

## 19. Purse Party

(Girl)

1 This is getting ridiculous! It's bad enough getting invited  
2 to a gazillion people's birthdays every year and having to  
3 buy them presents, but now I'm expected to go to my  
4 friends' houses and buy things *from them*? This kind of  
5 thing is for old ladies or people with money! Where am I  
6 supposed to get the cash to buy a forty-dollar — or more —  
7 purse? And don't forget the matching wallet! I won't be able  
8 to leave without getting one of those!

9 Next my friends will be inviting me to buy dishes, or  
10 makeup, or jewelry. Just so *they* can get free stuff and I can  
11 be broke! I don't even get an allowance. But if I did, I still  
12 wouldn't be buying stuff like that! That's what my parents  
13 are for! *My* money is for fun stuff like candy, and CDs, and  
14 things that I want!

15 I know what's going to happen, though. I'm going to go  
16 — it's not like I have a choice, she's my *best* friend! — and  
17 I'll feel all guilty and order something. Something I cannot  
18 afford. And then I'll have to do all these extra chores around  
19 the house to earn money, just to buy a stupid purse that I  
20 didn't *want* or *need* in the first place!

21 This so stinks! Who cares about fake designer purses  
22 anyway? The ones I've seen look like something my  
23 grandma would carry! And even if I do see a cute one, I'd  
24 rather buy it at the store with my mom's money where it'll  
25 probably be half the price.

26 Well, I'm just going to have to find a way out. Get sick.  
27 Say my cat ran away. Too much homework. Something.  
28 Anything! I will not cave in to the purse frenzy that has  
29 taken over my school!

## 7. Envious Mermaid

(Girl)

1 These flippin' fins are getting on my nerves! Oh sure,  
2 they're great for swimming, but other than that, what good  
3 are they?

4 I see the people on the beach. The way their legs are  
5 stretched out, soaking up the sun. Nice and dry. Not all  
6 water-wrinkly like me! I haven't been totally dry a day in my  
7 entire life! How I would love to feel the sand beneath my  
8 toes. Feel the crunch of broken seashells beneath my feet.  
9 But what do I get? Water, water, and more water! Quite  
10 frankly, I think I'm getting seasick!

11 I mean, look at me: part fish, part girl. Who ever heard  
12 of such a thing? It's like I don't belong in either world! What  
13 kind of life is that? Never feeling like you belong? I just want  
14 to live a normal life — on land — like everyone else!

15 (*Pauses and becomes more melancholy.*) Of course, I would  
16 miss it ... the sea. Riding the crest of a wave. Swimming  
17 alongside a school of dolphins. Discovering hidden caves  
18 and sunken ships.

19 And my family, I'm pretty sure *they've* never dreamt of  
20 living on the land. They're perfectly happy being half and  
21 half. I'd never see them again. That'd be hard. I'd really miss  
22 my sisters ... well, most of them anyway.

23 Oh, the land seems so inviting. So different ...  
24 If only I could feel the sand between my toes!