

RICKI

Written By

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We are God's children who live our lives in a difficult world who
will be the same children in the afterlife.

- Jon David Griffin

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CHYRON

TITLE CARD: "RICKI"

EXT./ESTAB. PATERSON, NEW JERSEY - DAY

The streets are animated with moving vehicles and people walking along the sidewalks and crossing the streets.

SUPER: "PATERSON, NEW JERSEY"

EXT./ESTAB. A HOUSE - DAY

A car drives past the house.

INT. RICKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS - A WOMAN GETTING DRESSED

- She hooks the back of a black bra.
- She puts on a pair of black panties.
- She puts on a red blouse.
- Finally, she puts on a pair of jeans.

RICKI ANDERSON, who is in her mid-40s and is a post-op member of the transgender community, walks over to her full-length mirror and checks out her outfit in it.

RICKI'S REFLECTION

She looks in her mirror and grins at her reflection and then, she puts her hands on her hips, which protrude rather nicely. She has quite the hourglass figure post-surgeries.

She winks at her reflection and then:

RICKI
(to her reflection)
You're lookin' good.

She winks at her reflection again and sports a big smile.

Next, she walks to her bed, sits on it and puts on her socks and sneakers and then, she stands up and leaves her bedroom.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ricki walks toward her couch and takes her seat on it:

RICKI (V.O.)

My name is Ricki Anderson and I'm a member of the transgender community.

(emphasizes calmly)

I used to be Richard Anderson, but I just couldn't continue living my life as a man. I'm not saying that to slam men, but as a man, I felt more and more like a woman.

(a brief pause)

The surgeries that I had undergone were quite expensive, but it was all worth it to be who I truly am.

(she picks up her cell phone from off the coffee table in front of her and dials a number)

I decided to call my friend, Ryan Potter to see how he was doing.

She puts the phone on her right ear.

EXT./ESTAB. RYAN'S POTTER'S HOUSE - DAY

A car drives past the house and then, the RINGING of a cell phone is heard.

INT. RYAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A CELL PHONE ON THE COFFEE TABLE

A hand picks it up and:

TILT UP to RYAN POTTER, an African American male, who is in his mid-40s and Ricki's best friend ever since the both of them were little, is on the couch. He answers the phone.

RYAN

Hello?

RICKI (O.C.)

(from the phone)

Hello, Ryan? It's Rick.

RYAN

Hey, Rick! How are you doing?

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - RICKI AND RYAN

In Ricki's living room, she also sits on her couch with her phone on her ear.

RICKI

I'm doing fine. How are you?

RYAN (O.C.)

(from his phone)

I'm doing fine myself. I'm just chilling out here at my house. What are you up to?

RICKI

I'm doing the same at my house. Uh, listen. Is it okay if I come over and visit? We can catch up on old times.

RYAN

Sure. I'm game. Come on over. I'm looking forward to catching up on all the memories when we were growing up.

RICKI

That'll be awesome! I'll be there in about thirty minutes.

RYAN

Cool! I'll definitely be here.

RICKI

Okay. Talk to you soon.

RYAN

Likewise.

Ryan hangs up his phone and puts it on the coffee table in front of him.

Ricki, on the other hand, puts her phone in her jeans pocket and then, she picks up her house keys and puts them in her jeans pocket.

Finally, she gets up and walks toward the entrance to her bedroom.

INT. RICKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

She enters her bedroom and takes her leather jacket from off the doorknob of her closet door and puts it on.

RICKI (V.O.)
 I'm so happy that I'm gonna visit
 Ryan, but I sure hope that he won't
 have a problem with me being a
 female.

She sports a big grin and she walks out of her bedroom.

EXT. RYAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Ricki walks through the neighborhood to Ryan's house.

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "THIRTY
 MINUTES LATER".

RICKI (V.O.)
 As I walked Ryan's house, I
 wondered how he was going to feel
 when he comes face to face with the
 new me.
 (a brief pause)
 Ryan was the last person to see me
 as a man prior to my
 transformation.

She stops right in front of Ryan's house and then, she takes
 a deep breath and lets it out. Next, she walks up the stairs
 and walks toward the door and stands in front of it.

She takes another deep breath and lets it out.

INT. RYAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

He is still on his couch. Just then, his DOORBELL RINGS. Ryan
 gets up from his seat and answers the door and then, he comes
 face to face with...

...RICKI! She has a big smile on her face.

Ryan looks at her in concerned silence because he doesn't
 know this person.

RYAN
 Uh...may I help you?

RICKI
 Ryan, it's me...Rick Anderson.

RYAN
 Rick? Are you sure it's you?

RICKI

Yes, I'm one hundred percent sure.
May I come in?

RYAN

Uh...s-sure. Come in.

He opens the door wider, Ricki enters the house and walks in the middle of the living room. Then, Ryan CLOSES the door and walks over to where she is.

He is deeply concerned at this point.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Now, let me get this straight: You say you're Rick Anderson?

RICKI

Yes, I am...but now, I go by the name Ricki now.

REVERSE DOLLY ZOOM on Ryan. He is shocked right now. He can't believe what this woman said.

RYAN

Ricki?

RICKI

Yes. I have decided to become a female.

At this point, Ryan is really concerned and he has an "I can't believe what this woman is telling me" look on his face.

He sees a female in front of him, but he can't believe that she was a male named Rick. He shakes his head to get the thought and what was said to him out of his mind.

RYAN

Uh...may I take your jacket?

RICKI

(she takes off her jacket
and hands it to Ryan)

Sure.

(Ryan takes her jacket and
puts it on the left arm of
the couch)

So, how are you doing today?

RYAN

Well...like I said before. I'm doing fine. How are you?

RICKI
I'm doing fine myself.

RYAN
Let's take a seat on the couch and talk.

RICKI
Okay.
(the two do just that)
Let me get this straight: You were Rick, but now, you're Ricki?

RICKI (CONT'D)
That's right.

RYAN
Hmmm. That's...interesting.
(a brief pause)
Uh...want a Coke?

RICKI
Sure.

Ryan gets up and walks into the kitchen.

INT. RYAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Ryan enters and as he opens the refrigerator door:

It is filled with food and two plastic bottles of Coke. Ryan takes the bottles out of the refrigerator and closes the door.

Then, he takes the bottles and goes back into the living room and joins Ricki.

INT. RYAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ricki is still on her seat on the couch and then, Ryan walks over to the couch, hands Ricki a bottle of Coke and takes his seat on the couch next to her as he holds his bottle.

Next, he takes two coasters off the stack on the coffee table and puts them side by side.

RYAN
Now, what would you like to talk about?

RICKI

Whatever you would like to talk about.

RYAN

Okay. What made you decide to become a female?

RICKI

I wasn't happy with being a man. Deep down, when I was a boy, I always felt feminine. Long story short: I was a girl trapped in a boy's body.

RYAN

What I find amazing is the last time we are together, I said to you that you were a good person and I told you don't ever change.

RICKI

Ironic, huh?

Ricki giggles at her little joke. Ryan, on the other hand, is still concerned as to why his best friend has transformed into a female.

Then, Ricki looks toward him and stops giggling.

She sees that Ryan has a puzzled look on his face. He is trying to process the whole scenario. Now, Ricki tries her best to ease what seems to be her friend's deep concern.

RICKI (CONT'D)

Oh, come on, Ryan. I'm still your best friend. I'm just a different gender, that's all.

RYAN

Does anyone else know about this?

RICKI

I told the members of my family and quite to my surprise, they were really supportive and so were all of our friends.

(re: Ryan listens attentively)

I called every single one of them and told them in person about my transformation and all of them were totally on board and got their support.

(MORE)

RICKI (CONT'D)

(re: Ricki)

You were the last one I have come
to see.

Ryan is deep in thought and takes in what Ricki had said to him. He wonders why he was the last person to know this information that obviously meant a lot to Ricki.

He has read a lot of stories about members of the transgender community and has researched the topic until his eyes fell out of his head, but...

...believe it or not, that's not why he is concerned...at least, that is the thought his silence is going with. Why is he concerned? What is the real reason behind his silence?

Instead, he downplays the truth about his feelings and remains silent and now, Ricki looks at her friend with deep concern.

The silence between the two is evident, but their facial expressions speak volumes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RYAN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

THE TWO EMPTY COKE BOTTLES ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

TILT UP to the two friends still on the couch together. The silence between them is still evident.

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "ANOTHER HOUR LATER".

Ricki continues to look at Ryan with deep concern.

Ryan, on the other hand, has his reason for his silence. He continues to downplay his truth about Ricki's confession.

The silence between them is broken when Ricki asks Ryan...

RICKI

Uh..are you okay?

Ryan, who is deep into his true feeling, downplays it and finally answers Ricki's question.

RYAN

Uh...yeah. I'm okay.

Ricki gets up from her seat.

RICKI
 Uh...I gotta go. Could you hand me
 my coat?

Ryan gets up from *his* does just that and as Ricki puts it on:

RICKI (CONT'D)
 It's been nice seeing yuh. I hope
 we can get together again. Maybe we
 can hang out at the mall sometime.
 (re: Ryan)
 What do yuh say?

Ryan sports a small grin.

RYAN
 That would be great.

Ricki sports a small grin, as well.

RICKI
 Awesome!
 (the two walk to the front
 door and stop near it)
 I will definitely see yuh around.

RYAN
 Likewise.

RICKI
 (she opens the door)
 Take care.

RYAN
 You too.

Ricki leaves and Ryan CLOSES the door and he lets out a deep
 breath and as he leaves from in front of the door:

EXT. RYAN'S PORCH - DAY

Ricki stands in front of the front door and she is deeply
 concerned and confused beyond explanation. Why was her friend
 so silent after she came out as a woman?

Did her confession make him uncomfortable? Did he have some
 deep rooted hate against her for being transgendered?

Ricki didn't expect the current outcome to be this difficult
 to understand. She thought that Ryan would be happy for her.

Now, she has so many unanswered questions about Ryan and
 tries to figure out the answers as she returns home.

INT. RICKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

OVERHEAD SHOT/REVERSE DOLLY ZOOM on Ricki as she lays across her bed with her hands behind her head and she is in her sock feet. She is deep in thought about Ryan's silence.

RICKI (V.O.)

(emphasizes calmly)

Wow. My visit to Ryan's house didn't go as well as I hoped. As I looked in his eyes, he had such a concerned look on his face.

(a brief pause -
concerned)

Did I make him feel uncomfortable by telling him about my transformation?

(still concerned)

Did he hate me for it? Did he wish that I had stayed a male?

(emphasizes with honesty)

To be honest, I thought that he would be happy to see me as a woman. I was still the same person I was when Ryan and I were kids.

(a brief pause)

I gotta tell yuh: I was really taken aback by Ryan's silence. What were the reasons behind it?

(a brief pause)

I wish he had said something to let me know where our friendship stood.

Ricki sits up. She sports a big frown as she continues to think about the situation and her future with Ryan. She feels like she is in a real pickle right now.

INT. RICKI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

She paces behind her couch from left to right. She is trying to come up with a way to remedy the current situation.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICKI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER".

Now, she lays across the couch deep in thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICKI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES".

Now, she sits on the left side of the couch deep in thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICKI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES".

She now sits on the right side of the couch deep in thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICKI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER APPEARS IN THE LOWER CENTER OF THE SCREEN: "ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES".

Now she is still deep in thought as she stands in front of the couch with her arms folded across her chest.

SLOW REVERSE DOLLY ZOOM on Ricki as she stands in place with a frown.

RICKI (V.O.)

I have spent an entire hour trying to figure this situation out and I gotta tell yuh: I don't have a fuckin' clue about why Ryan's silence is eating me up inside.

(a brief pause)

I guess I had better go back to Ryan's and demand answers.

INT. RYAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A series of KNOCKS on the door are heard. Ryan OPENS the door and he comes face to face with...

Ricki, who is not too happy right now. She looks at Ryan with a look on her face that says "I want answers. Correction. I demand answers."

Ryan is shocked to see her.

RYAN
What are you doing here?

RICKI
I'm here to ask you a few questions
about my last visit.

RYAN
That's ironic, 'cause I have a few
things to say to you about what you
said when you visited.

Well, at least they are talking and seem to be on the same page and now, they both want to tell each other their side of the conflict between them.

Now, they want to put the "bad blood" behind them.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Come on in.

Ricki enters Ryan's house and he CLOSES the door and joins Ricki, who has taken her seat on the couch. He takes a seat on her left.

RYAN (CONT'D)
First, I want to apologize to you
for not saying anything during your
initial visit.
(emphasizes with honesty)
As you know, I'm an avid reader.
And I want you to know that I have
read the life stories about people
in the transgendered community.
(re: Ricki listens)
When you told me that you made the
transformation into a female...
(re: Ryan)
...I had put two and two together
and found out that you are a member
of the very community I had read
stories about.
(clears throat)
The only difference between the
stories I had read and you is: You
came to me and told me your story
in person.

Ricki is now surprised with Ryan's confession. She didn't know about this.

RICKI
That's great. Why didn't you tell
me this when I was here last time?

RYAN
I was...concerned.

RICKI
About what?

Ryan takes a deep breath and he answers Ricki's question.

RICKI (CONT'D)
I was concerned...about your
safety.

Holy shit! Ricki looks at her friend in shock at the answer
Ryan had given.

She just found out that Ryan was silent during her last
visit, not because he was in shock about her being a woman,
but concerned for her safety as a member of the transgender
community.

She is speechless right now, but she listens to her friend as
he continues to speak.

RYAN
As I read the stories, there were
many members of the community who
either survived suicide attempts,
attacks and had parents who
disowned them when they came out.
(emphasizes sadly)
My silence was more like me being
worried about your safety.
(re: Ricki listens)
Those negative scenarios were
running through my mind when you
left and boy...
(re: Ryan as he pouts)
...did I feel guilty for not
speaking up.

Ricki is still speechless and she is way beyond shocked. In
fact, she is kinda relieved that Ryan had felt this way.

RICKI
Wow, Ryan. I didn't know this. You
seem to have an understanding of
the trans community.

RYAN

Yeah...and here's another confession: Even though I am straight, I know what it is like to be different and treated like an outcast by someone who you thought cared about you.

RICKI

What do you mean?

REVERSE DOLLY ZOOM on Ryan as he begins the explanation.

RYAN

When I was three, my father left me and my mother and moved out of state and since then, I have struggled with trust and friendships.

(he a takes a breath and lets it out)

When we met, when you were Rick, it took some time to regain trust in people.

(he sports a slow smile)

And I'm happy that we are good friends...and we always will be.

Ricki now sports a small smile and then, sports an even bigger one. She is happy now that Ryan has gotten that burden off his shoulders.

RICKI

I'm proud of you. That must have been tough.

RYAN

Yes...it sure was. I do feel better now.

RICKI

That is awesome. I'm proud that you...

(using air quotes)

..."came out"...

(puts hands down)

...with your story.

Ryan and Ricki laugh at the little joke and now the friendship between the two is stronger than ever. Now, the two reminisce about their lives growing up.

RICKI (CONT'D)

Remember back in high school when we went to the arcade? You played PacMan and I played Q*bert?

Ryan looks toward Ricki and as he smiles:

RYAN

Yeah. We must have spent at least ten dollars on those games. We always stayed at the arcade for hours.

RICKI

More like five and a half hours.

The two friends laugh and then, after they stop laughing:

RYAN

Remember when we went to the movies to see the repeat screening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and you thought Harrison Ford was a cool dude?

RICKI

I think he still is.

RYAN

I think he is, as well. He was great in the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

RICKI

He certainly was. I think he is the best actor ever.

RYAN

Yes, he is. He was totally awesome as Han Solo.

(he swerves his eyes toward Ricki and speaks to her)

He was a great character in the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

RICKI

Yes, he certainly was.

(she swerves her eyes toward Ryan and he turns his head toward her)

Ryan, may I ask you a question?

RYAN

Sure, you can. Go right ahead.

RICKI

Are you okay with me being a female?

RYAN

Let me put it to you this way: If you are happy, then, I'm happy. You have been a great friend ever since we were kids and I'm not gonna stop being your friend now.

(a brief pause)

We're gonna be friends until we meet God.

RYAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(re: Ricki grins as she listens to him)

It must have been tough for you to make the transformation. Was it really that difficult?

RICKI

I'd be lying if I said it wasn't. It was a little difficult letting my parents know...

(re: Ryan and Ricki)

...but they were my biggest supporters and the cost of the transformation was way out there, but I'm happy with the results.

RICKI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(re: Ryan)

I must also say that I was a little nervous about how you would feel about seeing the new me...

(re: Ryan and Ricki)

...but I am happy that you have accepted me and I want to thank you for being one of my many supporters.

Both friends face each other and they have grins on their faces as they face as they face each other as they sit on the couch.

RYAN

You're welcome, my friend...

(Ryan and Ricki smile at each other)

...and if it is okay with you, I'd like to give you an acceptance speech.

(a brief pause)

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

I would like to say that you are a wonderful person who has been a part of my life ever since we were kids.

(re: Ricki smiles as Ryan speaks)

You have been there for me when my cousin passed away from cancer.

(re: Ryan and Ricki)

My friend, formerly known as Rick and who is now happily beginning a new life as Ricki, is a wonderful person who cares about her friends and is a superb addition to the transgender community.

(a brief pause)

I hope all goes well for you and I hope your place in the trans community goes well and I hope you will continue to be the friend you always have been and always will be.

At this point, tears roll down Ricki's face because Ryan's speech has made her quite happy.

Ryan takes the box of tissues from off the table on the left side of the couch and offers it to Ricki, who takes a tissue and wipes her tears of happiness.

RICKI

(happily)

Wow, Ryan. That was a really sweet speech. It really touched my heart.

Ryan puts the tissue box back on the table and goes back to facing Ricki.

RYAN

You're welcome. What I said was true. You are a really great friend and I'm really proud of you and the decision that you made.

(re: Ryan and Ricki)

Don't forget: If you are happy, I'm happy and I hope we can have more memories as friends.

RICKI

Oh, you know we will.

She winks at Ryan as she smiles.

RYAN

All right.

They continue to talk to each other MOS and then:

RICKI (V.O.)

Wow. I'm so glad that Ryan has accepted me for becoming a female as much as I accepted myself. Ryan is a good friend and I'm so happy to have him in my life.

SLOW ZOOM OUT Ryan and Ricki as they continue to talk to each other MOS.

RICKI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I hope all my fellow members of the trans community have supportive friends like Ryan. I know I do and I always will.

MUSIC PLAYS and CREDITS ROLL.

FADE OUT.