

THE VANITY VORTEX

By Tiffany Gilly

Narrator/Hook:

Once upon a time zone, there lived a Captain Hook
Saving all kinds of characters in all kinds of story books
From their overflowing vanity and self-glorification
Giving each one of them a small, unexpected vacation.

If into the mirror, one of them looked too long,
Then inside their heads, they began to hear a song.
Into the mirror they were transported to go
Arriving before the captain! Yo Ho! Yo Ho!

Then there, they would be, trapped to hear some good advice
And hopefully heed it or things would not be nice.

"I'm wishing" from Snow White begins to play.

Here comes one!

As if being sucked through a portal, Prince Eric from the Disney version of The Little Mermaid appears. He sits in a chair as if he is trapped.

Welcome!

Eric:

Where am I?

Hook:

You are in another dimension! Oooooooh ahhhhhhh.

Eric:

That's strange, just a minute ago, I was looking into a mirror at my handsome self and now, I can't see my beautiful face!

Hook:

You were sucked into a portal.

Eric:

I was what-now?

Hook:

Did you know that if you look into the magic mirror for too long, you'll be sucked in to a different dimension that's completely off the books?

Eric:

Arizona?

Hook:

No, look, you're just...you're in a different time zone, okay?

Eric:

Why?

Hook:

Because of your vanity.

Eric:

It wasn't my vanity, it was someone else's mirror, I just happened to look into it and see my handsome face there, staring so gloriously back at me, and after about a minute, I was sucked in!

Hook:

The time limit is five minutes.

Eric:

I wasn't looking into the mirror for five minutes!

Hook:

Were too. That's the length of time it takes to determine that you're vain.

Eric:

That's not fair!

Hook:

Life isn't fair.

Eric:

I just have such beautiful features! They take time to appreciate! You can't rush these things!

Hook:

Perhaps being a little less narcissistic would be beneficial to you, Prince Eric.

Eric:

Ariel is making me dinner tonight and we're going dancing afterwards, which I am REALLY GOOD AT. I can't be late again! I told her I wouldn't be late this time! She'll be angry! Do you know what happens when someone who used to be a mermaid gets angry?

Hook:

I know very well.

Eric:

Yeah, so if you could let me go, I'd REALLY appreciate it.

Hook:

Why are you always late?

Eric doesn't answer.

Why are you always late, Eric?

Eric:

I SEE A LOT OF MIRRORS ON THE WAY HOME AND I CAN'T HELP BUT STOP.

Hook:

Oh my.

Eric:

I'M SO BEAUTIFUL!

Hook:

Might I suggest something?

If humble you are, then humble you'll be
Walk past the mirror in which you see
By no means at all, think bad of yourself
But don't always go before everyone else.

Eric is confused.

Look, just don't be so narcissistic and think of others before yourself more often.

Eric:

What would you do if you had a face more beautiful than a Mediterranean sunrise?

Hook:

I'd look at myself a lot and for too long.

Eric:

See!

Hook:

But I'm known for being a vain villain that does vile things. You're a pretty prince who's supposed to be proper and perfectly selfless.

Eric:

What if I don't wanna?

Hook:

You're going to be late for dinner. What matters most to you? Your face or Ariel?

Eric:

Ariel of course.

Eric is suddenly able to move out of the chair.

Hook:

Then you have your answer. Put her before your 5-minute self-admiration and you'll find yourself a lot less narcissistic. Still narcissistic but a lot less.

Eric:

Wow, thanks, Captain.

Hook:

Princes. Always so helpless without their wives or sidekicks.

Eric:

Hey, I resent that comment. I wasn't helpless before I met Ariel. I was hopeless. There's a difference.

Hook just stares at Eric.

So how does it work? How do I get back to my world? Or time zone? Or whatever isn't here?

Hook:

Close your eyes and click your heels together and repeat three times the phrase, "I'm wishing." And you must be thinking about exactly where you want to go. Picture it clearly in your mind.

Eric:

Okay?

Eric clicks his heels together with his eyes closed and repeats "I'm wishing" three times. The sound plays as he does and he is sucked back to his world.

At the same time, Rapunzel arrives and is pinned in the chair just as Eric was once before.

Hook:

Welcome!

Rapunzel:

What up, bro?

Where am I, yo?

Hook:

Yo-HO! You are in another dimension! Oooooooh ahhhhhhh.

Rapunzel just stares at Hook.

Does nobody understand what that means? You got sucked into a portal and now you're stuck here until you can learn how to be less vain.

Rapunzel:

All day and all night I was trapped in a tower
Seeing new things gives me new power
I just want to see everything there is to see
But sometimes I take a moment to look at me.

Hook:

Why are you talking like that?

Rapunzel:

The name's RAP-punzel. It's in my name
To spin these rhymes like a cool, fresh dame.

Hook:

Really?