about how well you think you know your parents. Tell me, what will you offer me should you not be able to convince that mad king? What is worth my daughter's hand in marriage?

CASIMIR

Erm... (looks around)

My life!

JUNIPER

No!

MARIELLA

Silence! Your life, you say? But why would I want your life? Even if you are gone, your parents will just carry on polluting the sea, our home! No, three days to convince them, or your *parents' life* is gone!

JUNIPER

Mother!

CASIMIR

Fine! All this won't happen anyway because I'm gonna convince them!

MARIELLA

(chuckles)

Alright then. Here is a magical contract.

(takes out contract)

Write the terms here, and sign with your blood. Once that is done, the contract is magically bound. Only fulfillment of the contract will stop your parents from dying in three days' time!

CASIMIR

Yea yea, give me that.

(pokes himself and signs while MARIELLA watches with glee. She takes back the contract)

MARIELLA

All the best... Come, let's go!

JUNIPER

O Casimir.. all the best!

The Sirens leave, dragging Juniper away. Lights off.

INT. IN THE DINING ROOM

[SCENE 3]

CASIMIR and his mother are seated next to each other on a circular table for dinner, and their plates are empty, the contents eaten.

CASIMIR

Mother. The Sirens-

MOTHER

(interjects, sounding irritated)

This again?

CASIMIR

Yes, this again.

MOTHER

(says wearily but fondly)

Cas, your father isn't going to change his mind no matter how many times you bring this up.

CASIMIR

(argues)

It's still worth a try. We have to respect them. I know you're kind, mother... Please spare a thought for the poor Sirens?

MOTHER

(eyes him critically)

Fake flattery's getting you
nowhere, young man.

CASIMIR
(says ruefully)
Mother, you wound me. I'm being
genuine.

The King enters the room.

CASIMIR
Father-

FATHER / KING
(cuts him)
Save your breath, I'm not changing
my mind.

Lights out.

INT. CASIMIR'S ROOM

[SCENE 4]

Casimir is in his room, sitting on his bed with his head in his hands. The clock chimes midnight of the fourth day.

CASIMIR
(Glances left and right,
looking worried)

Three days have passed... This is
the midnight of the fourth. Maybe...
the magical contract was just a
joke?

CASIMIR breathes a sigh of relief
and walks out, but is shocked when
he suddenly hears chaos and
shouting outside his room.

ROYAL GUARD
(pants as she shouts)

The King and Queen have been
assassinated!

CASIMIR

(Eyes widen in shock)
What did you say? Explain this!

ROYAL GUARD

His and Her Majesties were found,
both of them drowned, with their
bedroom all wet! It's sorcery I
tell you! Sirens' Sorcery!

CASIMIR runs to the mentioned
bedroom.

There he finds THE KING's and
QUEEN's lifeless bodies.

CASIMIR

(Stares in shock and grief)
How?

(Turns around as the door opens
and the King's Advisor steps in)

KING'S ADVISOR

From the evidence we found, it's
some kind of high level Siren
Sorcery. No doubt about it. They
must have decided that war with
the Corvikus was unavoidable and
decided to make the first move.

This is war.

KING'S ADVISOR

(places both his hands on
Casimir's shoulder)

Casimir, you must assume your role
of King immediately and strike
back at the Sirens. Word will
eventually get out that they were
the ones who killed our King and

Queen, and the public will be
infuriated if you don't do
anything.

CASIMIR
(clenches his shaking hands)
I want to speak to my people.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CASTLE - DAY

[SCENE 5]

Casimir stands on a raised platform, his face turned towards his loyal subjects. He is wearing what his late father wore when he was in power. ADMIRAL DALI is standing beside him.

CASIMIR
Civilians of Corvikus. I regret to
announce that the Sirens did a
most unspeakable act. They
murdered my parents, our King and
Queen!

CASIMIR pauses, swallowing back tears that threaten to overcome him.

CASIMIR
As such, we have decided to
declare war on the Sirens.
Interacting with Sirens is now
forbidden. Our Admiral, Dali, will
oversee the war. Admiral Dali, you
have the stage.

ADMIRAL DALI
Thank you. Citizens, all Siren
sightings must be reported
immediately. There is also a
bounty on any Sirens you bring
back. Be at peace. With me in
charge, the Sirens will pay dearly
for what they did!

Admiral Dali and Casimir turn their backs on the crowd and slowly walk away from the raised platform as the people cheer.

EXT. VILLAGE MARKET - DAY

[SCENE 6]

PEOPLE are clustered in one large crowd, gossiping and chattering to each other. Goods forgotten.

VILLAGER 2

(was running, and comes to a halt,
panting)

Did you hear about the horrible
news?

VILLAGER 1

(rolls his eyes)

Who hasn't? The Sirens killed the
late King and Queen all because
they want the kingdom to
themselves.

VILLAGER 2

(looks disgusted)

Despicable monsters. I heard our
new King is placing a bounty to
hunt the Sirens, anybody joining
the hunt?

RANDOM VILLAGER 1

(says proudly)

Of course. The Sirens will be no
match for us. What can they do,
sing us all to sleep? We'll cut
their throat outs before they can
even do that.

EXT. OUTSIDE HOUSES - NIGHT.

[SCENE 7]

Lights on to reveal a bunch of angry FISHERMEN cornering two Sirens in a boat... They are caught in a fishing net. They are clearly distressed.

FISHERMAN 1

How dare you kill our Queen and
King! Die you monsters! Die!

The VILLAGERS shout in anger and jab their weapons at the Sirens, who shrink away in fear. They open their mouth in an

attempt to sing and enchant the FISHERMEN, but they are threatened into silence by the FISHERMEN.

FISHERMAN 2

(says smugly)

The Royal Navy are on their way.
How will we knock these Sirens
out?

FISHERMAN 1

I say just smack their heads into
the ground. Give the Navy their
lifeless bodies. We'll still get
paid.

FISHERMAN 2

But I heard they're worth twice if
they're alive: our King wants to
know the whereabouts of the Siren
Queen Mariella.

At that point, choral music is being heard. FISHERMAN 1 manages to put on his ear muffs, but FISHERMAN 2 and the rest of the FISHERMAN are too late. FISHERMAN 1 tries to snap them out of it, but it is too late. They go into a daze, and jump off the boat.

FISHERMAN 1

Nooooooooo!

After the dazed FISHERMEN jump off, the music stops and out of the waters rise the Sirens, with their tridents.

FISHERMAN 1

You monsters!!! I'll kill every
one of you!

FISHERMAN 1 charges them as the lights go off.

Lights on to reveal ADMIRAL DALI in his planning room on his battleship. He is thinking about things, and playing with some navy pieces on the map.

ADMIRAL DALI

You think you can hide from me?
I'll never forget how you Sirens
dragged my grandfather to his
death. He was just a harmless
fisherman, earning an honest
living. Why did you have to-

(A sailor comes in)

SAILOR

Admiral! A message from our navy
scientists back on shore!
(sailor hands him a handwritten
note)

ADMIRAL DALI

Dear Admiral. We are happy to tell
you of the new weapons we've the
poison you wanted us to create has
been made. But we advise caution,
Admiral. The poison is very
effective. You pour it in, and the
whole area will be filled with
dead fish and all sea creatures-

Fantastic! Finally! A solution to
rid ourselves of the Sirens once
and for all! (talks to sailor)

You! Come here! I've got a message
for you.

Lights off.

NARRATOR

And so, the war prolonged. Both
sides suffered greatly. The Sirens

lost many of their kind due to the toxic waste that the Navy kept throwing into the water, fishermen and navy sailors jumped to their deaths whenever the Sirens could surprise them. Massive ships left floating in the sea because all the sailors had leapt to their deaths. Massive areas of the sea filled with the stench of rotting fish. The people were beginning to grow weary of the war...

INT. CASIMIR'S ROOM - NIGHT

[SCENE 9]

There is a bed and CASIMIR is on it. He thrashes and wakes up, sweating. Eyes wide. Then he relaxes.

CASIMIR

(hugs himself and rocks back and forth on the bed)

It's just a nightmare. No one will find out about my deal with the Sirens. And we'll win the war. I think I need some water, though...

(CASIMIR gets out of the room and bumps into a SERVANT sweeping the floor)

SERVANT 1

Your Majesty! I'm so sorry!

CASIMIR

What are you doing up at three a.m. in the morning? Were you eavesdropping on me? Speak! What did you hear me say in my sleep? You heard me talk about the Sirens didn't you!

SERVANT 1

I didn't hear anything, your majesty! I promise!

CASIMIR
You Lie! (Grabs her by the collar)
GUARDS!

(The GUARDS on patrol come
running)
Take her away!

SERVANT 1
(tears following out)
Please, Your Majesty! I didn't
hear you say anything! I was
simply just mopping the floor. You
didn't say anything! Please, Your
Majesty, have mercy!

CASIMIR
(unfazed and apathetic)
Ignore her ramblings. GUARDS! Gag
her and take her away!

Guards drag her away. Lights off.

EXT. EXECUTION GROUNDS - DAY [SCENE 10]

Lights on. There is a guillotine on a raised platform and
SERVANT 1 is being walked towards it with guards escort.
Corvikus' citizens are assembled all around the platform.

CASIMIR
Citizens of Corvikus. I have found
a rat conspiring against the
crown. Now she dies.

KING'S ADVISOR
(behind Casimir)
My King... Do you have any solid
evidence that she's actually
conspiring against the crown?

CASIMIR
(infuriated and unsettled by
KING'S ADVISOR)

Don't you dare question my
decisions.

KING'S ADVISOR
(nervous)
I wasn't! I... You can't go killing
civilians for no reason! This is
madness! Without an end to the
war, the people are already very
unhappy. With this unjustified
execution, very soon they will
turn their anger towards you!

CASIMIR
You know, don't you? You know what
I did and now you're trying to get
me off the throne...

KING'S ADVISOR
W-w-what? You've gone mad! You
can't be-

CASIMIR
You leave me no choice. Guards!
(raises voice)

I have uncovered another traitor
as well!

(Points to KING'S ADVISOR)
Bring this man to the guillotine
as well! After the servant girl,
he'll be next!

KING'S ADVISOR
Your Majesty!

CASIMIR
(without hesitation)
Off with his head!

The Guards take KING'S ADVISOR away. CASIMIR looks a bit mad. Lights off.

INT. CASIMIR'S ROOM - NIGHT

[SCENE 11]

Casimir can't sleep, and rolls around on his bed. He presses the heels of his hands against his eyes. There is a long silence, before he draws in a ragged breath. He starts crying. He hears someone else crying also. A girl's voice, JUNIPER's voice.

CASIMIR
Juniper?

(looks out of window, and sees JUNIPER. Runs off to find JUNIPER. Re-enters where JUNIPER is. Sees JUNIPER crying, and MARIELLA is on the ground, sickly. JUNIPER sees CASIMIR and, in a sorrowful state, tries to attack him, which he easily dodges.)

JUNIPER
How could you! My mother is dying because of you!

CASIMIR
What? What's wrong with her?

JUNIPER
Don't you know? Your evil Admiral started pouring poison into the seas, destroying our homes and killing our people! We breathe in the water! We need the water to live!

CASIMIR
I...

(GUARDS finally catch up with CASIMIR, see the Sirens, and are about to attack)

CASIMIR

Stop! Don't! (speaking to JUNIPER)

Damn it, this is all my fault!

I'm... I'm so sorry, JUNIPER. I... I

have to make this right. (to the

GUARDS) You two, go get the

physicians.

GUARD 1

But...

CASIMIR

Do you want to be executed for

disobeying my orders?!

GUARDS

No, your majesty!

CASIMIR

Then go! And tell no one.

(goes back to attending to
JUNIPER, but she pushes his arm
away. MARIELLA has ragged
breathing.)

INT. COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

[SCENE 12]

There is a long rectangular table. CASIMIR sits at the place
where his father had. ADMIRAL DALI enters.

CASIMIR

You... Why didn't you tell me about
the poison! You must stop it at
once! That is not how we conduct
war! Poison is wrong!

ADMIRAL DALI

What's wrong with killing Sirens?

CASIMIR

Not all Sirens are involved in
this war, how about the children?

ADMIRAL DALI

What about them? If they die, its
one less siren to worry about!

CASIMIR

You... I am ordering you to stop the
poisons, and to order your navy to
start cleaning up the seas, and
work with the doctors to come up
with an antidote to neutralize the
poisons in the ocean!

ADMIRAL DALI

What? After all I've done, how
dare you! (draws sword and attacks
CASIMIR but guards intervene)

CASIMIR

You've made your choice Admiral.
Take him to prison! Tell the next
in command of the navy what I just
told the Admiral.

And release the KING's ADVISOR!

Lights off.

INT. COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

[SCENE 13]

Lights on to reveal CASIMIR talking to KING'S ADVISOR. KING'S
ADVISOR gasps after the truth is revealed to him.

CASIMIR

I'm sorry. I should never have
made that stupid move in the first
place. The moment I declared war
on the Sirens, I lost the one
thing I ever truly cared about,
JUNIPER.

KING'S ADVISOR

Don't worry. Give her time. All
things heal with time. What's
important now is to officially

make peace with the Sirens, and
tell your people about your
decision.

CASIMIR

But how can I talk to the Sirens?
We are killing each other on
sight! Juniper came to the shores
of the castle out of desperation.
She will never see me again!

KING'S ADVISOR

How about... the bell?

CASIMIR

(looks uneasy)

But there is a high chance they
will just slaughter me on the
spot.

KING'S ADVISOR

(interjects)

Not if you summon them. Their
interest will be piqued. Why on
earth, after everything that's
happen, would you still ring the
bell of diplomacy? Furthermore, I
do believe they're very tired of
the war.

EXT. THE SHORES - NIGHT

[SCENE 14]

CASIMIR tinkles the bell he hangs around his neck. A familiar
FIGURE came out of the water. It is JUNIPER, and she looks at
him with great disgust.

MARIELLA

(says challengingly, but weak)

After everything that has
happened, I would have thought you
had thrown away the bell. Why do
you still have it? Did you use it
to lure me out to kill me?

CASIMIR

(shakes head)

No... no. I only seek to come to a peaceful agreement with you.

MARIELLA

(interjects angrily, getting more and more frustrated)

You made the three day claim, you signed the magical contract, and instead of accepting it you waged war against us and resorted to treacherous poison; now you come saying that you want a peaceful agreement?

JUNIPER

Mother...

CASIMIR

(Bows his head shamefully)

I understand your hatred towards me. But you're tired, and so am I. We don't want to fight anymore. Please. Let's come to a ceasefire. I want to set things right again... I swear on my crown that I will assist in the cleaning up of the ocean.

MARIELLA sees the truth in CASIMIR's words and agrees.

MARIELLA

(reluctantly)

Once we see your wretched navy start working to clean the poison, we will stop singing your people into the sea.

(to the rest of the Sirens)

Let's go, I need to rest.

Sirens leave the stage. CASIMIR looks down in shame. KING'S
ADVISOR puts his arm around CASIMIR's shoulder.

NARRATOR

And so, the Kingdom finally found
peace with the Sirens.