

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**

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**MUSICAL THEATER
SONGWRITING CHALLENGE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING.
Collaborators are Disney Theatrical Productions and
Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals company.

Lyrics for *Queen*

By Tessa Barcelo

2019 Musical Theater Songwriting
Challenge Winner

Queen Iana

Veida, do you not get it? You must learn to control your storytelling powers and face the pirates. You invented them, so you can eradicate them!

Veida

Your Majesty, all due respect, but I don't think *you* get it. I *can't* control my powers. I mess up everything that I get involved with. (*To herself*) You wouldn't understand.

Queen Iana

I think I do.

They tell my story through all the seven seas
But there is another part known only to the ocean breeze.

It all began when I was 22,
And I realized a tyrant ruled the ocean blue.
I uncovered all his plots and dethroned him for all his schemes.
There I saw my opening and offered myself as queen.

But I was told I couldn't. I was told, "You can't."
"You are a mermaid and you've gotta be a merman."
I started wond'ring "Am I strong enough?"
Didn't know if I could be tough,
But I proved I had the stuff that you've gotta be made of,
To be a queen.

Mermaids

Queen!

Queen Iana

Of the mermaid scene

Mermaids

Scene!

Queen Iana

And every sea in between, I rose up to my power.

And just look at where I am now.

Do your thing.

Mermaids

Thing!

Queen Iana

And just stop listening,

Mermaids

Listening!

Queen Iana

To the voices telling you,

You cannot be anything.

Yes, you can because you are a queen.

Mermaid 1

Now that Iana is queen, our kingdom is so much better.

Mermaid 2

Yeah! We've got better fincare, affordable clam shells...

Mermaid 3

And equal pay for mermaids and mermen alike!

Mermaid 4

All it took was for her to step up and accept the challenge.

Mermaid 5

So that's what you have to do!

Veida

It's not that I don't want to help you. It's just—
Look Girls, I'm sorry, but I'm not whatever you think I can be.
I am the biggest wreck to ever hit the sea.

I couldn't get anything right at home.
What make it any different here?
I'll destroy everything I touch if I interfere.

Don't tell me that I'm strong enough.
Don't tell me to be tough.
If there one thing I'm sure of it's that we're made of different stuff.

I'm not a queen.
I'm way out of my scene
I'm not trying to be mean but I don't think you get it
It's not as simple as just fixing it.

Doing my thing is surely going to bring
Utter chaos.
I know you don't want me to go.
But my response is, thanks, but no.

Queen Iana

Veida. If you weren't special, this kingdom wouldn't be here.
I'm only going to say this once, so I hope to the stars you hear.

Now I have faith.
I know there's nothing you can't achieve.
Now all you have to do is believe.

Mermaids

Believe, believe, believe.

Veida

Can I believe?

Queen Iana

So be a queen!

Mermaids and Veida

Queen!

Queen Iana

Of the hero scene

Mermaids and Veida

Scene!

Queen Iana

And everything in between.

You'll rise up to your power and save us in our final hour.

Do your thing.

Mermaids and Veida

Thing!

Queen Iana

And just stop listening.

Mermaids and Veida

Listening!

Queen Iana

To the voices telling you,

You cannot be anything.

Yes, you can because you are a queen.

(Veida begins to use her storytelling powers to transport herself to the pirate ship. a glittery, rainbow-colored whirlpool forms around her.)

Queen Iana

Of the hero scene,
And everything in between.
You'll rise up to your power,
And save us in our final hour,

Do your thing and just stop listening
To the voices telling you.
You cannot be anything.
Yes, you can because you are a queen.

All

Queen!

Mermaids

You are strong, you are bold.
Let your stories unfold.
You've got it right, put up a fight.

You're a queen, do your thing.
Lift up your hands and sing.
We know you're strong.
Where you belong.