

INT. CARL'S ROOM - NIGHT (1930's)

CARL FREDRICKSEN, around eight years old, lies in bed, reading a book with a flashlight in the dark. His arm is in a CAST.

Into the room floats a BALLOON. Carl leaps up.

ELLIE MASON, also around eight, pops up from an open window.

ELLIE

Hey kid!

Carl SCREAMS, hitting himself in the face with his cast.

Ellie climbs through the window, holding an ALBUM.

ELLIE

Thought you might need a little  
cheering up. I got something to show  
ya.

Carl and Ellie hunker under a blanket "tent" with the flashlight. Ellie whispers, as if to protect a National Secret.

ELLIE

I am about to let you see something I  
have never shown to another human  
being. Ever.

Carl's eyes widen in alarm.

ELLIE

You'll have to swear you will not  
tell anyone.

Carl nods.

ELLIE

Cross your heart. Do it.

Carl crosses. Ellie unveils.

ELLIE

My Adventure Book.

It's a reused photo album with the words: MY ADVENTURE BOOK scribbled across it. She opens to a photo of Charles Muntz.

ELLIE

You know him?

Carl smiles excitedly.

ELLIE

When I get big, I'm going where he's going. South America.

She turns the page to a map.

ELLIE

It's like America. But south. Wanna know where I'm gonna live?

She turns to an engraving of a large waterfall. A small hand-drawn picture of Ellie's clubhouse is glued to the top. She reads an inscription.

ELLIE

Paradise Falls, a land lost in time. I ripped this right out of a library book.

Carl GASPS in horror.

ELLIE

I'm gonna move my clubhouse there and park it right next to the falls. Who knows what lives up there? And once I get there -

She flips through her book, revealing a page marked: STUFF I'M GOING TO DO. Past that, the pages are blank.

ELLIE

I'm saving these pages for all the adventures I'm gonna have.

ELLIE

Only, I just don't know how I'm gonna get to Paradise Falls.

Ellie closes the book, disappointed.

Carl has a thought. He looks at his toy dirigible.

ELLIE

That's it. You can take us there in a blimp. Swear you'll take us. Cross your heart. Cross it!

Carl does.

ELLIE

You promised. No backing out.

Carl shakes his head, no.

ELLIE

See you tomorrow kid.

Ellie hops up and jumps out the window.

ELLIE (O.S.)

Adventure is out there.

She pops back in.

ELLIE

You know, you don't talk very much. I like you.

Ellie retreats in a flash. Carl looks out the window after her in amazement. He rests his head on the balloon.

CARL

Wow.

The balloon pops.

CUT TO: