

SWISH

Written by

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Logline: When a rejected 13-year-old wannabe songstress makes a wish to sing like a mermaid and magically swaps bodies with a mischievous mermaid whose mission is to save the humpback whales, the teen has only 48 hours before her new tail is permanent and her legs are lost forever, only to discover she must find her true voice with the help of a humpback to switch back, or she's stuck as a mermaid for good.

INT. EIGHTH GRADE JAM - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

CHELSEA, a 13-year-old clad as Olivia Newton-John's transformed character from "Grease," sports periwinkle hair, yet trapped inside the body of LOLA, an ageless mermaid.

CHELSEA

I don't want to be a mermaid!

LOLA

We can't swap bodies now in front of everyone.

TEACHERS observe the lively dance floor as STUDENTS cheer and groove to the DJ's music in the background.

STUDENTS

Chelsea! Swish out! Swish out!

Chelsea stands toe-to-toe with LOLA, stuck within Chelsea's teenage frame. An awkward stare and then...

LOLA

It's time to dance. Follow my lead.

Lola pulls Chelsea to the center of the dance floor.

CHELSEA

Ew. I can't dance with myself.

LOLA

Shake your tail. Follow my lead.

SKY, 13-year old STEM genius and DJ, hits play on his laptop.

MUSIC CUE: "Swish Out," Lola's original pop dance track, fills the air.

Chelsea's MOM, chaperoning, notices the real Chelsea.

MOM

Sky? Who's that girl with Chelsea?
She looks strangely familiar.

SKY

Chelsea's weird cousin. Oops. I mean cousin.

On the dance floor, Students step to the beat -- Lola eyes Chelsea's GOLDEN NECKLACE, fearing the worst.

LOLA

I see you found my magic necklace?

CHELSEA
 Inside a killer whale.

LOLA
 Well, only a real mermaid could use
 my magic necklace to grow legs.

CHELSEA
 Really? Wow. Thanks for noticing --

LOLA
 Enjoy them. It's your last dance.

Stunned, Chelsea BUMPS hips with Lola. The CROWD CHEERS!

LOLA
 In 48 hours, your tail will grow
 back. If you're not in the ocean --

CHELSEA
 No. Wait. I'll die?

Lola leads a stunned Chelsea in the "Swish Out" dance.

LOLA
 Now shut up and dance before my
 mother gets suspicious.

CHELSEA
 What! My mom is here? Oh, no. I
 don't even know who I am anymore.
 She can't see me like this.

Chelsea loses her steps, falling behind Lola.

LOLA
 Hey! You're making me look bad!

CHELSEA
 You stole my family! And my life!

LOLA
 I'm saving the humpbacks. I have to
 change the boating and fishing
 laws. Stop the ocean pollution.

CHELSEA
 How will you ever affect real
 change? I did more as a mermaid
 than you'll ever do as a dumb kid.

Swishing her hips, Lola upstages Chelsea before the Crowd.

LOLA

It takes more time than I thought.

CHELSEA

And I'm running out of time. Give me back my body or I'm showing the world mermaids are real.

Lola collides into Chelsea, struggling for the NECKLACE.

LOLA

That necklace belongs to me! And mermaid law says you can't expose your own mer people.

Chelsea, empowered by her mermaid strength, breaks away.

CHELSEA

I can, you fake mermaid. I will.

LOLA

But they'll hunt you, put you in an aquarium, or stuff and hang you behind a glass wall in a museum.

The song ends. Applause! Chelsea notices her Mom approaching.

CHELSEA

You're the rat, Lola, not me.

Lola pleads.

LOLA

Okay. Meet me at the Fisherman's Wishing Well. At midnight.

Chelsea's eyes lock with her Mom's, who does a double take. She moves to hug her, then hesitates, hurrying away.

Mom strides toward Lola, worried.

MOM

(to Lola)

Chelsea, why does everyone think that strange girl is our cousin?