

THE RED BALL

Written by

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1 FADE IN. 1

1 EXT. PARK - DAY 1

In a park, untouched by any adult interaction, children are free to play. The park has three main areas where they play: (1) A SHADED AREA, (2) AN OPEN FIELD, (3) A HILL.

2 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 2

EMILY, an 8 year-old racially ambiguous girl is playing with her younger brother, CONNOR, a 6 year-old. The two are playing with a red ball. Emily is helping Connor, showing him how to kick it. She is completely innocent and good natured, nurturing in her interaction with Connor.

Emily stands behind Connor and encourages him while he kicks the red ball. Connor misses on one kick. Emily giggles with him. She demonstrates how it's done, then stands back to let him kick it.

Connor kicks the ball and it rolls slowly along until MARTIN, a racially ambiguous 8-year-old boy, stops the ball and picks it up to examine it. He compares the ball he holds in his right hand, a slightly BIGGER RED BALL that he brought to the park. Martin scoffs at the smaller ball and drops it on the ground. He walks away.

Emily stares in wonderment at Martin walking away with the bigger red ball. She tries to draw Connor's attention to Martin and his bigger red ball. But Connor is happy with his ball. He tosses it once high into the air and, smiling, catches it. Connor presents the ball to Emily with both hands, but she is no longer paying attention. She wants the bigger ball.

3 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 3

Emily trots after Martin, who is walking away with his bigger red ball. She is reaching for the ball, but Martin is parrying her reaches. He is a bully, taunting her. He starts to run away from her, mocking her as he runs. She runs after him.

Emily slows for a moment and glances at Connor.

4 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 4

WYATT, a six year old boy, approaches Connor. Connor presents his ball to Wyatt by dropping it and kicking it to him. Wyatt receives the pass and kicks it back to Connor.

5 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 5

Martin shoves Emily to get her attention and displays his bigger ball again, taunting her as he does. He takes off running, and she gives chase.

Emily chases Martin, and he drops the ball and kicks it away from both of them. They both run toward the bigger red ball, which is stopped by JESSICA, a 9-year-old girl.

Jessica lightly nudges the BIGGER RED BALL away from her with her foot. Scoffing at it and carrying a SUPER BIG RED BALL in her hands.

Martin and Emily look at each other and back at Jessica with her super big red ball. They run toward Jessica, who is running away from them with her bigger ball. Martin is beginning to shove more, jockeying for position to get closer to the super big ball.

Emily is becoming more disheveled. Emily slows for a moment and glances at Connor.

6 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 6

ALYSSA and KATE, two more younger girls, approaches Connor and Wyatt. Wyatt skillfully dribbles the ball and then passes to Connor. Connor skillfully dribbles and then passes to Alyssa. Alyssa receives the pass and dribbles the ball on her knees.

7 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 7

Martin darts past Emily, chasing Jessica with her super big ball. Emily awakens from her gaze at Connor, remembering her lust for the bigger ball. She gives chase after Martin and Jessica.

Jessica stops under the heaviness of her ball. She swats the hands of Emily and Martin for a moment.

Then she looks into the distance, and points.

- 8 EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY 8
- JOEL, a 9-year-old boy, steps onto the park at the hill, dragging a GIGANTIC RED BALL, bigger than all the other balls and so big that he's having trouble carrying it.
- 9 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 9
- Martin and Jessica are pulling each other back, trying to get a head start toward the gigantic red ball. Emily looks back at ...
- 10 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 10
- Connor, playing with Wyatt, Alyssa and Kate.
- LIAM and LALLY, two more young children, approaches the group of small children. Connor kicks the ball to Liam, who fields it and kicks it in the air back to Connor. Connor head butts the ball to Alyssa who fields it.
- 11 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 11
- Emily is looking at Connor and his new friends when Jessica and Martin break free from each other and dart away, running toward Joel with his gigantic red ball. Emily is jolted from her gaze at Connor and takes off running after Martin and Jessica.
- 12 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 12
- Connor dribbles skillfully and passes to Alyssa. After the pass, Connor stops and gazes at Emily, then goes back to playing.
- 13 EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY 13
- Emily is jockeying for position toward the gigantic red ball when Martin shoves her to the ground. Emily sits for a moment, fighting back tears. This is the final straw for her. She's been bullied too much now. She is completely disheveled and bruised. Her innocence is gone. She lunges at Martin.
- Emily wrestles Martin to the ground and hits him. She is on top of Martin, crying and throwing blows, landing them. Martin's nose is bleeding.

14 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 14

Small Children and Connor see the violence and run to the hill to watch.

15 EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY 15

All the children are stopped, and are watching, scared, as Emily pummels Martin.

Jessica timidly approaches Emily to try to stop her from pummeling Martin. Emily shoves her effortlessly to the ground.

All the children are in dismay, staring at Emily as she lands blow after blow into Martin's bloodied face.

Connor runs up and grabs Emily from behind.

CONNOR

No!!!

Connor drags her away from Martin. Emily accidentally strikes Connor. He falls down, and begins to cry.

Emily looks at Connor. She realizes she's hurt him. She runs over to comfort him.

Emily looks at the gigantic red ball. She realizes it's ridiculous. Emily looks at the Small Children. She wants to play and have fun again. Emily gets up. She and Connor walk away with the Small Children, who are now kicking the smallest red ball toward each other, heading toward the shaded area.

Martin sits and cries, his nose still bloody. He watches the small children and Joel as he sobs.

16 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 16

Jessica walks toward Emily, Connor and Small Children.

17 EXT. SHADED AREA - DAY 17

Small Children, Connor, and Emily are laughing and playing. Emily is still wiping away some tears, but she is smiling.

18 EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY

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Joel inefficaciously drags his gigantic red ball.

FADE TO BLACK.

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