

## SMALL WORLD - BY ANNA K. MIERS

This episode follows Riley, a twenty-two year old trans man. The story explores the small everyday events that can evoke feelings of gender dysphoria, as well as euphoria, and the effect of a supportive group of friends - his chosen family.

NOTE: To those who are not trans or are without close trans friends, some of the events that trigger dysphoria may not be obvious to the reader of this script, and although they will be made obvious in the vision on screen, it was advised to annotate the script to make these events clearer to the reader. As such, notes in red have been added to clarify some of this instances. Instances of gender euphoria are not annotated but are also present throughout the film and will be felt by the audience; in instances where Riley feels particularly seen, feels a strong sense of peace in who he is, or receives an affirming comment or action from someone else - this can be as simple as being referred to with the correct pronoun, included in something that only guys are doing, or even just having the veins in his arms commented upon.

1 INT. DAYTIME. QUIET, PEACEFUL ROOM. SHOTS OF VARIOUS ITEMS 1  
AROUND THE ROOM THAT GIVE CONTEXT TO OUR PROTAGONIST'S  
PERSONALITY. A SIZEABLE PILE OF CLOTHES BY THE WARDROBE.  
CLOTHES LAID OUT NEATLY ON THE BED. A BLUE, WHITE, AND PINK  
FLAG IN A PENCIL POT ON THE DESK. THE CLOCK ON THE WALL IS  
TICKING. AN ALTERNATIVE LOOKING RILEY IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES  
IS LAYING ON THE HIS STOMACH ON THE FLOOR, NOSE TO NOSE WITH  
A DOG. - DAY

RILEY (TO DOG)

You know I'm the one that raised  
you, right? You don't think i'm  
someone else now do you? I hope not.

The dog yawns, looking vacant.

RILEY

Hmm. You don't have a thought in  
that head do you?

A car horn beeps out the front. His girlfriend is here to pick him up. Riley gets off the floor, grabs his t-shirt and board-shorts off the bed, stuffs them in his bag, along with

a piece of paper from the printer. He looks in the mirror quickly, and heads to car.

**2 EXT/INT. MIA IS DRIVING THE CAR, RILEY JUMPS IN, AND THE CAR 2  
BEGINS TO DRIVE.**

MIA  
Damnnnn! You look great.

Riley chuckles, and then proudly presents the piece of paper to Mia.

RILEY  
Check it outtttt!

MIA (EXCITED)  
Is this what I think it is?

Mia clears her throat, and reads aloud.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Dear Riley Anderson,

We see the piece of paper she's reading from. It has a university insignia, and is addressed to Dear Ruby (Riley) Anderson.

MIA (CONT'D)  
We are pleased to inform you that  
you have been successful admitted to  
the Bachelor of Biomedicine!

Mia leans over and wraps Riley up in a big hug. They separate again before Riley speaks, but Mia leaves her hand on Riley's shoulder.

RILEY  
I freakin' did it!

MIA (TEASING LIGHTLY)  
I freakin' knew you would!  
Now we really have something to  
celebrate!

RILEY (JOKING)  
Yes! I love being celebrated!

Cut to a wide, high angle shot as the car drives down the road. We hear chatter in the car as it drives further away.

RILEY

I'm gonna be mature age babyyyy!

MIA

Okay you're 22, you're hardly a mature age student.

CUT TO:

**3 EXT/INT. ANDY'S HOUSE - THE PARTY. - AFTERNOON**

**3**

Andy comes to the screen door to greet everyone before they reach it.

ANDY

Yes! Mia, Riley, you made it!  
Bathroom's through there if you need to change. Everyone's out at the pool.

Riley and Mia enter the house, saying hi to Andy and being greeted by the other guests. Riley heads to the bathroom. Everyone else heads outside, already in their bathers.

**4 EXT. POOL. THERE'S A BBQ WITH SAUSAGES COOKING, AN ESKY, A MEDIUM SIZED POOL. NOTHING FANCY. MISMATCHED POOL FURNITURE. DEAD DRY GRASS IN THE AREA OUTSIDE THE POOL FENCE. A FEW PEOPLE WITH DRINKS ARE IN THE WATER, AND ON THE FOLDING LOUNGE CHAIRS BY THE POOL. - AFTERNOON**

**4**

Mia is putting away drinks next to Andy, who is tending to the sausages on the barbecue.

ANDY

Where's your squeeze gone?

MIA

(Laughs) my \*squeeze\* is getting changed.

ANDY

Well, hopefully he hurries up, food's almost ready.

MIA (YELLS)

Come on Ruby! The-

Mia looks shocked, cutting off her own sentence, covering her mouth. She closes her eyes in frustration.

Andy noticing her distress, attempts to offer support.

ANDY  
The name things tricky, right?

MIA (ANNOYED)  
Not really.

Mia speaks with annoyance at the suggestion and shameful embarrassment.

MIA (CONT'D, EXASPERATED)  
I.. just.. his uni letter had his  
old name on it, and I just... I  
dunno.. it's not like I think of him  
any other way than as Riley - I  
just... argh I don't -

ANDY (CUTTING MIA OFF)  
Hey. It happens. Don't beat yourself  
up about it. I doubt he heard you  
anyways, the music's pretty loud in  
there.

There's a pause. Mia doesn't respond, continuing to look upset with herself.

ANDY  
But, to atone, you must be dunked!

MIA  
Wha-

ANDY (MUSICALLY)  
In we goooooo!

Andy swings Mia into the pool. Mia has her bathers underneath, but is still wearing her regular clothes on top.

WIDE SHOT OF PARTY. PEOPLE IN POOL. PEOPLE ON THE SIDE BLOWING UP POOL TOYS. SOMEONE IS HANDING DRINKS REplete WITH STRAWS AND SOME WITH TINY UMBRELLAS TO THE PEOPLE IN THE POOL, WE SEE THEM GIVE TWO TO MIA.

Riley walks out of house, his eyes appraising the party scene. He conspicuously wears a black t-shirt and board shorts. Everyone else is shirtless or in bikinis. He scans the party, beginning to feel self-conscious. He is jolted from his thoughts as someone yells for him to get in the pool. Everyone in the pool joins in.

CHICK 1  
Yeah get in!

GUY 1  
Do a flip!

etc.

The party seems to get louder and louder. It feels like everyone is looking at him. The camera is close on his face as he looks at the pool.

Riley runs, jumping in, tucking his legs up into a cannonball.

The noise of the party goes quiet. Riley sinks to the bottom of the pool, looking back up at the shimmering surface. After what seems a while, he resurfaces. The party has returned to a normal volume. Everyone is talking to each other, not looking at him.

Someone off screen splashes him lightly from behind with their foot. We see their legs are dangling in the pool as they sit on the side.

RANDOM 1 (IN MOCK MEANNESS)  
You soaked me!

Riley half-turns behind him, smiles and chuckles, softly splashing them back. A light squeal and laugh come in return.

He turns back around. (Mid shot - side angle) Mia comes into frame, carrying two drinks with straws in them. One is pink, the other green.

MIA  
Hey there. Brought you a drink.

Mia smiles, holding up the two drinks. She looks down at the green drink, and back at Riley.

Mia pulls the straw out of the green drink with her teeth, moving it to the other bottle in a way that looks intimate. She takes a sip, and hands the other bottle to Riley, sidling up to him, her arm on his shoulder as his arm goes around her waist. Mia kisses Riley lightly.

Some trans people can feel dysphoria at something as simple as being given a pink drink, or even a straw - the association being that only girls drink with straws. It can trigger dysphoria and a sense of not feeling validated in their gender. This small action is a kindness from Mia, who is conscious of the potential effect of these small things.

RILEY (SMILING)  
Cheers!

Their bottles clink.

Someone cannonballs into the pool. Everyone shrieks.