

FORCED TO MARRY MY CHEATING EX

First 12 Episodes

Written by

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Episode 1

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

LIZ CHAPMAN (late 20s; female) runs down a city street at full speed, dressed in a white wedding gown, looking out of breath and panic stricken.

LIZ (V.O.)
I've gotta get out of here!

FREEZE FRAME ON LIZ

Super: LIZ CHAPMAN - RUNAWAY BRIDE

UNFREEZE

She risks a glance behind her and sees two men in suits and sunglasses, hot on her tail. She turns forward and runs harder.

LIZ (V.O.)
What the hell was I thinking?! I almost made the biggest mistake of my life!

A street vendor appears from around the corner, pushing a hot dog cart. Liz narrowly avoids running into him.

VENDOR
Hey!

Liz turns the corner into an alley. She spots a dumpster pulled away from the wall, hikes up her wedding gown and hides behind it.

The two men in suits are blocked for a moment by the vendor. One of the men grabs the cart and pushes it out of the way.

VENDOR (CONT'D)
Yo, watch it, buddy!

The men turn the corner to find an empty alley.

MAN IN SUIT 1
Where'd she go?!

The other man shrugs.

MAN IN SUIT 1 (CONT'D)
You go that way! I'll head down the alley!

The men split up.

After a beat, Liz pokes her head out and sees her chance to escape. She tiptoes out of the alley and back to the street, then heads inside a shop on the corner.

INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS

Liz slips inside the store and takes a moment to catch her breath.

The **SHOP KEEPER (60s-70s; female)** watches warily from behind the counter.

SHOP KEEPER
Miss? Can I help you?

Liz approaches the counter, out of breath.

LIZ
Yes! Please, I need to call my
father! Can I borrow your phone?

SHOP KEEPER
Why of course, dear. I only have
this old flip phone, but it works
just--

The front door opens. Liz turns and gasps.

Standing in the doorway is **ESTHER TINSDALE (50s; female)**, dressed in a conservative business suit, her gray hair pulled back in a severe bun.

ESTHER
Get lost on the way to your big
day, Elizabeth?

FREEZE FRAME ON ESTHER

Super: ESTHER TINSDALE - FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW

UNFREEZE

LIZ
Esther ...

Esther approaches, a sadistic smile on her lips.

ESTHER
No need to travel on foot, my dear.
I've got a limo parked right out
front. Why don't you come with me?

LIZ
I'm not going anywhere with you.

ESTHER
Oh, I think you are, Elizabeth.

Liz maneuvers around Esther and backs toward the door.

LIZ
You're insane. Stay away from me.

ESTHER
You know what happens if you walk through that door. I destroy you. And I take your pathetic father down with you.

Liz stops backing up and approaches Esther.

LIZ
Don't you talk about my father, you miserable b--

Esther slaps Liz hard across the face. Liz freezes for a beat, then raises her hand to strike back. Fear flashes across Esther's face. But before Liz can swing, someone grabs her wrist. She turns to see one of the men who was chasing her.

Esther's face morphs back into a cold smile.

ESTHER
Now, my dear. You're going back to that courthouse.

Esther nods to the men, who begin to drag Liz away.

LIZ
Let go of me!

ESTHER
Oh, come now. Why all the fuss? You're just marrying my son ...

LIZ
You bastards!

The men drag her outside. Esther's cold smile widens.

ESTHER
It's nothing you haven't done before.

FREEZE FRAME ON ESTHER

Super: ESTHER TINSDALE - ~~FUTURE~~ **FORMER** MOTHER-IN-LAW

Episode 2

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

Super: 5 YEARS AGO

We see Liz and **DAVIS TINSDALE (mid 20s; male; conservatively handsome)** in slow motion shots from their wedding reception five years earlier, laughing and smiling.

LIZ (V.O.)

Five years ago was the happiest day of my life. I was marrying Davis Tinsdale, heir to the Tinsdale Corporation and all of its billions.

FREEZE FRAME ON DAVIS

Super: DAVIS TINSDALE - FUTURE BILLIONAIRE

UNFREEZE

LIZ (V.O.)

But I didn't care about the money. I just wanted Davis.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

We see Liz and Davis working together in an office. Employees approach them with paperwork, which they both sign off on.

LIZ (V.O.)

We were the perfect couple, working side by side during the day ...

INT. PENTHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK**

We see Liz and Davis in bed together.

LIZ (V.O.)

And tangled up in the sheets at night.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

LIZ (V.O.)
Then that bastard had to go and
screw it all up.

Super: 2 YEARS AGO

Liz opens a laptop. Her eyes go wide and she puts a hand to her mouth as she stares at the screen.

Davis enters the apartment and walks into the living room.

DAVIS
Hey, sweetie. How was lunch with my
mother? Did she behave?

LIZ
Who is Sadie?

DAVIS
Huh?

LIZ
Who. Is. Sadie?

DAVIS
I don't know what you're--

LIZ
SADIE! The woman who can't wait to
feel your cock in her mouth again!

Liz throws the laptop at Davis. He ducks, narrowly avoiding being hit. Liz turns, crosses her arms and starts to cry.

LIZ (V.O.)
The worst part wasn't even the
betrayal. It's that he never once
admitted he was guilty. If he had,
who knows? Maybe we could have
worked through it ...

END FLASHBACKS

Episode 3

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Davis Tinsdale, dressed in a tuxedo, stands next to a County Clerk (**any demographic**) while a small group of reporters wait around, their patience wearing thin (crew can be used as extras here).

Standing to the side of Davis and the Clerk is **BARRY CHAPMAN (late 50s; male)**, Liz's father. He wears jeans and a flannel shirt and has a blue-collar look to him. He appears nervous and a little sickly.

The door to the courthouse opens and Liz is pulled in by the two men in suits, followed by Esther.

Esther approaches Davis and the Clerk, then turns to address the reporters.

ESTHER

My apologies for the delay. The bride-to-be was ... overcome with emotion!

Liz glares at Esther.

Esther walks over to Liz's father, Barry, and puts a hand on his shoulder. Barry seems to shrink under her touch. Esther turns and looks directly at Liz.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Isn't that right, Elizabeth? You were overcome with emotion?

FREEZE FRAME ON BARRY

Super: BARRY CHAPMAN - FATHER OF THE BRIDE

UNFREEZE

Liz looks at her father, then back at Esther. Her shoulders slump.

LIZ

Yes. I was overcome.

ESTHER

Good girl. Now ... shall we get back to it? These people came here to see a wedding after all.

Liz drops her head and approaches Davis like a woman headed to the gallows.

LIZ (V.O.)

It was stupid to run. Even if I'd gotten away, it wouldn't have mattered. Esther bought a controlling interest in my father's construction company. She can destroy his life's work with the stroke of a pen.

DAVIS
 (whispering)
 You alright, darling?

LIZ
 (whispering)
 Don't call me darling, you bastard.
 Let's just get this over with.

Episode 4

The Clerk looks back and forth between Liz and Davis, unsure of what to do.

ESTHER
 (to the Clerk)
 Time's wasting.

CLERK
 Yes. Sorry. Um ... where were we?

ESTHER
 Just skip to the vows.

CLERK
 Oh. Okay. Uh ... do you, Davis,
 take Liz to be your lawfully wedded
 wife?

DAVIS
 I do.

CLERK
 And do you, Liz, take Davis to be
 your husband?

Liz stares dumbly at Davis, unable to respond.

ESTHER
 Answer the man, Elizabeth.

LIZ
 I ...
 (softly)
 Yes.

CLERK
 What was that? I'm sorry, I
 couldn't--

LIZ
 I said yes, goddamnit!

The reporters gasp. Esther goes rigid, then takes a step toward Barry. Liz sees this and softens.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I mean ... yes, I do. I'm eager to restart my life with my darling husband.

CLERK

Very well. By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you ...

LIZ (V.O.)

Oh, god. It's really happening ... again!

CLERK

Husband and wife.

Episode 5

Esther claps loudly.

ESTHER

How wonderful! Davis and Elizabeth are united once again!

(to the reporters)

Thank you all for being here! And now, if you don't mind, I'm sure the happy couple would like to get on with their lives. But don't worry! You'll be hearing much more from them in the coming days!

(to Davis)

Davis. Take your wife home.

Davis takes Liz by the arm. Liz shakes her arm free then runs to Barry.

LIZ

Oh, daddy ...

BARRY

It's okay, pumpkin. Everything's going to be alright.

Esther moves closer.

ESTHER

Elizabeth? Your husband is waiting for you.

Liz turns and glares at Esther.

LIZ

Just let me have me one goddamn
minute alone with my father. Can't
you give me that much?

Esther stiffens.

ESTHER

Fine. Take your minute.

She turns and steps away.

LIZ

Daddy, I'm so sorry.

BARRY

You have nothing to apologize for.

LIZ

No, I do. If I hadn't left town,
you never would have gotten tricked
into signing that contract with
Esther. Now she has control over
both our lives.

BARRY

We'll figure a way out of this,
pumpkin. We always do.

Liz wraps her arms around Barry and holds him tight. He hugs
her back.

ESTHER

Time is up, my dear. Your husband
is waiting for you.

Episode 6

Barry wipes a tear from Liz's face and gives her a sad smile.
Liz turns and walks toward Davis and Esther. Davis offers his
arm.

DAVIS

Shall we?

Liz grudgingly links arms with Davis.

LIZ

(under her breath)
And where exactly are we going?

DAVIS

Home, of course. The home you
abandoned two years ago.

Liz fixes Davis with a death stare. Davis smiles in return and begins leading her out of the courthouse.

One of the reporters steps forward.

REPORTER

Ms. Chapman? Ms. Chapman!

ESTHER

It's Mrs. Tinsdale now.

REPORTER

Mrs. Tinsdale ... can you tell us why you divorced your husband two years ago?

ESTHER

She doesn't need to answer that.

REPORTER

(ignoring Esther)

There were rumors that Davis had been unfaithful to you. Is that true?

ESTHER

What exactly do you think you're doing? How dare you imply that my son would violate the sanctity of his marriage!

DAVIS

It's okay, mother. I'll handle this.

Episode 7

Davis turns and faces the reporter.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

There is no truth at all to the rumors that I was unfaithful to my wife. Liz and I just needed time to sort through some things. But we're both excited to be reunited and to start this new chapter of our lives.

REPORTER

And this "reconciliation" wouldn't have anything to do with the fact that the board of the Tinsdale Corporation is about to name its next CEO, would it?

(MORE)

REPORTER (CONT'D)

And that several members have openly questioned your character?

ESTHER

Another ridiculous accusation! The board of directors has every confidence in my son, and I can assure you that he will be named CEO next month. Davis! Take Elizabeth away at once!

DAVIS

Yes, mother.

Davis grabs Liz by the arm and hurries her out the door.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Liz flings her arm free as soon as they step outside.

DAVIS

Jesus Christ, Liz. What were you thinking running off like that? You know what my mother is capable of when she doesn't get her way.

LIZ

Why are you doing this, Davis? Is it just so you can be CEO? For that, you need to torture me?

DAVIS

I don't want to torture you, Liz.

LIZ

Oh, really? Then what do you want?

DAVIS

(beat)

I want to win back your love.

Episode 8

Liz stares at Davis with her mouth open.

LIZ

You want to what?

DAVIS

I want to win back your love. I love you, Liz. I always have.

LIZ

Oh, really? Did you love me when you had your dick inside that Sadie woman?

DAVIS

Liz ...

LIZ

And how many other women were there, Davis? How many other women did you fuck when we were married? If you can't even be honest about the one person I know you slept with, how can I believe you about anything?

Davis doesn't answer.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Yeah. That's what I thought.

DAVIS

Come on. There's a limo waiting for us.

Davis heads off. Liz hesitates a beat, then follows.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

The door to Davis's apartment opens. Liz enters, still dressed in her gown. She walks in and looks around.

The apartment is beautiful, with high ceilings, floor to ceiling windows and an expansive view of the city.

Davis trails behind Liz and watches her for a beat.

DAVIS

Welcome home.

She clenches her jaw and takes a deep breath.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

I had all your things brought here while we were at the courthouse. Hopefully the movers put everything back where it used to be. Why don't you get changed and we can talk about what comes next.

She faces him again.

LIZ

And what does come next? You try to woo me back?

DAVIS

No. That comes later. First, you're going to do something for me.

LIZ

"Do something" for you? What exactly do you expect me to do?

Davis slowly approaches Liz. She stiffens, unsure of how to feel. Davis traces his finger down the side of her bare arm.

DAVIS

You've been away a long time. There's a lot to make up for ...

Episode 9

Davis continues running his finger down the side of Liz's bare arm.

LIZ

If you think I'm going to sleep with you after all the shit you've pulled, you can just--

Davis starts laughing.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, is this funny to you?

He laughs harder and takes a step back.

DAVIS

Relax, Liz. You're getting ahead of yourself. Right now I just need your help in restoring my image.

Liz shifts, suddenly feeling uncomfortable.

LIZ

Oh. I ... I thought ...

DAVIS

It's okay. Go get changed. We've got a lot to talk about.

Liz hesitates a beat, then turns and heads for the bedroom.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Liz stands in the shower, washing off her wedding makeup.

LIZ (V.O.)

I can't believe I'm back here. I
hoped I'd never see this place
again.

(beat)

I did miss that view, though ...

She shakes her head, then begins scrubbing more vigorously.

LIZ (V.O.)

Knock it off, Liz. You can't afford
to let your guard down. You've got
to figure out a way to turn the
tables on Davis and Esther, save
your father's company and get the
hell out of this marriage.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Liz comes out of the bedroom dressed in jeans and an old, comfy sweater. Davis is sitting on the couch drinking a glass of scotch. Seeing her, he sits up straighter and stares longingly. She crosses her arms and shrinks into herself.

LIZ

What? What are you looking at?

DAVIS

I forgot how beautiful you look
without makeup.

Liz brushes a hair away from her face, trying to hide how good it feels to hear him say that. After a beat, she stands up straighter.

LIZ

Let's get down to business. Tell me
what you want me to do ... and I'll
do it.

Episode 10

DAVIS

I'm glad to see you're feeling more
... agreeable.

LIZ

It's not like you and your mother
have given me a lot of choice, is
it?

DAVIS

Fair enough.

He motions to a glass on the coffee table.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

I poured you a drink. Vodka. One
large ice cube. Just like you like
it.

Davis motions for her to sit next to him on the couch. She
grabs her drink from the table, then sits across from him on
the love seat, keeping her distance. Davis raises his glass.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

To new beginnings.

Liz sits perfectly still, refusing to toast. Davis shrugs and
takes a sip of his scotch. Liz drinks her vodka.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

Okay. Here's what's gonna happen.
You and I are going on a little PR
tour.

LIZ

PR tour?

DAVIS

Yes. Over the next month, we are
going to attend every gallery
opening, every charity event, every
A-list party, you name it. And you,
my dear ... you are going to play
the part of the adoring wife. You
are going to dote on me. You are
going to fawn all over me. You are
going to make a spectacle of
yourself, telling anyone and
everyone what a wonderful man
you're married to, and how you
can't imagine spending your life
with anyone else.

Liz takes a big swallow from her glass.

LIZ
 Okay. If that's what it takes to
 protect my father, then that's what
 I'll do.

DAVIS
 One more thing.

LIZ
 (tensely)
 I'm listening ...

Davis leans forward.

DAVIS
 You are going to tell everyone how
 wrong you were to leave me in the
 first place.
 (beat)
 And you are going to publicly
 apologize to me.

Episode 11

Liz stands and paces the room for a beat.

LIZ
 Let me get this straight. You go
 off and fuck another woman, refuse
 to take responsibility, tank our
 marriage ... and now you want me to
 apologize to you?

DAVIS
 Publicly. So everyone can hear that
 I did nothing wrong and that you
 were the reason our marriage fell
 apart.

Liz runs her fingers through her hair, trying desperately to
 keep her emotions in check.

LIZ
 Okay. Let's say that I agree to go
 along with this farce. What makes
 you think anyone will care? Who's
 even gonna hear about it? What, is
 your mother going to call another
 press conference?

DAVIS
 My mother is stuck in the past. She
 doesn't understand how information
 gets out into the world these days.

LIZ
So what's your plan?

DAVIS
I've hired someone to help our story go viral.

LIZ
What, like an influencer or something?

DAVIS
Something like that.

LIZ
Great. Just what I need. Some twenty-nothing year old kid to plaster my face all over TikTok.

DAVIS
She'll be able to effectively get the word out about us. She ... has a unique understanding of our situation.

LIZ
What is that supposed to mean?

There's a knock at the door.

DAVIS
Ah! Perfect timing!

Davis heads for the door.

Episode 12

LIZ
Who is it? Who's here?

DAVIS
Our "influencer."

Davis goes to the door and opens it. In walks **SADIE GLADSTONE (early 20s; female)**. She and Davis exchange a few words out of earshot as Liz looks on.

Davis leads Sadie into the apartment.

DAVIS (CONT'D)
Liz? I'd like you to meet the woman who is going to make our story go viral.

Sadie goes up to Liz and extends her hand.

SADIE
Hi, Liz. It's nice to finally meet
you.

LIZ
And you are?

SADIE
I'm ... Sadie.

INSERT FLASHBACK: EPISODE 3, PAGE 6

LIZ
Who is Sadie?

DAVIS
Huh?

LIZ
Who. Is. Sadie?

DAVIS
I don't know what you're--

LIZ
SADIE! The woman who can't wait to
feel your cock in her mouth again!

Liz throws the laptop at Davis. He ducks, narrowly avoiding
being hit. Liz turns, crosses her arms and starts to cry.

END FLASHBACK

Liz stares at Sadie, her mouth hanging open.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Sadie?

FREEZE FRAME ON SADIE

Super: SADIE GLADSTONE - DAVIS'S MISTRESS

UNFREEZE

LIZ (V.O.)
Oh, my god. What is happening?

Suggested paywall