

Tricky

INT. SMALL BATHROOM - DAY

A flashy red ball settles in the palm of an open, all white, gloved hand. A fancy napkin falls on top of it.

SAL, 50s, in a clown suit with no makeup, waves his hand over the napkin. He slips the napkin off to reveal --

The ball, still there. Sal narrows his eyes on the challenge. Sal glances at his watch, and then covers the ball again.

INT. SMALL BATHROOM - HOURS LATER

Sal glares at the napkin over the ball. His strained fingers hover over it. Sal hurls the napkin off -- but no results.

Sal slumps over the sink. But he peers into the mirror with ambition. Sal snags a makeup kit and applies his mask.

INT. BIRTHDAY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sal raises the exquisite red ball with intensity in his eyes. He stands before a group of uninterested kids and adults.

Theatrically, Sal lowers the napkin over the snazzy ball. He swirls his hand atop, then takes hold of the napkin. Sal basks in the suspense... then zings the napkin into the air.

EXT. PORCH - DAY

The door slams on Sal, integrity stripped away. His defeated eyes scrutinize the red ball. Sal heads down a walkway, passing a LITTLE GIRL and her MOTHER.

The little girl stops. She looks up at Sal with anticipation.

Sal gazes at the innocent child for a moment. He sighs as he slumps to one knee, and pulls out the ball and napkin.

The little girl watches with glee as Sal throws the napkin over the ball. He does a casual wave. Drags the napkin off --

To reveal the red ball, still in the center of his palm.

His face sinks even lower. Sal starts to get up, but the little girl grabs his wrist. She ogles the beautiful ball.

Sal hesitantly holds the ball out to her. The little girl can't believe it! She cradles the gift -- and then catches Sal off guard with a firm hug.

Sal embraces her. A quiet smile spreads across his face. Her mother calls for her. She releases Sal and skips away.

Sal slowly rises. He turn down the walkway, and heads off.