

SALLY AND THE MAGIC RIVER

Screenplay by

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Based on the book by

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April 12, 2019

EXT. SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY - DAY

A slow-moving river weaves its way around the dew-covered hills.

Two Cooper's hawks soar overhead, casting their shadow over the lush valley.

A citrus ranch sits in the far distance. Two horseback riders trot through the valley.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Atop the first horse is SALLY (10), wearing overalls and a red-checkered shirt. Her smile and energy are contagious.

The horse picks up speed and Sally bounces up and down, her auburn pigtails flopping in rhythm with the horse.

Sally's horse breaks into a gallop across the open field, much to the delight of this ten-year-old.

SALLY

It's like I'm flying, Grandpa!

SALLY'S GRANDFATHER chuckles and nudges his horse to keep up with his granddaughter.

EXT. VALLEY - STREAM - DAY

Sally rides with wild abandon -- graceful yet free.

Sally's horse, having exhausted itself, slows its pace and saunters toward the stream.

Sally's bright green eyes fall on the stream. Her smile fades when she realizes the horse's intended destination.

SALLY

No, this way.

Sally pulls the reins, trying to guide the horse away from the water, but the horse is having none of it.

SALLY (CONT'D)

There's water back at the ranch.

GRANDFATHER

They need a break. Let them be.

Sally's look is pleading, but her grandfather shakes his head.

SALLY

Fine.

Sally dismounts and steps backward. Both horses lean down and drink from the flowing water.

Sally, almost mesmerized, stares at the water. The lapping sounds grow in intensity...

CUT TO:

EXT. CITRUS RANCH - DAY (FLASHBACK - 8 YEARS AGO)

*The color of the scene is muted and has a vintage film reel feel to it.*

SALLY, age 2 and wearing a similar checkered shirt and little overalls, waddles around while her PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS set up a picnic nearby.

Sally, with her inquisitive eyes, takes in everything about the idyllic scene:

-A squirrel and rabbit playfully chasing each other

-Perched on a hill, a coyote surveying the land as if protecting everyone

-Majestic black ravens flying in different formations and creating abstract designs in the sky

All of this intrigues Sally, but one animal holds her attention: the large goose sunning itself in the field.

The sunlight reflects off its bright white feathers, making it appear angelic.

Intrigued, Sally waddles toward it.

The goose, in turn, waddles toward the lake where the other geese are already swimming.

Her parents and grandparents have their backs turned and don't see Sally heading toward the lake.

Sally giggles as her foot enters the water. She takes a few more steps, following the goose who is now swimming around.

She takes her next step but can't find firm ground to land her foot -- and SLIPS UNDERWATER.

She thrashes around, confused and scared.

Time slows down.

Her hands and legs move in slow motion.

The blue shimmering water around her turns dark and wild.

She looks up at the surface of the water -- the bright sun beats down like a spotlight.

A shadow falls over her.

VOICE

It's going to be okay.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. CITRUS RANCH - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT DAY)

Sally opens her eyes and shakes off the memory.

GRANDFATHER

See, it's not that deep.

Her grandfather tests the depth of the stream with a long stick.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

If you use one of these, you'll always be safe.

SALLY

I'm fine here.

GRANDFATHER

I know it felt like you were underwater for a long time, but it was only a few seconds.

SALLY

We should get back to the house before Grandma gets worried.

GRANDFATHER

You don't want to go to the old barn?

SALLY

I don't want to worry Grandma.

GRANDFATHER

That's very thoughtful of you. Should we at least eat the lunch that Grandma packed for us?

SALLY  
I'm not hungry.

GRANDFATHER  
Not even for some peanut butter and  
mayonnaise sandwiches?

Sally considers it for a moment -- it is her favorite kind of sandwich -- but shakes her head.

SALLY  
No.

GRANDFATHER  
Okay.

Her grandfather leads Sally's horse away from the stream and over to Sally.

Sally offers up a small smile as a thank you.

As she mounts the horse, she slips and lands on her elbow.

SALLY  
Ow!

GRANDFATHER  
Are you okay?

Sally rubs her elbow. She holds it up for her grandfather to examine. It's already starting to bruise.

SALLY  
Is it bad?

It is, but her grandfather doesn't want to add to her worry.

GRANDFATHER  
Nothing that Grandma can't fix.

He helps her into the saddle and they ride toward his citrus ranch.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Sally's grandfather leads the horses toward the barn while Sally heads toward the house.

GRANDFATHER  
Wait. Take this.

He hands her their lunch satchel.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Sally's GRANDMOTHER pulls an apple pie out of the oven.

GRANDMOTHER  
You're back early.

Sally holds up her elbow.

SALLY  
I fell.

GRANDMOTHER  
Ah.

Her grandmother opens a cupboard filled with various pain relievers and bandages.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)  
Close your eyes.

Sally does, but then peeks a little.

Her grandmother reaches into the way back of the cabinet and pulls out a small round tin.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)  
I see you peeking.

SALLY  
I swear, I wasn't. Okay, just a little.

GRANDMOTHER  
Now that you know where I keep it, I have to know if you'll be able to keep it a secret.

SALLY  
I promise.

GRANDMOTHER  
Not just about where this is stored, but you can't tell anyone else about what's inside.

SALLY  
What's inside?

GRANDMOTHER  
I can't tell you until you promise.

SALLY  
I promise to keep it a secret.

GRANDMOTHER  
The contents of this tin have been  
passed down for generations.

SALLY  
But we can't tell anyone?

GRANDMOTHER  
No.

SALLY  
Why?

GRANDMOTHER  
Because it's magic.

SALLY  
There's magic in there?

Her grandmother nods solemnly.

GRANDMOTHER  
What's inside here is able to cure  
whatever ails you.

SALLY  
Ails...?

GRANDMOTHER  
Ails means hurt or trouble.

SALLY  
Like my elbow.

Sally touches it and winces.

GRANDMOTHER  
Remember, it's magic, so it might  
tingle a little. That means it's  
working.

SALLY  
Okay.

Sally readies herself for the grand unveiling.

Her grandmother opens the tin with great flourish.

Sally looks at it, confused, unimpressed. It's just a white  
cream.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
It doesn't look like magic.

GRANDMOTHER

You can't see magic, you have to feel it. Ready?

SALLY

Yes.

Sally holds out her arm.

Her grandmother rubs a small dot of the ointment over the bruise.

A look of surprise grows on Sally's face.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I can feel it working. I can feel the magic.

INT. GRANDFATHER'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Sally's grandfather applies a coat of stain to his latest project.

Inside the converted barn, handmade mahogany and ash canoes hang on the walls, from ones meant to be used for a leisurely float on a lake to sleek, long, almost kayak-looking canoes for racing.

The work tables are covered in tools of the trade. One table is shrouded with a cloth tarp.

Sally, as usual, rings the old-fashioned bell just inside the door announcing her arrival.

GRANDFATHER

How's the elbow?

SALLY

All fixed.

GRANDFATHER

Already? Oh, did she use the--

SALLY

Shhhhh. It's a secret.

GRANDFATHER

Right, right.

Her grandfather nods conspiratorially.



SALLY

Grandma said you have something for me. Is it a birdhouse?

GRANDFATHER

Nope, it's better. Well, I think it's better.

SALLY

Two birdhouses?

GRANDFATHER

I built one for your mother when she was your age and she traveled the world competing. I wanted to do the same for you.

Sally has a dubious look on her face.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

I know you're not the same person, but I think you are just as adventurous and courageous as her, and I know one day you will conquer the water.

He removes the tarp: underneath is a beautiful C1 racing canoe with a big red bow. The light reflects off the shiny deep brown coloring.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Whenever you're ready, it will be here.

Sally smiles warmly.

SALLY

It's your best one yet. Can we put it up there for now?

She points to an empty space on the wall.

GRANDFATHER

Of course.

EXT. CANEJO VALLEY LIQUOR STORE - DAY

The sign in the window reads "Closed."

A beat-up Hyundai Elantra sedan pulls into the parking lot and slowly drives around to the rear of the building.

EXT. CANEJO VALLEY LIQUOR STORE - BACK ALLEY - DAY

The DRIVER and his SIDEKICK spring from the car, leaving the ignition on and the doors open.

The driver pries open the electrical box and cuts a wire.

The light on the keypad changes from red to green.

SIDEKICK

Are we good?

DRIVER

Better than good. We're gonna be rich.

The men open the door and scurry inside.

INT. CANEJO VALLEY LIQUOR STORE - DAY

The robbers open the manager's door and head toward the safe.

They don't notice the small sensor on the top of the door.

INT. ALARM COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The ALARM MANAGER moves the cursor around the screen clicking through "Service Requests." She is one of a dozen employees in a cubicle office.

ALARM MANAGER

(to her nearby colleagues)

Who's in charge of the southern valley? We have some reports of a camera outages.

An alert pops up on the screen: *"SILENT ALARM ACTIVATED at Manager's office at Canejo Liquor."*

ALARM MANAGER (CONT'D)

Oh, shoot.

She quickly dials 911.

ALARM MANAGER (CONT'D)

(into phone)

This is Quantum Security Service,  
We have a break-in in progress at  
14435 Lynn Road.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Sally's mother MARY drives up in the family's classic Cadillac, parking near the front porch.

She moves her designer handbag from the passenger seat and tosses it in the back, but then realizes she forgot something.

She twists around and retrieves a snack-pack for Sally.

The front door to the house opens and Sally skips out. Mary waves enthusiastically from the driver's seat, shouting out the passenger window.

MARY

Hey, Mom, Dad! Thanks for looking after her.

GRANDFATHER

Your mother made some delicious pie. Do you want to come in for some?

MARY

We should get on the road before traffic gets crazy.

GRANDMOTHER

I'll get you a piece. Wait a second.

Sally hops into the car.

MARY

How was your day?

SALLY

Can you keep a secret?

MARY

Yes, I can.

SALLY

Grandma knows magic.

MARY

Does she?

SALLY

Like David Copperfield.

MARY

Who?

SALLY  
Mom.

MARY  
What?

Mary smiles knowingly and looks over at her mom who hurries out with a hastily wrapped piece of apple pie.

She passes the pie to her daughter through the open window.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Thanks, Mom.

GRANDMOTHER  
You girls be good. See you next weekend.

SALLY  
Bye, Grandma.

MARY  
Bye, Mom. Love you.

Mary slowly accelerates as she waves goodbye to her parents.

SALLY  
So you really don't know who David Copperfield is?

MARY  
Is he a singer?

SALLY  
Are you being serious right now?

MARY  
Oh, is he the magician?

SALLY  
Yes!

MARY  
And he does card tricks.

SALLY  
So much more than that. He can fly.

MARY  
Are you being serious right now?

SALLY  
I am. And he started when he was my age.

EXT. CANEJO VALLEY LIQUOR STORE - ALLEY - DAY

The burglars sprint out of the store carrying a small paper bag, presumably filled with cash.

DRIVER  
Why'd you take that?

The driver looks at the bottle of rum in the sidekick's hand.

SIDEKICK  
Why not?

Police sirens wail in the distance.

The men stop and look at each other.

DRIVER  
Is that for us?

SIDEKICK  
Couldn't be. You cut the alarm.

The sirens get closer.

SIDEKICK (CONT'D)  
You cut the alarm? Right?

DRIVER  
I thought I did.

They hop in and slam their doors. The driver jerks the gearshift into "Drive" and peels away.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The beat-up sedan swerves around oncoming cars and blows through a red light, narrowly missing a school bus.

INT. COP CAR - DAY

A patrol COP sees the infraction and turns on his lights, giving chase.

COP  
(into radio)  
I got eyes on our runner.  
Riverside, going west.

Two more cop cars come out of nowhere, sirens blaring, and join the chase.

INT. SALLY'S CAR/ EXT. ROAD - DAY

Sally's mother is driving conscientiously. Signaling, checking her blind spots, coming to full stops, as her daughter talks and stares out the window.

SALLY

...and then after magic camp, he was TEACHING people how to do magic. That's how good he was.

MARY

What's your favorite trick of his?

SALLY

Flying. But it's not a trick. He's really doing it.

MARY

I don't think that's possible, honey.

SALLY

No, Mom. It's possible. I know it is. It's what Dad tells all his clients: "When you want something badly--"

SALLY/MARY

"Imagine that it is here and now, right here. The imagery will increase your chances of success."

SALLY

If I imagine I can fly, I will someday.

MARY

Part of me hopes that's true. Then we could fly over all this terrible traffic.

She turns on her signal and merges onto the freeway.

INT. HYUNDAI / EXT. ROAD - DAY

Gripping the steering wheel, the driver shifts his eyes from the road to the rearview mirror, and back to the road.

SIDEKICK

Go that way!

The sidekick points toward a residential neighborhood.

DRIVER

We need to go somewhere they won't.

SIDEKICK

That makes no sense. They'll go anywhere. We need to lose them.

DRIVER

I'm the one driving.

SIDEKICK

And you were supposed to be the one who cut the alarm.

DRIVER

I did. It was probably that stupid rum you stole.

SIDEKICK

It was just on the shelf. It wasn't in a special case or anything.

DRIVER

Well, somebody messed up and it wasn't me.

SIDEKICK

It wasn't me. I'm not going to jail.

DRIVER

Then we can't let them catch us.

The driver sees an off-ramp for the highway and gets an idea.

EXT. ROAD/HIGHWAY - DAY

The sedan takes a sharp turn and speeds up the off-ramp, forcing the oncoming traffic to swerve onto the shoulder--

The robbers play chicken with the oncoming cars, speeding ahead, forcing the others to get out of their way--

A confused driver sees the beat-up sedan heading straight toward him and PANICS. He swerves to avoid a collision-- but HITS a truck in the next lane, causing both vehicles to smash into the guardrail--

Another driver slams on his brakes and swerves to avoid the pile-up but spins out of control and FLIPS over the guardrail onto the other side of the freeway.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - DAY

Sally fiddles with the radio as they drive down the highway.

SALLY

What station should I put on?

MARY

Whatever you want, honey.

Mary glances over at her daughter and smiles--

She looks back to the road--

The beat-up sedan is speeding right at her.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The sedan and Cadillac collide.

Everything goes into SLOW MOTION.

The cars crumple against each other like a smashed paper cup.

Shattered glass and metal rain down on the pavement.

Sally and her mother are violently thrown forward as the airbags inflate. Sally's head hits the airbag and snaps back--

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Clear blue sky.

SALLY (O.S.)

I knew I could fly.

Sally, in her overalls and red-checkered shirt, floats into view, rising at a steady rate.

She looks around, amazed and delighted, as she passes through a cloud. She doesn't notice, but the cloud has a faint shiny silver outline.

Sally looks down: the valley and orange groves appear far away, but everything is a bit more vibrant. The oranges pop against the emerald green grass.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Mom and Dad are going to be so jealous.



A slight wind blows her to the east and higher up into the sky.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
I'm really high.

The statement is a mix of excitement and concern as she continues to float up.

She flaps her arms and turns her body in a futile attempt to control her ascent.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
How do I get down?  
(shouting)  
How do I get down!

As if a switch flipped, Sally plummets to the ground.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
AHHHHHHHH---HELP-----AHHHH!

In the field below, FIDGET, an ANIMATED rabbit, nibbles on some grass, unaware of the action overhead.

His ears perk up as Sally gets closer.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
AHHH!

Fidget looks around but doesn't see anything.

FIDGET  
Must be hearing things. Maybe I  
should get my ears checked.

As Sally is about to collide with the ground, she closes her eyes and tenses her body.

Her descent slows and she lands softly on a bed of wild flowers behind Fidget.

This world is saturated with bright, bold, happy colors, and all of Sally's animal friends are animated, although the landscape is realistic. Sally is still her ten-year-old self.

Sally opens her eyes. She checks her body -- no bruises, cuts, or broken bones.

SALLY  
It's magic.

Fidget notices Sally for the first time and hops over.

FIDGET

Hey, Sally. Whatcha doin' laying in those flowers like that? And how'd you get here so early?

SALLY

Fidget, I flew! I was up in those clouds.

Fidget looks at her curiously.

FIDGET

You mean you were dreaming thatcha flew?

SALLY

No, I flew. I actually flew.

FIDGET

Okay.

SALLY

Don't you believe me?

FIDGET

You're a human. Human's don't fly.

SALLY

I can.

FIDGET

I won't believe it until I see it with my very own peepers.

SALLY

No problem. Prepare to be amazed.

Sally stands up and realizes she doesn't know what to do.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I have to -- uhm -- prepare.

She flaps her arms, but nothing happens. She jumps but lands back on the ground with a thud.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(muttering)

How did I do it?

Fidget, realizing it's gonna be a while, rests on his hind legs.

Sally closes her eyes and scrunches her face, trying to will herself to fly.

Nothing happens. Sheepish, she opens her eyes.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I know I said I'd show you, but--

FIDGET

It's okay. I believe you. You can fly.

Fidget winks.

SALLY

No, what I was going to say is that I'd show you, but it would probably be better to do it when everyone is around.

FIDGET

Right. Sure.

SALLY

And after I show you, I'll teach you, too.

Fidget raises an eyebrow, skeptical. He sees how important this is to her. He softens his face into a kind smile.

FIDGET

That'd be great, Sally. I can't wait.

Sally beams.

SALLY

We should get going to Mrs. Martin's house.

FIDGET

It's a little early, isn't it?

SALLY

But I'm hungry. I didn't know flying would me so hungry.

FIDGET

There's plenty to eat right here.

SALLY

I need people food.

FIDGET

You don't know what you're missing.

Fidget grabs a fistful of grass and they start their trek across the valley.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY (REALITY)

TWO EMT'S delicately remove Sally from the wrecked car. Her face is badly bruised and her clothes are covered in dirt and dust.

Clouds have blocked the sun, casting a pall over the accident scene.

The EMT'S place Sally on a stretcher and load her into the ambulance.

As soon as the doors close, the ambulance speeds down the highway.

The flashing red lights become--

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

A red tulip that Sally plucks.

SALLY

Do you think Gabby will like this?

Sally holds the flower down for Fidget to smell. Fidget can't resist and gobbles it up.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Fidget!

FIDGET

It smelled so good.

RAVEN, a midnight-black raven who loves to perform for her friends, swoops down. She speaks with an accent reminiscent of Eastern Europe.

RAVEN

Feeeedgeeet! Geeeet ready.

FIDGET

Raven, you are cleared to land.

Fidget sticks his ears up like goal posts. Raven sets her aim on her target and flies toward him.

Raven zooms through the "goal posts" and the hair on Fidget's head ruffles.

Doing another loop, Raven finally lands next to her friends.

RAVEN  
You're eeeearly.

SALLY  
Am I?

FIDGET  
I told you that you were.

SALLY  
I guess I didn't notice 'cause of  
the flying.

Raven looks at Fidget, who shrugs.

RAVEN  
Whatever you say.

EXT. VALLEY - HILL - DAY

On a nearby hill, CARMINE, a coyote who is over-protective of her friends, scans the valley for any threats.

GABBY, a talkative gray squirrel, rides on Carmine's back as both show up.

GABBY  
Is that Sally? Why is she here  
early? Why wasn't I told about  
this? Is something important  
happening? Is there a meeting we're  
supposed to know about?

CARMINE  
She looks okay, but we should check  
it out.

GABBY  
Should we take a vote? It's  
imperative that we vote on how to  
proceed.

Carmine already begins walking down the hill.

GABBY (CONT'D)  
I vote yes, we should check on her.  
Carmine? Carmine? Carmine? I'll  
take your silence as a yes.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Sally waves to Gabby and Carmine approaching from the west. GANDOR, an old and wise clairvoyant goose, waddles toward Sally from the east.

GANDOR

Sally, my dear, I believe it is of the utmost importance that we talk privately.

SALLY

Oh, Gandor, I have some exciting news for you, but I have to share it with everyone.

GANDOR

If I could have but a moment of your time.

SALLY

Nothing will matter after you hear what I'm about to say.

GANDOR

You flew.

Sally looks at him.

SALLY

Did Fidget tell you?

Sally turns around to see Fidget flapping his arms, pretending to fly.

Gandor looks over to Fidget.

GANDOR

Is that what he's doing? I thought he was having an itching fit.

FIDGET

This clearly means flying, Gandor. You're psychic, you could have just read my mind.

GANDOR

I'm not psychic. I'm clairvoyant.

FIDGET

Then how did you know I was going to fall in the pond last summer?

GANDOR

Because you fall in the pond every summer.

SALLY

Everyone, I have a big announcement.

GABBY

Is it about why you are here so early? I wasn't told. Was anyone else told? We should hold a special meeting to discuss why I wasn't told. I feel very strongly that I should have been told.

SALLY

I can fly.

Sally grins from ear to ear.

The looks from her friends range from blank to incredulous. Gandor is the only one nodding.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I can fly.

RAVEN

No, Gandor and I can fly.

GABBY

It would explain how you got here so early. Does anyone else know how she got here so early? I can't come up with any other explanation and flying would make sense, assuming she can fly.

FIDGET

It would make sense. One moment she wasn't there, and the next she was.

RAVEN

There has to be another explanation.

Everyone is silent. No one has any other explanations.

SALLY

So you believe me?

The others shrug halfheartedly.

FIDGET

Now that we're all together, do you want to show us this impossible feat?

Sally grows nervous.

SALLY

Uhm, it's not the right time yet. After we're done at Mrs. Martin's house.

FIDGET

Of course. Then let's not waste any time. Onward to the garden of ye olde Mrs. Martin.

Fidget leads the way.

GANDOR

Sally, I implore you.

Gandor gently extends his wing and touches Sally's arm, separating her from the group.

GANDOR (CONT'D)

I had a vision.

SALLY

Of me?

GANDOR

You are in a canoe in a magical river.

SALLY

It couldn't have been me.

GANDOR

I don't make mistakes.

SALLY

I would never go in water and no one will make me.

GANDOR

Your life will depend on it.

Sally takes in the gravity of the statement, then lets out a laugh.

SALLY

Oh, Gandor. Who put you up to this? You are too funny.



Sally rushes off to catch up with the others.

GANDOR  
 (to himself)  
 My dear, I don't make mistakes.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Tubes and wires connect Sally to various machines.

Sally's parents, Mary and JOHN, a motivational speaker, look at their daughter through a glass window. The DOCTOR stands next to them.

The fluorescent lighting reflects off the green tile on the floors and the light green walls, giving everything a sickly glow.

DOCTOR  
 We had to put her in a medically-induced coma.

MARY  
 But she'll be okay?

DOCTOR  
 We can't say for sure.

JOHN  
 (resolute)  
 She's going to be okay.

DOCTOR  
 Injuries to the brain like the kind Sally sustained can lead to all kinds of complications.

JOHN  
 She's strong.

MARY  
 What kind of complications?

JOHN  
 She's going to pull through.

DOCTOR  
 We won't know until we take her out of the coma.

JOHN  
 She'll be fine.

MARY

John, you need to be realistic.  
This isn't the same as getting over  
fear of heights.

JOHN

Yes, it is. It has to be.

A machine BEEPS incessantly. The beeping transitions to--

INT. MRS. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

An oven timer going off.

MRS. MARTIN, a rotund happy woman, removes four apple pies from the oven. As she places them on the counter, she sees Sally and her friends approaching.

MRS. MARTIN

They're really early. Sally must  
have flown here. I bet she'll be  
hungry.

Ignoring the pies for a moment, she gets peanut butter and mayonnaise from the fridge.

EXT. MRS. MARTIN'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Sally picks up a basket, and she and her friends set to work picking oranges.

Raven plucks oranges from the top. Gabby scurries up the tree and collects ones close to the trunk, tossing them down to Carmine.

Fidget, meanwhile, uses his digging expertise to pull up lettuce and radishes from the garden.

Gandor, concerned, looks on as Sally collects the fruits of their labor.

SALLY

Raven, I see one you missed.

RAVEN

Where?

SALLY

Over there.

RAVEN

Here?

SALLY  
No, there.

RAVEN  
Over here?

SALLY  
You just passed it.

RAVEN  
This one?

SALLY  
Ugh. I'll get it.

Sally floats a few feet off the ground.

Everyone stops and stares. Fidget drops the lettuce that was in his mouth. Gabby drops an orange onto Carmine's head.

The bloom of the massive orange tree is right in front of Sally's face. She reaches out and grabs the orange, but--

She keeps floating up.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Oh, no!

Overcome with fear, Sally loses her ability and falls to the ground, nearly hitting Fidget.

Fidget is nose-to-nose with Sally.

FIDGET  
I guess you *can* fly.

GABBY  
Wow, that was the most amazing thing ever. Why didn't anyone tell me you could fly? I feel like someone should have told me that you could fly. We should really have a meeting to discuss why no one told me that you could fly.

RAVEN  
Eet was amazing, Sallee.

SALLY  
Thank you, Raven, but I'm not nearly as graceful as you.

RAVEN  
Neither was I when I first started.

Mrs. Martin steps outside with a picnic basket and large picnic blanket.

MRS. MARTIN  
Who's hungry?

SALLY  
I am!

Sally carries the basket of produce. Carmine jogs over for the ritual scratch behind the ears from Mrs. Martin.

MRS. MARTIN  
I don't know how I would keep up with this garden if it wasn't for you.

SALLY  
It's our pleasure.

The friends turn to leave.

MRS. MARTIN  
By the way, Sally, "Amber" is looking for you.

SALLY  
What?

MRS. MARTIN  
"Amber" is looking for you.

SALLY  
I don't know anyone named Amber.

MRS. MARTIN  
Are you sure?

SALLY  
I think so.

MRS. MARTIN  
Think about it.

Mrs. Martin has a twinkle in her eye and winks.

EXT. VALLEY - PICNIC SPOT - DAY

Already settled in favorite spot overlooking the valley, Gabby hops into the picnic basket.

GABBY  
One peanut butter and mayonnaise  
sandwich left.

Gabby lifts the sandwich over his head.

GABBY (CONT'D)  
Should we take a vote? I feel we  
should--

SALLY  
Let's vote. Who wants it?

RAVEN  
I'm stuffed.

CARMINE  
I ate too much, too.

GABBY  
Gandor?

Gandor is meditating a few feet away from the picnic blanket  
and gives no response.

GABBY (CONT'D)  
So that's a no. Fidget?

Fidget is munching on nearby flowers.

FIDGET  
What, huh?

GABBY  
One last sandwich. What say ye?

FIDGET  
Yuck.

GABBY  
Oh, good, it's mine.

SALLY  
Hey, wait, I'm still hungry, too.  
Split it?

GABBY  
Deal.

Gandor slowly opens his eyes.

GANDOR  
If I could have everyone's  
attention, please.

The group shifts their attention to Gandor.

GABBY

I have learned something very important that I believe will affect each one of us, including myself, in a most significant way. There is a river--

SALLY

That joke is old.

GANDOR

It is no joke.

GABBY

(mouth full of food)

I know a joke. Anybody want to hear it?

GANDOR

There is a river. And I see Sally in a canoe.

RAVEN

That actually sounds quite lovely.

GANDOR

The river is deadly.

RAVEN

I take it back.

GANDOR

It has claimed the lives of anyone who has attempted to cross it.

SALLY

Then why would I try?

GANDOR

Because your life depends on it. I do not understand why this is so, nor am I clear what role the rest of us will play. However, I do know that, when the times come, each one of us will somehow be there to help.

CARMINE

I'll always be there for you, Sally.

The others murmur in agreement.

SALLY

Thank you, but it's just a story, a fantasy. There's no way I'm going to get in a canoe and paddle down a deadly river.

Clouds cover the valley and everything turns dark.

Gandor's eyes go white and speaks with an otherworldly voice.

GANDOR

"Tell Sally I am waiting for her. I have a secret that she alone must know."

The clouds disappear as quickly as they came and Gandor's eyes returns to original color.

GABBY

That was creepy.

SALLY

Cool trick, Gandor, but I'd rather spend my time practicing how to fly. Who's with me?

Sally hops onto her feet and walks toward a weathered barn in the distance.

The friends hang back and huddle together.

RAVEN

I believe you, Gandor, even if Sally doesn't.

FIDGET

What should we do?

GANDOR

We need to stay close. Eventually she'll come around.

EXT. HILLSIDE / INT. WEATHERED BARN - DAY

Sally opens the barn doors sending up dust and hay.

SALLY

River, schmiver. I'll show you.

She looks up at the tall rafters and then back at her friends who are still huddling on the hillside.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
 Hey, you guys, I'm going to fly  
 around the barn now.

Her friends don't turn around or even acknowledge they heard her.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
 Who cares if they don't see me.

She looks back one last time, hoping they are looking, but they're not.

Sally concentrates, activating her powers.

She floats toward the rafters -- SUCCESS -- but hits her head on the ceiling and falls into a hay bale.

Raven chuckles as she walks in.

RAVEN  
 There's a reason you don't see a  
 lot of birds flying around inside.

SALLY  
 But if I fly outside, I might go  
 too high.

RAVEN  
 You'll have me and Gandor to help  
 you if you do.

SALLY  
 Really?

RAVEN  
 We'll always be there for you.

EXT. WEATHERED BARN - DAY

With her friends gathered around, Sally steps forward, loving the attention.

SALLY  
 Ready?

FIDGET  
 Are you ready?

Sally concentrates and floats up like she did in Mrs. Martin's garden.

Her friends clap.



FIDGET (CONT'D)

Go, Sally.

As if bolstered by her friends' good energy, Sally shoots high into the air.

SALLY

Whoa!

Gandor and Raven take flight.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What's happening? Help!

Right as Gandor and Raven reach her, Sally plummets to the ground like she did the first time she flew, but this time there is no soft landing and she hits the ground with a loud thud.

Her friends rush over.

GABBY

Are you okay? You have to tell us if you're hurt. You know that, right? I demand to know how you are doing. The rule book says you have to tell us.

SALLY

My hand hurts.

She holds up her hand -- there is a gash along her palm.

CARMINE

Let me.

Carmine licks the wound and it heals instantly.

SALLY

I'd be pretty good at this flying thing if I didn't fall all the time.

GANDOR

I believe your fear is causing you to lose control.

SALLY

That's silly.

GANDOR

You were fine until you became scared of going too high.

SALLY  
No--- well, maybe.

GABBY  
So all you need to do is not be  
scared. All in favor, vote "aye."

SALLY  
Easier said than done, Gabby.

GABBY  
I'll help you. I took an oath to  
always help you and I promise to  
help you forever and ever and ever.

SALLY  
Thanks, but--

GABBY  
You know that my voice can soothe  
anyone and help anyone overcome  
anything. Everyone knows that,  
right? If you didn't, we should  
call a special meeting so everyone  
knows.

SALLY  
But how can you be up there with  
me?

Gabby climbs up Sally's leg and torso and hops into the  
pocket of her overalls.

GABBY  
All aboard and ready to fly.

SALLY  
Really?

GABBY  
Really, really. You're gonna do  
great, Sally. You're the best  
flying human I know. Well, you are  
the only flying human I know, so  
technically that makes you the  
best, but I'm sure if I met others,  
you'd still be the best.

SALLY  
Thanks, Gabby. Okay, let's try  
again.

Sally concentrates.

GABBY

And we have lift off. Doing great,  
Sally. Clear skies and big dreams  
ahead. Doing great.

Sally is, in fact, doing great. She ascends at a slow speed.  
Raven and Gandor fly above her.

RAVEN

Can you change direction?

SALLY

How do I do that?

RAVEN

I'd say flap your wings. So maybe  
flap your arms?

GANDOR

Try thinking of which direction you  
want to go. Imagine yourself coming  
towards me.

Sally does and her body changes direction.

GABBY

And her first time out of the gate,  
Sally does the impossible. Way to  
go, Sally.

Rather than floating, Sally is now GLIDING through the sky.

GANDOR

Watch us and then imagine doing the  
same.

Raven and Gandor fly in a circle. Their movements are  
graceful and peaceful.

Sally does the same.

SALLY

I did it.

RAVEN

You'll be just as good as us in no  
time.

SALLY

I want to try something different.  
Would you mind?

RAVEN

Go for it.

SALLY

Not up here. Down there.

She points to the picnic blanket.

EXT. VALLEY - PICNIC SPOT - DAY

Sally spreads the picnic blanket out on the ground and lies on her back.

SALLY

Pick a hand or foot to hold on to.

FIDGET

Do we have to?

SALLY

That's how I saw it.

GANDOR

You had a vision?

Sally doesn't want to admit it.

SALLY

Maybe.

GANDOR

What else was in it?

SALLY

Just this. Well, something like this, not exactly. And it wasn't a vision, it was just something that popped into my head.

GANDOR

Then we shall do it. Grab hold, everyone.

Sally closes her eyes as her friends hold her hands and feet.

SALLY

(softly)

Release all fear.

She levitates a few inches off the ground.

FIDGET

Oooooh. It's like a magic trick.

SALLY  
 (softly)  
 Release all fear.

She levitates higher, bringing her friends with her.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
 I release all fear.

Now ten feet off the ground, Carmine and Fidget get a bit scared.

FIDGET  
 Okay, we get it. Good trick. Please  
 put us down now.

SALLY  
 I release--

FIDGET  
 Please put me down.

CARMINE  
 I'd like to go down, too.

SALLY  
 I release-- I release--

Sally's anxiety rises.

FIDGET  
 Are we going to fall?

SALLY  
 No, you won't fall. I mean, you  
 might not.

CARMINE  
 Sorry, Sally.

Carmine lets go and drops to the ground.

Fidget follows and Carmine catches him in her mouth.

Gabby peeks out of Sally's pocket.

GABBY  
 You can do it. Release all fear.

SALLY  
 I release all fear.

Sally lowers herself back on to the picnic blanket.

FIDGET

Sorry I didn't believe in you.

SALLY

It's okay, Fidget. After seeing me fall so many times, I'm surprised you had any faith in me.

FIDGET

Seems like you figured it out.

SALLY

The rheostat worked.

FIDGET

What?

SALLY

A rheostat. It was in my vision.

GANDOR

So it was a vision.

FIDGET

But what is it?

SALLY

My grandpa taught me about them. They're like dimmers for light bulbs. I thought it could help me.

FIDGET

But you're not a light bulb, are you?

SALLY

I imagined a weight rheostat. I thought about how heavy I feel and moved the imaginary dial up and down.

GANDOR

Ah, and that helps you control your speed.

SALLY

Exactly.

She demonstrates and hovers about five inches above the ground and then comes back down.

GANDOR

Well done, Sally.

In the distance, storm clouds approach and rain falls.

Sally points to the barn.

SALLY  
Quick, in there.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY (REALITY)

The doctor reviews paperwork at his desk. A NURSE enters.

NURSE  
Sally's latest test results.

DOCTOR  
Any change?

NURSE  
It's not good.

The doctor looks over the results.

DOCTOR  
Prep the team to bring her out of  
the coma. What happens next will be  
up to Sally.

NURSE  
The parents aren't going to be  
happy.

DOCTOR  
I have to do what's best for my  
patient.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Sally's parents sit at her bedside. The doctor enters.

DOCTOR  
How's everyone doing today?

MARY  
She's fine.

DOCTOR  
But how are you?

JOHN  
How we're doing doesn't matter.

DOCTOR

It does. You can't help your daughter if you don't take care of yourselves.

MARY

We can't leave her alone.

DOCTOR

Have you had anything to eat today?

MARY

No.

The doctor clucks his tongue like a disapproving parent.

DOCTOR

You need to keep up your strength.

MARY

(to John)

I can get you something from the cafeteria. What do you want?

DOCTOR

You both should go. I'll wait with Sally until you're back.

MARY

We couldn't ask you to do that.

DOCTOR

It's part of my job. I insist.

Sally's parents reluctantly leave.

INT. WEATHERED BARN - DAY

Gabby sits on the high windowsill and looks out as the rain pounds against the barn.

GABBY

It doesn't look like it's going to stop. I wasn't informed about this storm. Someone should have told me. We should have had a meeting about this.

SALLY

Let's all try to fly.

RAVEN

I already can.



SALLY  
Carmine? Fidget? Gabby?

They all look to Gandor for approval. He nods.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
All you have to do is release your  
fear.

Together, they chant, "I release my fear." One by one, they  
hover over the ground.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Everyone is flying!

Raven looks out the window: the gray sky turns pitch black.

RAVEN  
Gandor. What's happening?

GANDOR  
It's time, Sally. You can no longer  
avoid the river. You must find  
"Amber."

SALLY  
I don't know any Amber.

Carmine becomes translucent and disappears.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Carmine, what's happening? Where  
did you go?

Gabby, Fidget, and Raven disappear next.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Gandor, make it stop. Bring them  
back.

GANDOR  
Only you can.

Gandor disappears.

SALLY  
Come back. I release my fears. I  
release my fears.

The walls of the barn disintegrate into ashes and blow away.  
Everything except Sally turns black--

INT. INFINITE VOID

Sally floats through the all-black space.

SALLY  
I release all fears.

She looks around.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Why can't I control where I'm  
going?

A GIANT HAND reaches toward her.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
No, stop. Don't!

Now fearful, Sally plummets into nothingness.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
AHHHHHHHHH!

As she falls, her voice fades until there is nothing left but the black void.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

The doctor, with a resigned look on his face, stands outside Sally's room. Sally is still in her room but with fewer wires attached to her body. The nurse sits by her bed.

Her parents, having just eaten, return with a little bounce in their step. When they see the doctor, color drains from their face.

MARY  
Is she okay?

DOCTOR  
We took her out of the induced  
coma.

MARY  
Why?

DOCTOR  
The barbiturates controlling the  
intracranial hypertension stopped  
working. It happens sometimes.

MARY  
What now?

DOCTOR

We have to see how she reacts.  
Hopefully the body has rested  
enough and can start healing.

JOHN

What else aren't you telling us?

DOCTOR

She shows little brain activity.

JOHN

What does that mean?

DOCTOR

There is a high probability that  
she won't wake up.

MARY

You just said we needed to be  
strong for her when she wakes up.

JOHN

We were only gone for a half hour.

DOCTOR

There is still a chance.

MARY

We trusted you with our daughter  
and now you're saying she isn't  
going to wake up.

DOCTOR

We're doing everything we can.

JOHN

Sally is a fighter. She isn't done  
living yet.

DOCTOR

I hope you're right.

INT. INFINITE VOID

As Sally falls through the black hole, there is no sound even  
though she is screaming and flailing her arms.

Her body TRANSFORMS -- shifting from a ten-year-old into a  
teenager and finally into a 23-year-old woman.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Asleep in bed, Sally (now 23) screams and springs up, eyes wide awake.

SALLY

Whoa!

F.G., her husband, pops into the room, banging his knee on the dresser and knocking over a picture frame.

F.G.

Hey, honey, everything okay?

F.G.'s voice is the same as Fidget, the animated rabbit.

SALLY

I just had the weirdest dream. It was insane.

F.G.

We're going to be late. Tell me in the car?

Sally jumps out of bed.

SALLY

Why didn't you wake me sooner? Gabriel is going to kill us if we're late.

F.G.

You looked so peaceful.

SALLY

My dream was not peaceful.

Sally hops around on one foot as she pulls on her pants.

F.G.

In the car. Tell me in the car.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

F.G. rushes out of the house, excited about something unseen.

Sally exits, her head down as she zips up her jacket.

SALLY

I was just falling through space--

She looks up and sees a canoe with a red bow. It's strikingly similar to the canoe Sally's grandfather hand-carved for her.

F.G. stands next to it with a big grin on his face.

F.G.  
Happy birthday.

Sally gives her husband a big hug.

SALLY  
It's beautiful.

F.G.  
You like?

SALLY  
I love it. It's perfect-- it's  
"Amber."

F.G.  
You already have a name for it?  
Usually takes you a few weeks to  
settle on one.

SALLY  
Nope. My dream makes sense now.  
This is Amber. And I'm going to  
take Amber through the Sanderson  
Gorge.

F.G.  
What? Are you insane?

SALLY  
It's my birthday, you can't call me  
insane.

F.G.  
The Sanderson Gorge is nicknamed  
"The Necromancer."

SALLY  
It sounds scary when you say it  
like that.

F.G.  
People barely get through that  
river on a paddle and oar raft.

SALLY  
That's why I'm going to do it in  
"Amber."

F.G.  
That could be deadly.

SALLY

Not for me.

F.G.

Well, I'm taking back my gift.

SALLY

You can't. Those are the rules. No takesy-backsies.

F.G.

What has gotten into you?

SALLY

We gotta get on the road or we're gonna be late for work.

F.G.

No, you can't--

He checks his watch.

F.G. (CONT'D)

Argh. Okay.

He hops in the driver's seat.

INT. CAR - DAY

F.G. starts the car.

F.G.

I wouldn't have bought the canoe if I knew it was going to turn you into a crazy person.

SALLY

You knew I was crazy when you married me.

F.G.

True. But not "Necromancer" crazy.

EXT. CHAMBERLAIN FALLS - DAY

Sally and F.G. drive up to the point of entry.

Their colleagues -- who resemble and sound like Sally's animated friends from her dream -- are already there.

GABRIEL is a chatterbox with chipmunk cheeks; CARMINA is a quick and agile woman who is protective of everyone;

GARY, a mystical man, favors wearing a cape and turtleneck sweaters; and RAVENIA wears all-black and jokes with funny accents.

As everyone talks, they unload river rafting gear from their cars.

The gear and their t-shirts have the "Extreme Whitewater Corporation" logo splashed all over them.

RAVENIA

Happy birthday, Sally.  
(in a Czech accent)  
"You wild and crazy girl."

CARMINA

"Happy Birthday to you. Happy  
Birthday to you..."

GABRIEL

Did we talk about singing "Happy  
Birthday?" I don't think anyone  
told me. We should have talked  
about it because I would have  
warmed up my voice. You guys know  
my voice is off-key in the morning.

SALLY

It's okay, Gabriel. You don't have  
to sing.  
(to Gary)  
Good morning, Gar. How are you  
today?

Gary gives her a solemn nod.

GARY

You have a journey ahead of you.

SALLY

I think we all do. Have the clients  
arrived yet?

GARY

No, not today's journey. Another  
journey.

F.G.

Did she tell you about "The  
Necromancer?"  
(to Sally)  
You said it came to you in your  
dream.

GARY  
She didn't tell me anything.

SALLY  
Cross my heart.

Carmina carries several life jackets and places them next to the other dozen.

CARMINA  
What are you talking about?

F.G.  
Sally has this crazy idea to do  
"The Necromancer" in a canoe.

GABRIEL  
I vote "nay."

CARMINA  
"The Necromancer" is no joke. Are  
you seriously thinking about doing  
it?

F.G.  
She said it came to her in a dream.

SALLY  
Most of my best ideas do.

F.G.  
This is not a good idea.

CARMINA  
Yeah, Sally, it takes a lot of prep  
work. If you want to do it, you  
should start researching and  
planning it now.

F.G.  
Don't encourage her.

CARMINA  
I'm not. I'm just saying--

F.G.  
It's is an eddy-less, fifteen-mile-  
long storm sewer. If the waterfalls  
don't get you, the monster waves  
and bottomless holes will. The  
sheer granite walls of the Gorge  
leave almost no place to recover  
when you lose it.



SALLY

So I won't lose it.

F.G.

That's probably what the guy who tried doing it last year thought. Right before he broke his neck.

SALLY

I can do it.

F.G.

That poor fellow got slammed up the side of the granite cliffs with such force that his inflatable cataraft split its seams.

GARY

Her voyage has already been written, F.G.

F.G.

That doesn't make me feel better, Gary.

SALLY

I know it sounds crazy, but I feel it deep inside me that I have to do this.

F.G.

But--

SALLY

That is the only explanation I can give for my obsession with the next-to-impossible.

A shuttle bus arrives. The driver honks, signaling their arrival.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Oh, shoot, they're early.

F.G.

Technically, we were late.

PROFESSOR JOHNSON, a hippie environmentalist, steps off the small bus and inhales deeply.

PROFESSOR JOHNSON

Fresh air. Chop-chop. Let's go.

He waves his dozen and half students off the bus.

F.G.  
 (to students)  
 Welcome, everyone.

F.G. talks slowly to give his colleague more time to set up the equipment.

F.G. (CONT'D)  
 Welcome to Chamberlain Falls. This is an important trip for all of us. As many of you know, the state is planning to dam up many of California's wild rivers. They're talking about putting a dam on the North Fork American below Chamberlain Falls, which is why Professor Johnson picked this as your final rafting trip. Next time you visit, you may not be able to go rafting, so savor every moment.

F.G. looks back at his crew.

F.G. (CONT'D)  
 (quietly)  
 Good?

SALLY  
 I feel like we're missing something.

F.G.  
 Looks like everything is out. What do you guys think?

He looks at the others.

GABRIEL  
 We could take a vote.

F.G.  
 (to the class)  
 Everyone line up. You're going to get your life jacket and then select your raft. Your captains will be these fine people. If you have any questions, just ask.

EXT. CHAMBERLAIN FALLS - RIVER - DAY

The rafting party navigates through Slaughter's Sluice. Everyone is in good spirits.

Sally looks up: the cloud formation shifts and looks like a giant goose.

Her YOUNGER SELF flies through the clouds.

All the sounds of the rafting trip and student's chatter melts away as Sally watches her younger self perform aerial trips with Raven and Gandor.

F.G.

Sally!

Sally returns to reality.

F.G. (CONT'D)

You're too far to the left.

Sally looks up: The river splits but then comes back together.

F.G.'s raft follows the current toward the right side of the river, which is a gentle slope down.

Anyone going to the left will go over a small waterfall.

Sally desperately uses her oar to correct their path but it doesn't work.

Sally, and the three rafts behind her, head toward the fall.

SALLY

Brace yourselves.

One by one, the rafts tumble over the falls.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The rafters swim toward the bank. Sally pulls the raft alongside her as she swims.

Friendly hikers stop and help people onto the shore.

F.G. paddles over, hopping out of his raft as soon as he can.

F.G.

Everyone accounted for? Everyone okay?

The students nod.

F.G. pulls Sally aside.

F.G. (CONT'D)

If you can't do a simple rafting trip, you should forget about "The Necromancer."

SALLY

I can do it.

F.G.

You're lucky no one got hurt.

SALLY

It's rafting, they were bound to get wet at some point.

F.G.

I'm worried about you.

SALLY

I'm a lot stronger than you think.

F.G.

I never said you weren't. I just don't know what's gotten into you.

SALLY

I'm doing "The Necromancer." I have to.

F.G.

I forbid you.

SALLY

Ha. Forbid me? Really?

F.G.

How many ways can I tell you that I'm scared and don't want anything to happen to you. I can't imagine my life without you. Why would you even consider canoeing "The Necromancer?"

SALLY

It's a challenge. And I can do it.

F.G.

Because you had a dream that you could?

SALLY

I wasn't paddling a canoe in my dream.

F.G.

But you said your dream told you.

SALLY

I was flying in my dream.

F.G.

Oh. Okay. That is not helping your case.

SALLY

Follow me.  
(to her colleagues)  
Everyone, follow me.

Some students stand.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Not you. Students, stay here.

GABRIEL

Are we having a special meeting?

SALLY

Yep, special meeting.

INT. FOREST - DAY

Sally stops in the middle of a clearing.

SALLY

Stand over there.

Her husband, Gabriel, Carmina, Gary, and Ravinia line up at the edge of the clearing.

In the center, Sally closes her eyes.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I release all fear.

Nothing happens.

F.G.

We should go back.

F.G. turns to leave. Gary stops him.

GARY

You'll want to stay and see this.

SALLY

I release all fear.

Sally levitates fifteen feet off the ground.

F.G.

Whoa.

RAVENIA

How are you doing that?

GABBY

That is--

CARMINA

Unbelievable.

GARY

I knew she could do it.

F.G.

You knew?

GARY

I saw it in my dream last night.

Sally lowers herself down.

F.G.

Honey, you're magical.

SALLY

I'm still the same me. The same person who wants to do "The Necromancer."

F.G.

If anyone can conquer it, it's you.

GARY

But you can't do it alone.

SALLY

I have to. In Amber. It's the only way.

GARY

We'll be there to support you.

SALLY

But--

GARY

No. That is how I saw it in my dream. We will be there with you.

Professor Johnson appears in the clearing.

PROFESSOR JOHNSON

The students want to get back in the water.

F.G.

Really?

PROFESSOR JOHNSON

Yeah. They said the waterfall was "the coolest thing ever" and want to go again.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

F.G. makes peanut butter and mayonnaise sandwiches.

At the table, Sally studies a map, pictures, and video of "The Necromancer."

She plays a drone video of the river -- it's just as insane as F.G. described it: granite walls, monstrous waves, and crazy drops.

In the footage, a branch falls into the fast-flowing water and is tossed around until it splinters into tiny pieces. Seconds later, a boulder falls, causing a rockslide, ending with a symphony of rocks hitting the water.

In the living room, Gabriel, Carmina, Gary, and Ravinia review the gear checklist.

GABRIEL

(re: the video)

I'm going to pretend like I didn't see that.

CARMINA

Goggles.

RAVENIA

Check.

CARMINA

Sunscreen.

GABRIEL

Check.

CARMINA

Waterproof flashlight.

GARY

Check.

F.G. places a sandwich next to Sally.

F.G.  
Feeling confident?

SALLY  
I think so. No, I am. I am  
confident.

F.G.  
We can give you more time to  
prepare.

SALLY  
If we wait any longer, the river  
will get too high.

F.G.  
You know you're gonna eventually  
tell me how you did it.

SALLY  
Did what?

F.G.  
The flying trick.

SALLY  
It wasn't a trick.

F.G.  
I know, I just don't know what else  
to call it.

SALLY  
It was just flying. And you just  
need to release all your fears.

F.G.  
Promise me, if something happens in  
the water, you'll fly out of there.  
You can fly in water, right?

SALLY  
I think so.

F.G.  
You don't know.

SALLY  
I never tried.

F.G.  
Should you test it?



SALLY  
I'll be fine.

F.G.  
Okay. I love you.

SALLY  
I love you, too.

F.G.  
We could forget this whole rafting thing and go on the road with your "flying" show. We'd make a lot of money.

SALLY  
Honey.

F.G.  
Just an idea.

EXT. SANDERSON GORGE - DAY

Atop a hill that overlooks the river, Sally takes in the view of the tumultuous river.

She turns to everyone standing behind her. She notices some rain clouds in the distance.

SALLY  
We should be through this run and heading home in less than two hours, well ahead of any storm. But if you want to turn back now for any reason, you can. I won't judge you.

RAVENIA  
Even though we're just the support team, I wouldn't miss an opportunity of a lifetime.

Sally places the map on the hood of the car.

SALLY  
We're going to start here. I'll be in the lead.

GARY  
I'll be in the cataraft behind you.

F.G.  
And we'll be behind Gary.

SALLY

The first mile is a lazy downstream float. The next two miles, we'll see some Class II rapids and Class III waves.

F.G.

Are you still sticking to your promise?

SALLY

Yes. If I have any problems in the first three miles, I will call it off before the Class IV drop.

EXT. NECROMANCER - DAY

In silence, the team puts on their life jackets over their wetsuits.

F.G. puts on Sally's helmet and tightens it.

F.G.

Come back to us.

Sally nods.

SALLY

Alright, let's do this.

RAVEN

You are one wild and crazy girl.

At the river, Sally enters with her canoe, "Amber."

Gary gets into his cataraft while the others get into a six-man paddle and oar raft.

EXT. RIVER - MILE ONE - DAY

As predicted, the first section of the river is calm and Sally easily navigates the waters.

She takes time to look around at the trees and rock formations.

A hawk flies overhead and screeches loudly, shattering the peaceful moment.

In F.G.'s raft, Carmina puts a comforting hand on his shoulder.

CARMINA  
She can do this.

EXT. RIVER - MILE TWO - DAY

The rapids come on quickly and bounce Sally's canoe around.

GARY  
(shouting)  
Here we go, we're about to get wet!

Waves crash into Sally as she deftly maneuvers through the rapids.

She survives the first onslaught of waves hitting her tiny boat, but the second round of waves is bigger.

Her support team, able to withstand the waves a bit better, watches as she gets pummeled by waves.

CARMINA  
The drop is coming up.

F.G.  
Did she give us the sign?

CARMINA  
Not yet.

A large wave nearly capsizes Sally's canoe, but it only makes her more determined.

She raises her right arm and makes a pointing motion forward.

CARMINA (CONT'D)  
She's doing it.

F.G.  
No turning back.

EXT. RIVER - MILE FOUR - DAY

Sally, being carried along on the Class III rapids, approaches the drop off, aka "The Crusher."

GABBY (V.O.)  
There is nothing to fear.

Sally closes her eyes.

SALLY  
There is nothing to fear.

Everything SLOWS DOWN.

Sally can see every drop of water pass before her eyes.

Her canoe LAUNCHES off the edge.

In slow motion, she flies through the air and lands gracefully in the water, similar to how she landed in the bed of wildflowers.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Woohoo!

The other rafts follow and plunge into the next level of the river.

Gary, aboard the cataract, is first. As he tumbles over, he falls out and cataract splits on the rocks below.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Gary! No!

Using every ounce of energy, he swims to the bank of the river and pulls himself up on a rock.

F.G. and the others are next -- and their fate is the same -- tossed from the raft.

Sally tries to turn around but the strength of the current won't allow it.

No one is popping up from under the water -- only Gary is safe at the moment.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Let me help my friends! I can do it!

She looks back as Gary and the other rafts fade from view.

Sally looks ahead: the river narrows and the tall granite walls create a claustrophobic passageway.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I can't. I can't do this without them. I have to go back.

She tries again to turn her canoe.

The rapids grow in intensity, churning and frothing.

A large shadow falls over her, leading to total darkness.

All sound fades.

VOICE (V.O.)  
Everything is going to be okay.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Ten-year-old Sally opens her eyes and sees her father.

JOHN  
Honey, she's awake.

Sally's mother rushes to the other side of her daughter's bed.

MARY  
You're awake. You're back. You're gonna be okay.

Fear creeps over Sally's face as she senses and sees the tubes coming out of her mouth and nose.

JOHN  
You were in an accident.

MARY  
You've been in a coma.

JOHN  
But you're going to be fine now.  
Right?

He looks up at his wife, hoping to be reassured.

MARY  
Yes, she's going to be fine.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Sally's parents flip through a small packet of print-outs. The title on the front page is "Traumatic Brain Injury."

DOCTOR  
Her speech and mobility have been affected. The inability to speak is typical for someone who has been on a breathing tube, however brain damage may be a contributing factor.

MARY  
What about walking?

DOCTOR

After injuries like the one Sally sustained, she'll be lucky if she regains some control of her arms.

Mary trembles at the thought of her daughter not walking.

JOHN

She's a fighter. She's come this far.

DOCTOR

We'll know more once she starts physical therapy and can see how she reacts to it.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Sally's grandmother rubs ointment on Sally's neck.

GRANDMOTHER

The doctors say you may have an injury to your spinal cord and some problems with your brain, but we'll start with one thing at a time. Can you move your fingers?

Sally looks down at her hand expectantly, but nothing moves. Her grandmother is not dismayed.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Probably wasn't enough.

She rubs more ointment onto her neck.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Try again.

Sally does. Her fingers move.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Told you it's magic.

Sally opens her mouth, trying to speak, but can't. Frustrated, tears form in her eyes.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

You're not ready to talk yet. Use this.

Her grandmother holds up a chart containing common phrases and words.

Sally shakes her head, indicating nothing on the chart matches what she wants to say.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Do you want to know when you'll be better?

Sally nods.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

We don't know yet.

EXT. HOSPITAL/INT. VAN - DAY

Accompanied by Sally's parents, the nurse wheels Sally into a non-emergency transport van.

Still unable to support herself physically, Sally's body is held upright by a brace while in the wheelchair.

NURSE

You get healthy so the next time I see you, you won't be in this chair. Deal?

Sally nods ever-so-slightly.

The driver secures Sally into the van as her parents take seats in the back.

INT. VAN/EXT. ROAD - DAY

Sally stares forward with a worried look on her face.

MARY

Nervous?

Sally nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

Everyone says it's the best.

JOHN

Recovery rates are far faster here than anywhere else. You'll be up and walking and talking in no time. Remember, visualize your objective--

MARY

Johhnn! Honey, it's okay whatever happens. Take as much time as you need.

JOHN

Of course. Right. Everyone is different, but just know they are really good at what they do.

EXT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - DAY

When the van arrives, a friendly NURSES AIDE helps Sally out of the van.

NURSES AIDE

Welcome, Sally. Everyone is so excited to meet you. We know it can be a bit overwhelming so we give everyone this chart. It has the names and pictures of everyone in your group.

Sally looks at the chart. Some of the staff are named Gabby, Carmine, Gary, and Raven.

Sally smiles.

Her parents notice and hold back tears.

MARY

(whispering to the aide)  
First time she's smiled since she woke up.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - DAY

Sally looks around at her half of the room. It's drab and undecorated while the other side is filled with pictures of dinosaurs and planets.

NURSES AIDE

Your roommate is Jennifer. She's with her family right now.

JOHN

And is Jennifer like Sally?

NURSES AIDE

Jennifer has muscular dystrophy. She's a few years younger than Sally, but her brother Jerry is about the same age as Sally.

JERRY SMITH (age 11) pops in. His black turtleneck and features are reminiscent of Gary from Sally's dream.



JERRY

Did I hear my name?

NURSES AIDE

This is Sally, Jennifer's new roommate?

JERRY

Nice to meet you. Jennifer and I made this for you.

Jerry scrounges around Jennifer's dresser and pulls out a handmade sign that says "Welcome Sally."

Sally nods her thank you.

Jerry grabs his coat.

JERRY (CONT'D)

This is actually what I came for. See ya around, Sally.

INT. SPEECH THERAPY OFFICE - DAY

The SPEECH THERAPIST opens her mouth wide and sticks out her tongue.

Sally mimics the action.

SPEECH THERAPIST

Great. We're going to start with singing one note, like this: *Ahhhh*.

Sally opens her mouth but nothing comes out.

SPEECH THERAPIST (CONT'D)

That's okay. That was a little advanced. Let's keep doing the mouth exercises.

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

Jerry deals out cards to his sister JENNIFER (age 6), and another patient.

JERRY

The game is "Go Fish." Winner gets a bag of pretzels.

The nurses aide wheels in Sally.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
Oh, good, Sally. We need a fourth  
person to play teams.

Sally looks up at the nurses aide; her look is less than  
enthusiastic.

NURSES AIDE  
(whispering)  
It'll be fun. You need some fun.

Sally shrugs.

JERRY  
Okay, me and Sally against Jennifer  
and Eddie.

Jerry holds the cards up so Sally can see them.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
Oh, yeah, we're gonna win this.  
Those pretzels are as good as ours.

Sally chuckles.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

The friendly PSYCHOLOGIST pours out a box of letters and  
numbers.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
While you are working on your  
voice, this is how we will  
communicate. Sound good?

Sally nods. The psychologist rearranges the letters to form  
"Yes."

PSYCHOLOGIST (CONT'D)  
What is your name?

Sally, using her one good hand, moves the letters around to  
create "Sally."

PSYCHOLOGIST (CONT'D)  
And how old are you?

Sally finds the numbers "2" and "3" and presents "23" to the  
psychologist.

PSYCHOLOGIST (CONT'D)  
Are you sure?

Sally nods.

PSYCHOLOGIST (CONT'D)

23. Okay. Well, let's see. Uhm, if you're 23, that means you probably went to college, right?

Sally points to the word "yes."

PSYCHOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Do you know the name of your college?

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

Reading from a "Intro to Magic" book, Jerry attempts a simple ring trick -- pulling apart two interlocking metal rings -- but can't get it to work. Luckily, he's a bit of ham and plays up the misfortune.

JERRY

This is supposed to-- well, maybe I'll have better luck with my next trick.

He flips the page.

JERRY (CONT'D)

"How to saw someone in half." Oh, that should be easy. Any volunteers?

The audience, including Jennifer and Sally, chuckle.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

The words "UC Irvine" and "F.G." are spelled out.

Mary and John stand over the table in disbelief.

JOHN

She thinks she is 23 and married to someone named F.G.?

PSYCHOLOGIST

Her brain has created an alternate reality. And it's important that we all respect that until she is ready to let it go.

JOHN

But--

MARY

How?

PSYCHOLOGIST

It is common.

MARY

She's ten.

JOHN

She's never even been to Irvine.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Don't tell her that she's wrong.  
Don't try to make her change her  
mind. Let the process play itself  
out.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sally's side of the room is decorated a bit more now. She reads the last page of her book and closes it. She reaches to her nightstand for another book, but there are none left.

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY

The PHYSICAL THERAPIST lifts Sally out of her chair and carries her toward the whirlpool.

John and Mary walk past with the psychologist. John hurries into the room.

JOHN

Wait. She's afraid of water.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Could have fooled me. She loved it  
yesterday.

MARY

Really?

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Didn't you, Sally?

Sally nods.

JOHN

Oh, of course, sorry. Yes. I guess  
there's a lot I don't know.

John hangs back.

PSYCHOLOGIST

(to John)

Why don't we take a walk and talk?

As they exit, John looks back, watching as the physical therapist places Sally in the water.

EXT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - DAY

John and the psychologist walk around the garden path. There are other patients in various states of recovery.

PSYCHOLOGIST

I understand you are a motivational speaker.

JOHN

I was--I am--I took time off.

PSYCHOLOGIST

What do you tell clients who are facing insurmountable odds?

JOHN

Every day there is success and you need to be open to seeing it.

PSYCHOLOGIST

What success do you see today?

JOHN

None. I don't know who my daughter is anymore.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Tell me what was happening one month ago.

JOHN

Well, uhm, we were still in the hospital. They didn't know if Sally was going to wake up.

PSYCHOLOGIST

And now she's awake, breathing on her own, communicating.

JOHN

But--

PSYCHOLOGIST

Sally will not be the same because of this experience, but she will still be your daughter. And it's up to you if you want to live in the past and mourn about what you lost, or look to the future and embrace what you have.

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY

The physical therapist gently places Sally back in her chair which is now located behind tall lockers.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

This towel is soaking. I'm going to get another. Be right back.

Sally waits in her chair.

On the other side of the lockers, the speech therapist enters while talking on her phone. She thinks the room is empty and sits on a nearby foam block.

SPEECH THERAPIST

(into phone)

My day has been horrible. It's just this new patient. She's been here about two weeks and honestly it's hopeless.

Sally can't help but overhear.

SPEECH THERAPIST (CONT'D)

(still yapping on the phone)

I heard she thinks she's married and 23. Something is not right in her brain. I'm a speech therapist! How am I supposed to get her to talk?

The physical therapist enters.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

(annoyed)

Use your office for personal calls.

SPEECH THERAPIST

The air conditioner isn't working.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Well, I still have patients.

SPEECH THERAPIST

You do?

The physical therapist wheels Sally out from behind the lockers.

SPEECH THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Oh.

Sally averts her eyes.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Mary browses the bookshelves and consults the list in her hand.

She selects two books: True Stories of Out of Body Experiences and What is Reality?

At the checkout counter, Mary slides the books across. The BOOKSTORE CLERK is intrigued.

BOOKSTORE CLERK

Let me guess: you had a near-death experience?

MARY

My daughter. She requested these books.

BOOKSTORE CLERK

Pretty intense stuff.

MARY

Yeah, but at least she's reading. The doctors say it's good for her brain.

BOOKSTORE CLERK

Does she-- did she... How do I put this? Was it a traumatic brain injury?

MARY

Yes.

BOOKSTORE CLERK

My condolences. My uncle had that.

MARY

What happened to him?

Based on the clerk's expression, it wasn't good.

BOOKSTORE CLERK  
I hope she gets better.

MARY  
Me, too.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sally is in her bed, moving her mouth in different positions like she did with the speech therapist. A small glow comes from the nightlight on the side table.

Jennifer is fast asleep in her own bed.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - DAY

The nurses aide turns on the lights. Jennifer pulls the covers over her eyes.

JENNIFER  
It's too early.

Sally is already awake -- because she never slept.

NURSES AIDE  
(to Jennifer)  
Did you get a wink of sleep?

SALLY  
(softly)  
Good morning.

The aide takes a step backwards in disbelief.

NURSES AIDE  
Good morning to you.

JENNIFER  
Woah!

Jennifer claps enthusiastically.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

The aide wheels Sally into the office. Jennifer is behind her acting as the cheering section.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
Our appointment isn't until the  
afternoon.



NURSES AIDE

Oh, yes, Sally just had something  
to tell you.

SALLY

(a little more confident  
but still quiet)  
Good morning.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Good morning!

Jennifer cheers and claps.

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY

The children are completing their exercises. Jennifer steps  
forward.

JENNIFER

Ahem, everyone, could you quiet  
down? I would like to present to  
you... Sally!

SALLY

(smiling)  
Good morning.

Everyone cheers and claps. The children who can, walk over  
and give Sally a hug.

INT. SPEECH THERAPY OFFICE - DAY

The aide pushes Sally's wheelchair into the office. The  
speech therapist hops up.

SPEECH THERAPIST

Sally, I want to apologize for  
whatever you overheard. I was  
frustrated and wrong--

SALLY

Good morning.

Tears stream down the therapist's face.

SPEECH THERAPIST

I will never doubt you again.

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

Sally and the others enjoy an afternoon snack.

Jerry hurries in.

JERRY

Is it true?

SALLY

Good morning.

He tips a pretend hat.

JERRY

Good morning to you. We need to celebrate. More ice cream for everyone!

NURSES AIDE

Sorry, Jerry. They can only have one scoop a day.

JERRY

(playful)

I demand to speak with your supervisor. My friend here accomplished something amazing and she deserves TWO SCOOPS today.

NURSES AIDE

I'll see what I can do.

Jerry pulls up a chair.

JERRY

How does it feel?

Sally gives a thumbs up.

JERRY (CONT'D)

The first day I met you, I knew you would get your speech back.

Her inquisitive look prompts him to talk a bit more.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You seem like someone who has a lot to say. And I can't wait to hear about everything.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sally, using her limited hand mobility, turns the pages of the book that rests on her lap.

NURSES AIDE  
Time for lights out.

Sally nods.

The aide returns the book to her night stand.

SALLY  
(faintly)  
Please.

Sally points to her grandmother's ointment.

NURSES AIDE  
Of course.

She opens the container. Sally scoops out a small dollop and rubs it on her temples.

NURSES AIDE (CONT'D)  
Good night, Sally.

She shuts off the lights. Everything goes black.

EXT. MRS. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Back in her dream state, ten-year-old Sally picks oranges with her animated friends, but her heart isn't into it. Sad, she sits on the ground.

Gandor waddles up to her.

GANDOR  
Don't you like oranges?

SALLY  
Watch this.

Sally hops up, tosses an orange high up in air with one hand, does a cartwheel, and catches the orange in her other hand.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Why can't I do this when I'm awake?  
I can barely talk.

GANDOR  
You didn't conquer the magic river.

SALLY

I did. I found Amber and everything.

GANDOR

You left before you got to the end.

SALLY

Someone pulled me out.

GANDOR

And you let them.

SALLY

No, I didn't.

GANDOR

You did, out of fear. Were you scared?

SALLY

If you were there, you'd have been scared too.

GANDOR

Because of that, you let them take you out early. You have to complete "The Necromancer."

SALLY

Is there any other way?

GANDOR

No.

SALLY

But I can't. I can't do it.

GANDOR

Then you'll never be able to do a cartwheel.

SALLY

There has to be another way.

GANDOR

If you don't complete "The Necromancer," you will never get better.

SALLY

But I was an adult when I did it. I'm back to being a kid now.

GANDOR  
 You're still the same person who  
 believed in herself.

SALLY  
 I don't know if I'm the same  
 anymore.

Gandor looks over to the others who have slowly stopped  
 picking oranges. With a nod from Gandor, Fidget, Gabby,  
 Raven, and Carmine circle around Sally.

GANDOR  
 We will always be here for you, but  
 we can only take you so far. The  
 rest of the journey is up to you.  
 Only you can get to the other side.

SALLY  
 What if I don't make it?

GANDOR  
 That's the fear talking.

Gabby scurries up Sally's body and sits on her shoulder.

GABBY  
 Remember, release your fear and you  
 can do anything.

Gabby levitates.

SALLY  
 You're doing it! You're flying!

GABBY  
 Only because you believed it was  
 possible.

Sally pauses, deciding what to do.

SALLY  
 Will you all come with me?

Her friends nod.

EXT. MRS. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Sally hugs Mrs. Martin goodbye.

SALLY  
 I'm sorry I won't be able to help  
 with your garden anymore.

MRS. MARTIN

That's okay dear, it's time for you  
to move on.

She gestures to Sally's animal friends.

MRS. MARTIN (CONT'D)

They'll keep me company.

SALLY

I'll miss you. I'll miss all of  
this.

MRS. MARTIN

Some pie for the road.

Mrs. Martin gives Sally some pie that has been hastily  
wrapped, much like Sally's grandmother did.

MRS. MARTIN (CONT'D)

Good luck, my dear.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Sally and her friends trudge down a well-worn path until it  
reaches a dead end.

SALLY

But this is the way. I feel it is.

GANDOR

Follow your instincts.

Sally looks left and right, then behind her.

SALLY

It's definitely this way.

Then she looks up.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Who's up for a little flying?

EXT. SKY - DAY

Like they did in the barn, Sally's friends hang from her legs  
and feet as she flies through the air.

EXT. SANDERSON GORGE - DAY

Sally comes to a soft landing next to the river. Her canoe "Amber" rests against the rocks.

SALLY

Will I see you when I get to the end?

GANDOR

We will always be with you in your heart.

Sally hugs Gandor.

GABBY

We'll miss you, Sally. We took a vote. Everyone voted. It was unanimous.

RAVEN

We love you.

CARMINE

You can do this, Sally.

FIDGET

I wish I could come with you, my friend.

SALLY

I love you all.

She pushes the canoe into the water and hops in.

EXT. NECROMANCER - DAY

A MONTAGE shows Sally paddling through the same sections as "adult Sally":

-She glides through mile one with relative ease, encountering only a few bumps.

-In mile two, the rapids come on with a fierce intensity, as if the river is angry, but Sally manages to stay afloat.

-A large wave lifts Sally and her canoe five feet in the air and drops her into the water with a large splash, but Sally keeps paddling ahead.

-Sally approaches "The Crusher." She sees faint images of her whitewater rafting friends standing along the edge cheering her on.

-Sally flies over the drop and lands with ease, navigating better than she did the first time.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

She slows down as she approaches the claustrophobic section, with the granite walls rising fifty feet high.

The howling sounds of the wind echo in the tight space.

SALLY

I wonder... No, I can't wonder.  
Wonder creates fear, and I can't  
have any fear.

She starts paddling.

The high walls block the sun making the white froth of the rapids look eerie in the dark.

She moves through the section, constantly looking over her shoulder, as if she senses someone -- or something -- is following her.

EXT. RIVER - MILE SIX - DAY

Sally exhales as she paddles into mile six.

The granite walls open up and river expands to its previous width.

Sally expertly paddles around the boulders and stays away from the unfriendly "holes" that can suck anything underwater.

A wave lifts her higher than expected and Amber hits a boulder, leaving a small nick on the side of the canoe, but Sally perseveres.

SALLY

I have no fear.

Moments after saying that, she hears the sound of crashing water indicative of a massive waterfall.

SALLY (CONT'D)

It can't be. I'm not ready. No. Not yet.

Up ahead is a massive force of nature named "Phantasm Falls," a 100-foot waterfall.



SALLY (CONT'D)  
Is this how it will end?

As her anxiety increase, the waves get stronger.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
No, wait, I can do this. I can fly.  
I'm magic. I can do this.

She picks up her oar and holds it across the canoe.

As her tiny canoe approaches the edge, she closes her eyes and leans forward.

Everything goes quiet and slows down.

Sally soars down the rushing water as if she's flying.

As she lands, all sound returns.

Sally opens her eyes, coughing and sputter water.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Woohoo! Holy yikes! We made it  
Amber! We actually made it!

An errant wave blindsides her and smashes the canoe into the boulder, leaving a bigger crack in the canoe's deck.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
(shouting to no one)  
No fair! Leave Amber alone!

Sally paddles hard, desperate to get away from the jagged boulders.

EXT. RIVER - THE FINAL MILE - DAY

Sally moves into the final mile, one filled with unfriendly holes waiting to suck her under.

SALLY  
(to Amber)  
We can do this.

Sally paddles aggressively, attempting to move around the first hole --

But the undercurrent is too strong and pulls her in --

The canoe is tossed from side to side and flips over--

Sally FALLS OUT--

Now underwater, Sally is tossed around like clothes in a washing machine --

She struggles to break free from the current --

GABBY (V.O.)

You can do it. You are strong.

Sally relaxes --

And she floats to the top.

The hole "spits" her out.

She swims over to her canoe that's wedged between two boulders.

SALLY

I will conquer you, Necromancer.

Sally gets into the canoe and charges ahead.

As if she unlocked the secret code, she navigates the final section of the hellish river, dodging all the boulders and holes in her path.

She finally gets to the end, where the river flows into Monarch Lake.

Sally holds her oar above her head.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Yes! I did it! We did it!

EXT. MONARCH LAKE - DAY

On the other side of the large lake, her whitewater rafting friends -- F.G., Ravenia, Carmina, Gary, and Gabriel -- wave and jump up and down in celebration.

Sally waves enthusiastically from hundreds of feet away.

SALLY

(shouting)

I told you I could do it!

A distant rumbling comes from a nearby valley.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What's that?

She looks around.

More ominous sounds fill the air: popping, crashing, crunching.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
What's going on?

She looks to where her friends are -- but they're gone.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
No. I beat you. I won!

She looks behind her -- to the obstacle course she just completed -- and she is stunned: a giant tsunami-like tidal wave is heading straight for her.

Giant Sequoias are ripped from their roots with ease. Boulders are tossed around as if they are pebbles. The ten-foot story wave arches back, as if it's preparing to swallow Sally.

Sally, rather than being afraid, grows resolute.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
I can handle whatever you throw at me.

The tidal wave crashes down on Sally, enveloping her.

The wave dissipates and the lake returns to its normal placid self. There is no sign of Sally or Amber.

EXT. SKY/EXT. LAKE - DAY

Sally, floating above the lake, looks down at the peaceful lake scene.

Her animated animal friends float alongside her.

GANDOR  
Well done, Sally.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - DAY (REALITY)

Sally wakes with a great big smile.

She wiggles her good hand. She looks to the other but it doesn't move.

Frustrated, she grunts.

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY

Sally, feeling a bit low, barely waves hello to others as she enters.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Hey, I know it's been hard these past few months. You need to go easy on yourself.

The therapist places her in the whirlpool bath.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Ugh, towels. Why do I always forget towels? Be right back.

The therapist hurries off.

Sally closes her eyes and slides underwater.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. TSUNAMI UNDERWATER - DAY

Sally tumbles through the rough river water.

Her canoe, Sequoia trees, and boulders are in the mix with her.

Her eyes are open. She isn't afraid -- just calm and serene.

SALLY

I have no fear.

She starts moving her arms in a flying motion and kicking her legs.

INTERCUT WITH WHIRLPOOL TUB

Sally's arms and legs move in the same patterns as in her imagination.

In the lake, she explodes through the surface of the water with her hands over her head like a referee signaling a touchdown, flying high into the air.

END INTERCUT

INT. PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY

In the whirlpool, Sally has her arms over her head.

SALLY  
I have no fear!

The physical therapist, other therapists, and patients rush over.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
Are you okay?

He helps her out of the water.

Using him as support, Sally is able to stand and wiggle her toes.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (CONT'D)  
(thrilled)  
Someone needs to call her parents.

INT. GRANDFATHER'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Sally's grandfather works on a birdhouse for Sally. He looks up at her canoe, gathering dust.

Mary enters and rings the bell.

MARY  
Dad, it's Sally. She wiggled her toes.

GRANDFATHER  
Does that mean--

MARY  
She might be able to walk one day.

GRANDFATHER  
I knew she could do it.

EXT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - DAY

The staff and other patients gather outside for small party for Sally. Sally's grandmother and grandfather arrive with balloons for each of the kids.

Sally's dad slices cake and passes out pieces. Sally's mom puts face paint on one of the children.

Sally, however, is off to the side, staring into the distance. She rests on her crutches.

Jerry approaches with two pieces of cake.

JERRY

Ever since my ice cream rebellion,  
they've been getting pretty slack  
on the dessert rules.

Sally offers up a partial smile. Her speech is slow but  
better than before.

SALLY

Thank you.

JERRY

Everything okay?

SALLY

I miss... my friends.

JERRY

Oh, right. Yeah. I'm sure you can't  
wait to get back to them.

SALLY

You're... my friend... too.

JERRY

I am?

She nods.

SALLY

But I... miss F.G.

JERRY

Who is F.G.?

SALLY

He helped me... get better.

JERRY

Sounds like a pretty good guy.

SALLY

He is.

JERRY

So what are you going to do when  
you finally get out of here?  
Skydive? Snowboard?

SALLY

Go canoeing.

JERRY

I've never been.

Sally looks at him with disbelief.

SALLY  
Never?

JERRY  
It is fun?

SALLY  
Life-changing.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - DAY

A MONTAGE shows Sally improving:

- Sally reading out loud from a book
- Sally holding cards and playing Go Fish with Jerry
- Sally walking across the room with the help of one crutch
- Sally doing water exercises to strengthen her muscles
- Sally performs magic tricks with Jerry for the other patients

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Sally sits across from the psychologist.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
How are you feeling today?

SALLY  
About leaving?

PSYCHOLOGIST  
Yeah. You've improved faster than a lot of other patients, which is remarkable. But it means we won't be meeting any more.

SALLY  
I'm feeling relieved.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
Why?

SALLY  
I know you don't believe me about F.G. but it was real. I know it was.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
I never said I didn't believe you.

SALLY  
It is hard to believe.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
The world -- and the body -- is too complex for anyone to say they know exactly how it works.

SALLY  
Okay. Then, uhm, what about flying?

PSYCHOLOGIST  
What do you mean?

SALLY  
What if I told you I could fly?

PSYCHOLOGIST  
Was that before or after the accident?

SALLY  
After.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
How did it feel to fly?

SALLY  
Free. Like nothing could stop me.

PSYCHOLOGIST  
Maybe that's why you have healed so quickly. Because you know nothing can stop you.

Sally smiles.

SALLY  
I have no fear.

INT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - SALLY'S ROOM - DAY

Her parents pack up her room.

Jennifer and Jerry look on with sadness.

JENNIFER  
I'll miss you.



SALLY  
I'll be back to visit.

Jerry hugs Sally goodbye.

JERRY  
(whispering)  
For what it's worth, I believe you  
can fly.

EXT. CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER - DAY

As they load into the van, Sally sees something odd in the  
distance--

It's her animated animal friends having a picnic where she  
had her celebration party.

SALLY  
I have to do one more thing.

Sally walks toward them.

FIDGET  
Sally!

RAVEN  
Salleeeeeee!!

GABBY  
I made them have a meeting to vote  
on whether we should come back one  
last time and everyone voted yes.  
So here we are.

SALLY  
I'm so happy to see you.

GANDOR  
I knew you could do it, Sally.

SALLY  
Do you guys think I can still fly?

GANDOR  
Do you have any fear?

SALLY  
No.

GANDOR  
Then the sky is the limit.

SALLY

I wonder...

She raises her arms as if she is about to fly.

INT. GRANDFATHER'S WORKSHOP - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "One year later."

Sally's grandfather works on his latest project.

Sally knocks and enters, ringing the bell.

GRANDFATHER

Little one!

SALLY

We're almost ready to go.

She points back to the car. In the distance, Mary and John greet Mary's mom. There are two canoes strapped to the top of the car.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Is Amber ready?

GRANDFATHER

She is.

Her grandfather takes the canoe off the wall.

SALLY

(to the canoe)

I've missed you.

GRANDFATHER

Huh. I don't remember that scratch.

SALLY

That's from "The Necromancer."

GRANDFATHER

Ah, of course. Let me buff it out.

SALLY

No, it's perfect the way it is.

Aided by her grandfather, Sally carries Amber to the car.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Sally and her family arrive.

There are two vans from the Children's Therapy Center and several other cars already there.

The aides and therapists help the children into modified rafts.

Sally runs over to greet Jerry and Jennifer.

SALLY

We're going to have so much fun.  
You're going to feel like you're  
flying.

EXT. CALM RIVER - DAY

Sally slowly paddles down the calm river, followed by parents, grandparents, and all her friends from the therapy center.

Sally looks up at a nearby ridge: there's a raven, coyote, squirrel, rabbit, and goose.

Sally waves and continues down the river.

FADE TO BLACK.

AS THE CREDITS ROLL...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The driver from the liquor store robbery tries to itch his bruised nose but can't reach due to the cumbersome cast on his right arm. His left arm is immobile, handcuffed to the metal hospital bed.

His sidekick is in a full body cast in the other bed.

The driver, desperate, looks over to the POLICE OFFICER standing guard.

DRIVER

C'mon, man. Can you uncuff me so I  
can scratch my nose?

SIDEKICK

Don't do it. He deserves a scratchy  
nose.

DRIVER

That's cold, buddy.

SIDEKICK  
Next time cut the right wires.

DRIVER  
(annoyed)  
I did.

SIDEKICK  
Did not.

DRIVER  
Did, too.

SIDEKICK  
Did not!

DRIVER  
Did, too.

SIDEKICK  
Did not! If you did, then why did  
the cops come after us?

DRIVER  
It was probably you when you  
grabbed that extra bottle.

SIDEKICK  
Was not.

DRIVER  
Was, too.

SIDEKICK  
Was not!

DRIVER  
Was, too!

SIDEKICK  
If you don't take it back--

DRIVER  
I'm certain it was your fault--

SIDEKICK  
I'm gonna come over there--

DRIVER  
And do what?

Angry, the sidekick -- in his full body cast -- rocks himself side-to-side with so much force that he ROLLS off the bed and lands face-first on the floor.

SIDEKICK  
 (muffled)  
 Ow.

DRIVER  
 (to police officer)  
 Hey, can you get a nurse? My friend  
 is hurting over here.

The police officer shakes his head in disbelief and leaves to find a nurse.

SIDEKICK  
 Thanks, buddy. I forgive you for  
 not cutting the right wire.

DRIVER  
 I did!

SIDEKICK  
 Did not!

DRIVER  
 Did, too!

FADE TO BLACK.

POST-CREDITS

INT. SUPERCONDUCTOR LAB - DAY

Sally (now 30) carefully removes a ten-inch wafer-thin disk from a liquid nitrogen bath.

On Screen: Twenty Years Later - California State  
 Superconductor Lab

A dozen colleagues watch as she places the disk on top of a magnet.

The disk FLOATS in a fixed position.

SALLY  
 (to her colleagues)  
 I guess this is when we actually  
 have a breakthrough or when all of  
 you, my esteemed colleagues, will  
 see me fall on my face.

Everyone chuckles nervously.

Sally holds her breath and steps onto the record-sized disk. The disk stays in place and supports Sally.

Her colleagues, including the LEAD SCIENTIST (70), cheer and clap.

SALLY (CONT'D)

It worked!

LEAD SCIENTIST

You've got about three more seconds left, if we calculated correctly.

EVERYONE

Three. Two. One!

The liquid nitrogen dissipates. Sally hops off and the disk drops to the ground.

LEAD SCIENTIST

I'll let the Board know we're ready for a public demonstration. In the meantime, I have some champagne in my office.

The others exit leaving just the lead scientist and Sally behind.

LEAD SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Thank you, Sally, for all your hard work. I know you wanted to work on your theory --

SALLY

Removing the requirement of near-zero temperatures really is the future--

LEAD SCIENTIST

There are a lot of steps in between. I really appreciate that you put that project on hold to focus on this one.

SALLY

It's been great working with this team.

LEAD SCIENTIST

And, to be honest, your theory is going to be really hard to prove, so I don't want you to get down if it doesn't work out.

SALLY

I've had a lot of setbacks in my  
life. I'm sure I'll be fine.

LEAD SCIENTIST

Champagne?

SALLY

I'm going to clean up. I'll be  
right there.

Now the last one in the room, Sally pulls out a small wood  
case from her bag -- the wood is the same color as Amber.

Inside the case is a disk like the one she just tested. The  
difference is that this disk is marbled. The swirls of color  
are reminiscent of what Sally experienced underneath the  
turbulent waters as a young child and in her dreams.

She sets the disk on the floor and places ONE DROP of a  
liquid in the center.

The liquid spreads through the disk -- changing the colors on  
the disk -- making the surface almost appear like a moving  
current.

Sally steps on the disk but nothing happens.

Disappointed, Sally's smile falls.

The disk vibrates, startling Sally.

She looks down: the disk is LEVITATING.

Sally is now two feet off the ground. Her smile is back.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I knew I could fly.

FADE OUT.