

Stories **on** Stage

Script

Serendipity Says

To Know Me Is To Love Me

(Script adapted from the story)

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Serendipity Says To Know Me Is To Love Me

Characters:

Seahorse

Mermaid (the message maid)

Malinda Martha

Old Sol (the sun)

Serendipity

Old Methodical (old man-in-the-moon)

Daddy

Mother

Seahorse: Hi, Mermaid. I've been waiting for you. Are you delivering any messages today?

Mermaid: Hi, Seahorse. Have you heard that Serendipity won the SEA CREATURES AWARD this year?

Seahorse: What did he do?

Mermaid: Come with me, Seahorse. There's a summer cottage on Nantucket Island where you can hear the story for yourself. Doc Johnson rents out his cottage for the summer and kids leave their favorite books behind on the treasure shelf for new kids to find.

Malinda Martha: These old books at "Doc's Box" smell of the sea. It's as if the sea breezes of summer scent their pages. There must be some treasures somewhere between the covers of these books.

Seahorse: Ah ha! Malinda Martha spots a sea serpent ON the cover of one of the books.

Malinda Martha: Wow! Who are you? You look like a treasure waiting to be discovered. It's like you can hardly wait for a whiff of salt air. Ser-en-dip-i-ty. (she sounds out the word slowly) Serendipity, you have a very long

name, and a very long TAIL...and I bet there's a short TALE about you in this book. (she giggles)

Mermaid: See. Malinda Martha giggles as her eyes slither into his very short TALE.

Seahorse: Looks like Serendipity has one vote already.

Mermaid: Serendipity is actually waiting for a child to get him out of a BIG predicament. You're too young to know about the spell. Listen. One day a long time ago, Old Sol, the sun, cast a topsy turvy spell on a sea serpent (are you getting the picture?) and the man-in-the-moon.

Old Sol: Old Methodical, old man-in-the-moon, how dare you slip between me, Old Sol, the sun, AND the earth AND block my rays AND cast a shadow that turns day into night.

Old Methodical: You don't have to get all hot and bothered, Old Sol. I was just following the laws of nature.

Old Sol: Everyone wants MY light. And I don't see you appealing the law.

Old Methodical: I should never have told you that my greatest joy is my power to rule the tides. Now you're just using that against me. You think you can punish me by taking my power to rule the tides away from me. I'll just take a long nap.

Mermaid: Alas! Too bad for Old Methodical. There's competition. Old Sol spies Serendipity, the sea serpent, frolicking in the waves.

Old Sol: You can sleep for a long time, Old Methodical. I see the perfect

specimen for this job. Strong back, wavy body, long tail with just the right spring in it. And a name that's a match for Old Methodical any day.

Seahorse: So...Old Sol turns Serendipity into a servant of the sea, right?

Mermaid: Right. Old Sol turns Serendipity into a tidal serpent. Old Methodical has been sleeping ever since, while Serendipity rises and falls, and rises and falls.

Serendipity: I'm tired of slithering so far up onto the shore. Twice every day is just twice too much. And stones are hardly part of my diet.

Malinda Martha: (gets involved in the story) I don't blame you for sputtering and spitting out the stones, Serendipity.

Serendipity: Groan. The sand sticks to the top of my mouth. I just can't go on swallowing sand sculptures anymore.

Malinda Martha: Isn't it fun to swish the beach with your tail and scatter sea life along the shore? As you slip away?

Serendipity: It's not like frolicking in the waves. I yearn for the time when I can return to my kingdom at the bottom of the sea...when I can swim with my grand-sea serpents once more. I'm waiting for a child to break the spell... a child who loves me and understands me.

Seahorse: Wow, that's heart rending.

Mermaid: All night, Malinda Martha dreams about Serendipity...imagining that she is the child...and in the morning, she runs to the beach with images of Serendipity still in her head. But she gets distracted by the stones for a while.

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She picks up flat wet stones that glisten like gems in the sunlight and sends them skimming across the water.

Seahorse: Wow, Malinda Martha is really good at skipping stones.

Mermaid: She likes to watch the stones skip and spin shapes that shimmer...and spread out...and steal away. It brings her thought back to Serendipity. She pretends the stones are stealing away to Serendipity's kingdom in the sea. She gets into playing a game with her parents.

Malinda Martha: Serendipity must be out.

Daddy: Serendipity rises and falls with the tick of the clock.

Malinda Martha: He slithers toward my castle as if he can't stop...not even at my wall of flat rock.

Mother: Serendipity doesn't really like stones.

Malinda Martha: Hear his cries and his moans! He's not very well 'cause he's caught in that spell. Who will break the spell?

Daddy: Time will tell. Time will tell.

Malinda Martha: I like playing the Serendipity game. I want to break the spell. I hope Serendipity left a clue.

Daddy: You can't look for Serendipity but he can look for you.

Mother: He comes when you're not looking, but you'll know when he comes.

Malinda Martha: But I want to understand him. I want to look for clues. Look! Serendipity scatters sea life along the shore. Sea shells and starfish and seaweed move in and out.

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Mother: A clue wouldn't move in and out.

Malinda Martha: Serendipity spits out stones, stones to skip, and stones that splash...and tumble...and toss about.

Daddy: A clue wouldn't tumble and toss about!

Malinda Martha: Serendipity swishes the beach with his tail. He leaves smooth sand...but...sand patterns change.

I know! A clue wouldn't change!
Serendipity swallows sand sculptures!
Like my sand castle. (she sighs)
Maybe Serendipity swallowed the clue.

Daddy: You can't look for clues.
You can't look for Serendipity.

Malinda Martha: Then I'll look for the key to his kingdom. (she giggles at that idea!) I've got it! I'll send Serendipity a letter in a bottle. I'll tell him about my discovery.

Malinda Martha: (Reads THE LETTER THAT WAS SENT IN A BOTTLE)

*Dear Serendipity,
Over and over I build by **hand** many kingdoms in the **sand**. And no matter how often you turn my kingdoms to **goo**, I create more kingdoms for you to **chew**. I make rings on the harbor by skipping stones that are **flat**. I keep on creating. I'm telling you **that**. I don't mind if you leave a mound on the beach or if the rings on the sea fade away... 'cause I've discovered that creating is here to **stay**.*

I love you.

P.S. I want to break your spell, but I can't look for you. Please look for me.

Mermaid: It's the last day of summer

vacation, time to pack up for the 8 p.m. ferry crossing. No more walks along the beach. No more summer sunsets. No more skipping stones. No more Serendipity game.

Seahorse: But I bet Malinda Martha is still thinking about Serendipity.

Malinda Martha: Maybe I will send Serendipity another letter in a bottle next summer. But I still hope that Serendipity will look for me. I'll just run to the sand to find one smooth flat stone to slip in my backpack...I want to take home a piece of summer.

Mermaid: Malinda Martha can't help herself, glancing out at the waves and imagining that her bottle is drifting far away to a kingdom in the sea. Whoops! She sees a bottle floating toward her!

Malinda Martha: Oh, no! My bottle's floating back.

Seahorse: I'd grab the bottle and pull out the cork.

Mermaid: Me too, Seahorse.

Malinda Martha: Something is in the bottle!

Mermaid: See, she does grab the bottle and pull out the cork.

Seahorse: And she's unrolling the paper and gazing at the message. I want to hear this.

Malinda Martha: The message is for me! (reads message)

*CONGRATULATIONS!
SERENDIPITY AWARD*

*FOR UNDERSTANDING YOU CAN'T
LOOK FOR SERENDIPITY!*

P.S. Thanks for breaking the spell.

Serendipity Says To Know Me Is To Love Me

Wishing you many fortunate discoveries when you're not looking for them...when you're looking for something else!

LOVE, Serendipity

Keep your eyes open...discoveries may be hiding...

Malinda Martha: Daddy, Daddy, look at my starfish. My name is on it. (She bursts into a smile!)

Malinda Martha: I lost my castle and I lost my rings. I was looking for a way to save those things when it dawned on me...I can't lose creativity. Then...I was looking for a skipping stone to save when a bottle with a message washed ashore upon a wave. Keep your eyes open, the message said. Discoveries may be hiding on the path ahead. I was looking for a stone...but I found something else instead. Wow! It was just like Daddy said it would be. Serendipity crept up on me.

Seahorse: Wow! Rhymes roll through her head like waves rolling onto the beach.

Malinda Martha: (skips along, clapping a jingle) Serendipity, Serendipity, I'm not looking. I'm not looking. I'm not looking for a clue. I can never look for you. I'll be looking for something else when you come into view.

Seahorse: Makes me feel like skipping.

Mermaid: A skipping seahorse. I'd like to see that. But listen, Daddy's talking.

Daddy: Guess what! Old Sol has set Serendipity free, and in gratitude for his service has decreed that Serendipity's spirit will be known henceforth as 'the

surprises that happen when you're not looking for them, when you're looking for something else'...and in Serendipity's honor will be named after him!

Seahorse: Did you see Daddy wink?

Mermaid: Wait, there's more.

Daddy: And...that is why the fortunate discoveries that you make when you aren't looking for them are called 'serendipity'!

Mermaid: Daddy's a good myth maker. And...from that day to this, Serendipity has been known in his kingdom at the bottom of the sea as 'the sea serpent with a special name and an endearing spirit.'

Seahorse: And guess what. Old Methodical is awake.

Mermaid: How do you know?

Seahorse: 'Cause the tides are on schedule again.

Mermaid: And Serendipity is swimming free!

Seahorse: AND Serendipity really deserves the SEA CREATURES OF THE YEAR award.