

MERMAIDS

Princess Gwenevere and Her Jewel Riders

Mermaid Episode - Further Revised Treatment

August 11, 1995 - by Linda Shayne

1. Wild Magic Presence

Earthquake - the girls and animals in Avalon feel a quake...
Sea gulls on an overseas flight spot a volcano and return to report it to Tamara.
That volcano has created an island... wild magic
The girls decide to venture in a boat to check it out -
(Note - in this episode Cleo is trying to prove herself to Tamara and maybe Tamara at the beginning of this episode feels a bit unnoticed or unspecial)

2. Boat Ride

River. Captain Crowley hoists the sails and we see the girls, Archie and the baby animals and the unicorns are aboard a boat. As they sail the old sea captain gives them the folklore about the mist - and he is the only one who will venture out past the uncharted waters past the mist. The river leads into the sea and...

3. Mist and Tsunami Extravaganza

Then they run into the mist and a tsunami at the same time - exciting, riveting scene of fighting the sea and breaking through the mist - Tamara takes a seasick Sam below and a frightened Spike below - Cleo stays up top... just as all is going well and the Captain assisted by Gwen and Fallon and Archie have maneuvered through the worst of it...

4. Cleo Overboard

Cleo in a show-off type move - falls overboard and disappears beneath the sea. Fallon goes after Cleo but to no avail. Fallon keeps coming up to the surface and Cleo does not.

5. Tamara to the Rescue

Tamara comes up top when she hears there is trouble. She dives in the water also. Tamara goes under and so does Fallon... Fallon is running out of breath and signals Tamara to the surface... Fallon surfaces Tamara does not. Tamara hears a musical sound and follows deeper - she spots a glimpse of Cleo - Tamara goes deeper -



6. - On the Surface

Fallon and Gwen are very worried... Tamara has not surfaced... It has been minutes... And a strange violent water spout emerges with a swift roar... more wild magic??

7. Underwater

Tamara struggles to go deeper after Cleo... she is struggling - out of breath... she holds out her heart stone... but it is not enough alone ... and then a sparkle surge created by a mer-creature fin wave... and magic unfolds over Tamara and she transforms into a Mermaid - she can breathe and now has fins and can speak underwater - she is shocked... and pleased - because now without effort she finds Cleo - who is magically a sea-unicorn and they speak...

8. The Mer-creature and Tamara the Mermaid

Then Tamara fleetingly meets the mer-creature - he is in the midst of the clam lands - the source of the music - the Mer-creature is Neptune - although he is a young man)- the moment is magical as Tamara and Neptune meet among the dancing kelp...

Tamara is fascinated with the Mer-creature and surprised to see her own mer-features... Neptune explains that most mer-creatures never venture to this region of the Oyster Sea - because of the dangerous Water Dragon... but the Mer-creatures have sent him - their prince to bring back a trunk load of oysters - to start a new pearl farm - as they are almost out of magic pearls - that keep the mer-creatures alive and well...

A water spurt explodes through the sea - he takes her by the hand - and Cleo holds her other hand... We must be careful he warns her because the Water Dragon who unleashes dangerous water spouts that like tornadoes can hurl you to your death.

9. On the Boat

Gwen and Fallon have been busy with lifelines and lifeboats etc. Captain Crowley and Archie search the water for any sign of Tamara...

10. Back Below the Water

As the water surges about - Neptune tells Tamara that Cleo and she must give up her mermaid features - back to him - or he will lose his mer-features and become a human Tamara asks what should she do - he says look into my eyes... Cleo does it first - and soon Cleo transforms into a feqular baby unicorn... then as Tamara does it... a turbulent water surge pulls them apart... they struggle to get back together - but the current pulls them in opposite directions and the mer-creature Neptune begins to transform into a human! He tries to swim toward her- but he is losing his breath...

Cleo is gasping... Tamara holds out her heart stone - and shields Cleo in a bubble of air temporarily... Tamara tries to hold her stone out to the flailing Neptune... but another water surge from the still hidden dragon and Neptune is flung high into the air - and flung up through the sea ... gasping for breath...

Tamara from a distance - holds up her heart stone trying to help - but the water surge loosens her hand - and her heart stone is flung up through the water - and lands on the...

11. QUICK CUT TO - Island

The heart stone flies onto the island - as Neptune is struggling with all his might to reach the shores. He is choking water...

12. Back Under Water

Because the heart stone is gone, Cleo's bubble pops and Tamara must save her - just as the Water Dragon rears its enormous monstrous head! They stare eye to eye. And the water dragon is about to come toward her...

END OF ACT ONE

13. Under Water

The Water Dragon comes for Tamara and Cleo - but Tamara with wit and a ride on a dolphin makes it to safety with Cleo... they get away and up to the surface...

14. On the Boat

Gwen and Fallon are anxious and then shocked when up pops Cleo (with a cough) and Tamara perfectly at ease in the water. The dolphin swims away... Fallon and Gwen lift Cleo up to the boat and then when Tamara is about to come aboard... they are shocked - she remains with fin - a mermaid!

15. The Island

The Mer-creature, now a human, emerges from the sea onto the island... Neptune is naive of the land... He explores and does a few funny things that end up in calamity... He calls out for Tamara for more reasons than one.

16. Boat

and it is!
 Neptune told me that the Oyster Sea and the Clam Lands are guarded by a powerful water dragon... (Tamara says) but that is where I must search for my heart stone. Gwen and Fallon will go ashore to the island of the volcano and search the area for the heart stone and the wizard jewel... so many strange phenomena -

But what about your legs - asks Gwen

We'll worry about that later ... First I need to find my heart stone - perhaps that will help me find Neptune (Tamara sits in a wooden barrel - keeping her fins wet...) She gets up from the barrel and dives into the sea...

17. Island

Neptune finds the heart stone - some magic moment - that maybe puts him in a tree or something peculiar

Below - the girls arrive - and he plops down... Gwen and Fallon meet Neptune... and then they realize who he is - and he learns that Tamara is underwater...

18. Underwater

Tamara below swims about ... a gray large creature follows her from a distance... a water dragon?... a shark?... Tamara plucks at kelp as if it were a harp ... and then the gray large creature gets close - it is the dolphin... through the clam lands, Tamara rides the dolphin (the syncopated beat of clam shutting)... and then because she communicates with them musically... then - revealed behind a parting school of fish is a glorious array of oysters... the music entices them to each spit out a beautiful white pearl... a musical number of ~~clams~~ oysters and they spit out each a white pearl - making her a necklace...

19. Water's Edge - the first stars

Tamara shows up and it is Neptune that greets her... as Gwen and Fallon are in the b.g. at a campfire. Neptune and Tamara are shy as she sits on a rock in the tide pools and speaks to him. She gives him the string of pearls to take back to his people. And he says he too has something for her - he gives her back her heart stone... tender moment... then Gwen and Fallon arrive and break up the moment...

Neptune and Tamara are ready to transform... they try - it doesn't work... the girls all hold out their jewels... it still doesn't work...

Then Neptune says it must have been the magic in the Clam Lands - legend has it for a thousand years that some jewel in the Oyster Sea is what gives all these pearls their special power... Owen decides it must be a wizard jewel.

Tamara says she will go to find the jewel as she has the fins. But Neptune and the girls decide they will all go - as the water dragon is too dangerous to deal with alone. Tamara concedes and says that as long as they are down there they will get Neptune his trunk of oysters to take back to his people...

Archie interrupts - and warns that the clouds are passing over a certain constellation in a way that indicates a storm at noon... so they better plan their quest at sunrise... and depart right ~~after~~
after lunch.

They agree - touching goodnight moment between Tamara and Neptune

20. Sunrise

The girls use their jewels to make protective bubbles... and they Tamara, Neptune and the unicorns go below the water. Cleo demands to go too.

21. Underwater

They make their way safely and carefully to the clam lands to find the oysters... Cleo carefully is loading up a trunk load of oysters as the others circle round for the transformation...

Tamara and Neptune look into each other's eyes - and slowly he transforms into a mer-creature... and Tamara into a human - she makes an air bubble & is separated from Neptune.

Just then Cleo discovers the wizard jewel (or black pearl) and holds it up and it transforms all the girls into mermaids and all the unicorns into sea-unicorns!

Chaos and joy and then they all play around with their new found fins... and then the Water Dragon ROARS and he is followed by an army of strange gulper eel (some up to 5 feet long - see today's Time magazine page 57 and a school of evil looking one foot long, beg teethed angler fish (see today's cover of Time magazine) {or other fish equally as monstrous looking)

The Water Dragon and the monstrous fish the launch their attack and as the sun is rising higher and higher the sea storm begins...

Quick Cut to Boat and Crowley and Archie fighting the rocking waves... and looking for the girls...



Back Underwater...

The action sequence continues - combat - all the girls still transformed into mermaids, the unicorns into sea unicorns and fight it out with Water Dragon spitting violent water spurts and the fish nipping at them and doing all sorts of scary things...

And then the precious black pearl - is pulled out of Cleo's grip... it is tossed around like a football... from fish to girl to Neptune and right before Tamara receives it - it is tossed away by the terrifying water dragon and it spits out dangerous water spouts - Tamara dodges away...

But with the Pearl in the grips of the Water Dragon all the girls including Tamara revert back from mermaids and they precariously battle the rough water spouts, using their own stones to make momentary safety bubbles as they battle the water dragon and monstrous fish...

Neptune is now more determined than ever... He whirls the necklace of pearls that Tamara had given him and magically his scepter appears and he goes after the Water Dragon...

Tamara communicates to the fish and strangely and abruptly they no longer go after the girls but they too go after the Water Dragon - it retreats... but still holds onto the wizard jewel...

22. Post Battle

At the end of the battle - on board the boat - The Captain hoists sails and welcomes Gwen and Fallon and even the unicorns back on board... we better hurry.. the sea is stirring up... He asks if they got what they wanted...

Gwen answers no - but sometimes that is okay - they got to help someone else get what they wanted.... they look below

23. In The Water

Neptune and Tamara in the water... He thanks her for helping him get his trunk load of oysters the mer-creatures will truly be grateful... he is sorry he couldn't get the jewel for her and the girls... Tamara wisely says.. it seems the jewel is what gives the oysters and the pearls a special magic... and perhaps it is best that the water dragon protect it and keep the oyster land a refuge and always a place where if the mer-creatures have more need for more oysters - they will always be magical...

A moment - Neptune and Tamara say goodbye- He says I will feel connected to you as we changed lives - you to the sea - me to the land... He says prophetically - I think it will forever change us both... he swims away...

She climbs up the ladder with her legs to the boat...

MERMAIDS VERSION 2

The Oyster Lands: a magical place of crystalline oysters and sea horses, where the mer-people's magic pearls originate, guarded by a dreaded sea serpent. Once every (?) years, a mer-person must brave the Oyster Lands to get more seed pearls for their own harvestlands.

A thousand years ago, a wizard jewel landed here, turning everything magical and crystalline. Problem is, it also turned to crystal the egg of the sea serpent who lived here, and the poor mother has been sitting on it and fiercely defending it against all intruders all this time, not understanding why the thing doesn't hatch.

It is time to come get more seed pearls, and the current prince, who has come to do it has an idea: Get the legendary magic Mother of Pearls, so that no one has to come back to the Oyster Lands again. But now that he's seen the sleeping sea serpent, he's scared. So when he's saved Tamara's life and turned her into a mermaid, he gets crafty and decides to use the situation to his advantage. Up on shore of a gorgeous tropical island, he tells her he can only switch them back (make her human again and him mer again) if she completes his quest to get the Mother of Pearls: his people are depending on him, and now that he's made it impossible for himself to complete the quest by saving T's life, she must do it for him! He tells her the magic jewel is believed to be protected by the sea serpent.

Tamara, falling for the whole story, turns and dives underwater. She locates the sea serpent sleeping on a giant oyster shell. It opens one eye when she swims over, but she begins to sing a lullaby, heart stone glowing, and

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it goes back to sleep. She pokes around and finds the egg, NOT the wizard jewel (which is the Mother of Pearls), and thinks it's the Mother of Pearls. She hefts it up and swims for shore, where she gives it to the boy. He is pissed off. THAT'S not the Mother of Pearls! But he has no idea what it really is...and then the angry sea serpent rises from the water and grabs Tamara, dragging her under and sending her heart stone spinning up into the air and down into the water with a splash...

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Horrified by what he's caused, the boy calls for Tamara. Nothing happens. He sees the ship and waves and yells, calling for help. Gwen and Fallon see him and have the captain bring the ship in closer.

Under the sea, Tamara the mermaid is trapped in some kind of cage. She begs a sea horse to help her, and he says No way, no one messes with the sea serpent. Doesn't she know what she's done? he says. She's stolen the sea serpent's egg! Now she's in big trouble. Tamara convinces the sea horse to find her heart stone for her.

Back on the island, Gwen and Fallon get the story out of the prince. Furious, they tell him to stay there and watch that jewel...whatever it is...while they try to go help Tamara. They and their unicorns dive under the water, using their jewels to create air bubbles around them. But the air bubbles are only temporary, and they must keep coming up for air. They come upon the sea horses and ask for help finding their friend. The sea horses give each of them a pearl necklace which turns them into mermaids. *mermaid magic*

Under the sea, the sea horse timidly brings Tamara her heart stone. She thanks him, and uses it to free herself. But as she swims for the surface, the sea serpent attacks again. She holds it off with her heart stone, attempting to communicate with it...but it is too angry and won't hear her.

Up on land, the egg begins to hatch...and out comes a baby sea serpent. It begins to follow the boy around (I guess it's amphibious!), saying Mama, Mama.

Gwen and Fallon find Tamara and join in the fight against the sea serpent and succeed in escaping. They swim back up to shore to find the boy and the baby serpent. Gwen and Fallon easily turn back to human, but Tamara is still a mermaid. They try to use their jewels to switch Tamara and the boy back to their natural forms, but it doesn't work.

The sea serpent rises out of the water again, but this time the boy steps in bravely. He carries the baby and offers it back to its mother, asking her to please not hurt his friends. He acts very kingly doing this.

...the girls get the wizard jewel (either the sea horses get it for them, or the grateful sea serpent gives it to them). The girls give the boy their necklaces for seed pearls, and he, in turn, uses them

to sparkle some mer-people magic on them, a gift that will allow them to morph into mermaids whenever they want to. They part friends, and the sea serpent goes off with its baby, ceding the magic Oyster Lands to the mer-people.