One day Nicole was bored, so she decided to watch a movie. It was about a mermaid, and when it was done she wanted to pretend she was a mermaid. There was one problem though - she didn’t have a tail. She looked in her closet but her mermaid costume was too small. So she went to her mom’s closet and found a pair of silk dress pants.

She took them out and wriggled both legs into one pant leg. Now all she had to do was get to the bathtub down the hall. She figured she would just have to hop there, and started out. She didn’t get very far though - in her doorway the pants caught on her toy horse and she fell hard and couldn’t even get UP!

It felt like hours later (but was probably more like 30 seconds) when she finally managed to get up and hop the rest of the way to the bathroom. When she got there she filled the tub with some difficulty and fell/climbed in. It was perfect! With her hair and the pants waving in the water she really felt like a mermaid! She let in more and more and more and more water until she started to realize that water was pouring out the sides of the tub. She barely had time to think “uh-oh,” before her mom ran in and yelled, “what are you doing? It’s RAINING in the office downstairs!”

“Sorry,” she said quietly.

“And- are those my good silk pants?”

“I’m a mermaid!”

Just then her sister Becca walked in and immediately yelped, “WHAT HAPPENED IN HERE?”

“Your sister wants to be a mermaid. Also if you could, it would be helpful if you could ask Mr. Hensley next door if he has any five gallon buckets.”

“sure, but...”

“Don’t even ask,” Mom sighed.

Nicole started to cry. Why did she NEVER get to do what she wanted?