

# MODERN CLASSICS

People stared as Carl's house floated above the city. Inside, Carl looked at his map and compass, and then released a pair of fabric sails out of the windows. As he steered, the weathervane on the roof of his house pointed south – to Paradise Falls.

"We're on our way, Ellie," Carl said. He kissed the picture of Ellie hanging on the wall and then gave the strings holding the balloons to the grate a twang. Carl settled in his chair for a nap, when he heard a knock at the door. He opened the door to find Russell, the Wilderness Explorer, clinging to the side of his house.



"What are you doing out here, kid?" Carl yelled.

Russell told Carl that he had followed the snipe, which looked a lot like a mouse, under Carl's porch. Suddenly a gust of wind blew a flag off Russell's jacket.

"Please let me in," Russell pleaded as he watched it fall.

Carl said no and slammed the door, leaving Russell alone and scared. But as grumpy as Carl was, he was not cruel. After a moment's thought, he

opened the door and Russell rushed inside. When Russell calmed down, he dropped his backpack and began to explore Carl and Ellie's house.



Carl's house is a silent actor and needed to be emotionally moving as well as to physically move. DOMINIQUE LOUIS / PASTEL

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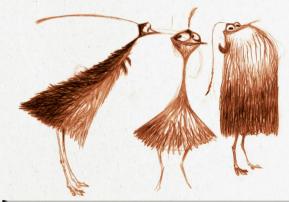


Russell confessed that he had never put up a tent before. In fact, he'd never even camped outside before.

"Why didn't you ask your dad how to build a tent?" Carl asked. Russell said that he didn't think his dad wanted to talk about that sort of stuff. Russell revealed that he didn't see his father much because he was away a lot and that when he tried to call, Phyllis told him he bothered him too much.

"You call your own mother by her first name?" Carl asked. Russell replied that Phyllis wasn't his mother. "Oh," Carl said, looking into the fire.

"But he promised he'd come to my Explorer ceremony to pin on my 'Assisting the Elderly' badge," Russell said. "So he can show me about tents then, right?"



Kevin is very unpredictable, in the same way that real cranes and storks behave. DANIEL LÓPEZ MUÑOZ / DIGITAL





































Before Russell went to sleep, he told Carl that Dug wanted to take Kevin prisoner. Russell said they needed to protect Kevin. Russell asked Carl to promise they wouldn't leave Kevin behind.

"Cross your heart?" Russell asked.

"Cross my heart." Carl agreed.

When Carl woke he saw the balloons were starting to sag.

"We'd better get moving," Carl said, but Kevin was nowhere to be seen. Russell told Dug to find him. Dug sniffed the ground and pointed to where he thought he'd gone, but then Russell saw that Kevin was on the roof, making a pile of Carl's food. Carl told him to get down. Kevin squawked and Dug told them she was calling to her babies.

"Kevin is a girl?" Russell said. Kevin called out again.

Dug said Kevin had been gathering food for her babies and needed to get back to them.

"Wait. Kevin's just leaving?" Russell asked as Kevin nuzzled him goodbye.

Russell needs to earn his 'Assisting the Elderly' badge to achieve the rank of Senior Wilderness Explorer, PAUL CONRAD / DIGITAL



Kevin doesn't speak but has a very important part in the film. She always looks with just one eve, often appearing one-dimensional. DANIEL LÓPEZ MUÑOZ / DIGITAL

Kevin was badly injured. Once on the other side of the ravine. Russell treated her with his first-aid kit, but blood seeped through the bandage.

"Can't we help her get home?" Russell asked

Carl said they could, but they had to hurry.

In Muntz's cave, the riverdrenched dogs told their boss of Dug's betrayal.

Muntz was angry, but then he realised that if Dug was with them, he could track them using Dug's collar.

As night fell, Dug sniffed the air and told Carl that they weren't being followed. Carl lamented the fact that his childhood hero was trying to kill them.

Kevin lay on the porch as Carl and Russell towed the house. Russell called up to check that she was okay, but Kevin was too weak to answer.

Russell told Carl that the wilderness was wilder than he expected it to be from his manual

"My dad made it sound so easy." Russell said his father was a great camper and used to come to all his Explorer meetings. Afterwards they would get ice cream and sit on the kerb counting differently coloured cars.

"That might sound boring," Russell said, "but I think the boring stuff is the stuff I remember the most." Carl knew just what he meant.

In the distance, the baby birds called for their mother, and Kevin lifted her head to answer.

"There it is!" Russell cried. seeing the entrance to the labyrinth that Muntz had described

Carl secured the house to a tree as Russell helped Kevin get down from the porch. Invigorated by being so close to home, Kevin ran towards the labyrinth.

Muntz has invented collars that translate his dog's thoughts into speech. DANIEL LÓPEZ MUÑOZ / DIGITAL



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Muntz was trying to locate Carl and the bird when the house floated by. Russell's face squeaked as he was dragged across the glass of the cockpit.

"Grey leader, take down the house," Muntz shouted into the radio.

Three biplanes, piloted by dogs, zoomed out of the airship headed for the house.

"Target sighted," Beta said, and fired poison darts at Russell.





The writing team were mindful to keep the dogs in check so they brought enough humour to the film, but didn't appear too silly. NAT MCLAUGHLIN / DIGITAL





The dog pack follow Muntz's every order, from serving dinner to more nefarious activities. JOSH COOLEY / DIGITAL

Carl led Kevin and Dug through the airship as Muntz hid behind a door to his museum with a sword. When they entered, Muntz raised his sword to strike, but Dug bit him hard on the leg. Muntz kicked Dug out of the door.

Dug scratched to get back inside, but saw that the hallway was filled with dogs. Dug ran.

Carl met Muntz's sword with his cane. Muntz swung and buried his sword in the bone of a skeleton. As Muntz tried to wrench it free, Carl hit him over the head, but the cane bounced and hit him too. Both men groaned.

"Any last words, Fredricksen?" Muntz snarled, his sword at Carl's throat. "Come on, spit it out."

Carl spat his false teeth hard into the explorer's face. Muntz fell to the ground. Carl picked up his teeth and ran. Muntz swung wildly with his sword and said he was taking the bird back with him, dead or alive.

In the cockpit, cornered by Muntz's hounds, Dug backed into a lever. The airship lurched, sending Muntz and Carl tumbling off their feet. Carl fell against a window and saw that Russell was in danger.