

# FEAR OF A BLACK MERMAID

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Noveliss

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**INTRODUCTION:** Noveliss's track 'Fear of a Black Mermaid' was released on his *Vagabond* EP in November 2022, responding to a social media furore about the casting of Black performer Halle Bailey as the lead in Disney's live action remake of its 1989 film *The Little Mermaid*. A self-produced music video for the song was also released in January 2023. The lyrics, music track and music video are reproduced in *Shima* as significant contributions to debates around racism, racial stereotypes and popular culture triggered by the film.

Audio track link: <<https://noveliss.bandcamp.com/album/vagabond>>

Video link: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChIAtfuinHI&t=2s>>

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Think only about your art

The damage is thorough  
They tell us that we don't exist in a fantasy world  
Little Black boys  
And Black girls  
They tell us that we don't exist in a fantasy world

Everyday is Earthday  
And people choose to live in fear of a Black Mermaid

Only show the glow son  
If he claiming to be the Shogun  
Floss the Ring of Power  
Each hour  
From here to Rohan  
Wish you well  
Although a different tale  
Would say simple males  
Tell you there's no Black elves in Rivendell  
Racism dwells  
Behind the keyboards of triggered incels  
The ammunition for Christians  
Weaponising religion  
In the worst way  
Fear our son's dating their daughters  
And Black Mermaids

Noveliss: Fear of a Black Mermaid

Hate her braids  
Black birthdays  
Swimming through the middle passage  
Sinking slave ships, drowning captains  
Turn into a Syren on our capturers  
I'll shine the light through the aperture  
Revenge could be the rapture  
But never stray from the path  
Switch up your patterns  
With a style off kilter  
A silent killer  
All stealth mode as *Syphon Filter*  
With the mic  
A healer  
But pillage a cipher  
Slide through  
Like Europeans  
Deep in a native village  
And we still need a place for healing

Everyday is Earthday  
And people choose to live in fear of a Black Mermaid

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Little Black boys  
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Everyday is Earthday  
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