

KATE.

What a picturesque spot! I wonder where we are!

EDITH.

And I wonder where Papa is. We have left him ever so far behind.

ISABEL.

Oh, he will be here presently! Remember poor Papa is not as young as we are, and we came over a rather difficult country.

KATE.

But how thoroughly delightful it is to be so entirely alone! Why, in all probability we are the first human beings who ever set foot on this enchanting spot.

ISABEL.

Except the mermaids – it's the very place for mermaids.

KATE.

Who are only human beings down to the waist!

EDITH.

And who can't be said strictly to set foot anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they cannot.

KATE.

But what shall we do until Papa and the servants arrive with the luncheon?

EDITH.

We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes and stockings and paddle?

ALL.

Yes, yes! The very thing!

FRED. (spoken)

Stop, ladies, pray!

GIRLS.

(Hopping on one foot.) A man!

FRED. (spoken)

I had intended

Not to intrude myself upon your notice

In this effective but alarming costume;

But under these peculiar circumstances,

It is my bounden duty to inform you

That your proceedings will not be unwitnessed!

EDITH.

But who are you, sir? Speak! (All hopping.)

FRED.

I am a pirate!

GIRLS.

(recoiling, hopping) A pirate! Horror!

FRED. (spoken)

Ladies, do not shun me!

This evening I renounce my vile profession;

And, to that end, O pure and peerless maidens!

Oh, blushing buds of ever-blooming beauty!  
I, sore at heart, implore your kind assistance.

EDITH.

How pitiful his tale!

KATE.

How rare his beauty!

GIRLS.

How pitiful his tale! How rare his beauty!