

FADE IN:

INT. FAO SCHWARTZ - DAY

To circus music, a CLOWN gyrates wildly.

This is in an elaborate toy store, like a mini-amusement park indoors, with life-sized stuffed elephants, horses, etc.

A banner hanging across the room says "Happy Birthday Constance"

A extraordinarily elaborate birthday cake inscribed with "Happy 14th, Constance".

The only other people present are CONSTANCE FAIRCHILD (14), SYLVIA (50), and a man, the STORE MANAGER (50).

MANAGER

I sent the staff home, as her parents requested.

(pointing to Constance)

Where are her friends and classmates?

The clown juggles colored balls in front of Constance, as Sylvia snaps pictures with a small camera.

Frowning, Constance ignores the clown and writes in a spiral notebook.

SYLVIA

Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild insisted on this being an intimate affair.

(beat)

They're mainly interested in photos.

The manager shakes his head.

MANAGER

What's the point of having a party if...

SYLVIA

(interrupting)

My little professor isn't much of a people person, anyway.

Sylvia snaps more pictures of Constance.