UP – Alternative film clip - model writing

Married Life Carl and Ellie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G371JiLJ7A>

As I sit here on the front step, with my heart breaking, I know I should have done things differently. I guess with retrospect it’s easy to see your mistakes! But if I could go back and change things I would.

My life only really started when I met Ellie. She was the love of my life. Before I met her I was happy enough, but the moment I saw her in that old derelict house, I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. She was a excitable and talkative, even as a child. She knew what she wanted to do and where she wanted to go. Her enthusiasm was infectious; I loved spending time with her. I never really knew what she saw in me, I was just an ordinary and rather dull person and certainly not interesting and colourful as her. Yet Ellie who was the most beautiful and special girl in the world, chose to spend her time with me!

When we first met we were just kids, kids who shared a dream to travel and have exciting adventures. Ellie made me promise that I would take her to Paradise Falls in South America, but sadly it was a promise I never kept.

We got married in 1945, we were only eighteen, but we had already known each other for 10 years (childhood sweethearts). Only a few of our closest friends and family attended the church, we didn’t want a big fancy wedding. My heart was bursting with pride when she said ‘I do’. Sadly we couldn’t afford a honeymoon, as the little money we had was used buying the old abandoned house we met in. We named the house ‘The Spirit of Adventure,’ and she was all ours. It took a lot of hard work to make her a home but this made it even more special to us.

My big dream and ambition was to be an adventurer who travelled the world in a hot air balloon, but in reality was I sold balloons at the Zoo, however I still clung onto my dreams. Ellie worked at the Zoo too, she worked with the many colourful parrots in the South American enclosure. Neither of us earnt much money, but we managed to get by.

Ellie was like a ray of sunshine, always positive and it rubbed off onto me. The only time I ever saw her truly unhappy was when the doctor told her we could not have children. She just sat in the garden, still as a statue, whilst tears rolled down her face. I didn’t know what to say or do to make things better, so I fetched her Adventure Book that she started as a child and we made a special jar in which to save our pennies so that we could follow her dream and travel to Paradise Falls. We were determined this was one dream that no one was going to take away from us.

The trouble was, despite our good intentions, life got in the way. When something went wrong we always had to break open our savings jar and as the coins tumbled out, somehow our dream slipped further away. First a tyre burst on the car and then I broke my leg and couldn’t work and so it went on.........

Suddenly one day it hit me, I was watching Ellie and I realised our lives were passing us by, we were not getting any younger. I didn’t really have the money to buy the tickets but I was determined that Ellie and I were finally going to make it to Paradise Falls, so I walked straight into the travel agents and I finally bought those two plane tickets to Venezuela. It was our 60th Wedding Anniversary, with my heart in my mouth, I hid them in a picnic basket. Then we set off up the hill to our favourite spot under the tree to celebrate in the spot where we had spent many wonderful afternoons watching the clouds and planning adventures together. I could not wait to see her face when she found those tickets.

But Ellie never made it up the hill; I know now I left it too late. Ellie’s heart wasn’t strong enough and we never got to have our celebration picnic together. She collapsed and was rushed to hospital. Within a few hours the love of my life slipped away, taking my heart with her. My biggest regret will always be that I did not keep my promise.

So if you are reading this make sure you learn from the mistakes of an old fool. Do not keep putting off your dream till tomorrow, as life moves along quickly and your dream can slip away, like a balloon escaping into the vast sky.