

# The Days of Being in a Fake Marriage with the CEO

## Chapter 21: Her Former Boyfriend

She did not want to lie, but neither did she want to tell the truth. In the end, she could only tell him, "I don't wish to say!"

She thought this kind of answer would anger him.

But, to her surprise...

He let go of her hand. "Then you don't have to tell me if you don't wish to."

She widened her eyes in disbelief.

*Will this do, too?*

The shocked expression she had was so adorable that he caressed her head again.

Mu Huan: "..."

*What is this man thinking about? Can I really keep this from him? Is he really not angry?*

"It's okay if you don't want to buy anything more. However, if you don't want to choose something you like, then I'll have someone else to pick on your behalf." He did not have much time to shop with her, so he could not afford to waste his time like this.

Mu Huan: "..."

*Why is he so obsessed with buying things for me?*

He brought her to many luxury stores and asked the shop assistants to give recommendations instead. As long as the stuff suited her, he would buy it without hesitation.

From clothes, shoes, and jewelry to bags, he got everything covered.

Whenever she saw him swiping his credit card, she would feel the pinch, as if it was her own card!

A couple of times, she almost wanted to ask him if these items could be exchanged in cash for her, the kind of cash that she need not return...

It went on until the man received an important phone call.

“I need to return to the office.”

Before he could finish with what he wanted to tell her, she interjected, “Hubby, please run along to do what you need to do!”

He chuckled. It looked like his obedient wife could not wait to get rid of him. “I’ll get someone to pick you up, you wait here.”

“Eh eh!” She nodded in acquiescence.

After he left, she looked at the shopping bags spread across the floor and had an impulse to return these for cash. But she stopped herself in the end.

“Xiao... Xiao Huan?”

The familiar voice stunned her abruptly.

“It’s really you, Xiao Huan!” The hesitant tone of voice switched into one of pleasant surprise as the speaker walked up to her.

It was someone whom she dreaded to meet the most, her former good friend, Lin Qingya.

There was a tall and broad figure standing next to the girl; his handsome face was enough to make the sun pale in comparison!

That guy’s name was Gu Chenyi, Mu Huan’s ex-boyfriend.

Her two hands by her side rolled into fists unconsciously.

Lin Qingya saw the branded stuff stranded across the floor and jealousy flashed across her eyes briefly. But soon, it turned into a look of surprise. “Xiao Huan, you... why did you buy so many things?”

“This has nothing to do with you,” she retorted coldly.

Her friend’s face held a hurtful expression instantly, and she started to sob. “Xiao Huan...”

“Stop putting on an act before me and get lost!” For someone whom she had been sincere to before, she did not want to waste time and effort to be calculative. All she wanted was for the other to never appear before her again.

“Xiao Huan, I knew I’d antagonized you with my words that night. But I did it for your good... Can you not treat me this way...?” Her friend caught hold of her elbow and pleaded.

“For my own good?” she sneered.

“I really did it for your own good! Xiao Huan, we grew up together, you’re my best friend. I can forsake my life for you, so how can I ever hurt you? Please don’t do this to me...” Lin Qingya said tearfully.

“Lin Qingya, you disgust me!” She pushed away her friend’s hands disdainfully.

She had once treated her friend with sincerity and care, only to be greeted with betrayal in return. Now, the girl was standing before her and advocating her innocence in order to win the boy’s favor. This disgusted her totally!

The force she applied on her friend’s arms would only make the latter stumble a few steps back. Instead, Lin Qingya fell awkwardly on the ground, tears rolling down her face openly.

## Chapter 22: It Became the Past

Lin Qingya belonged to the feeble and sweet type of girls that men could not help wanting to protect and shelter. The sight of her falling and crying only made her look more pitiful.

Gu Chenyi quickly went to hold her up, then turned to reprimand Mu Huan, “This is too much!”

A look of pain fled momentarily across Mu Huan’s eyes. It disappeared in a flash, though, as she cocked a brow and her temper flared arrogantly. “This is me. Haven’t you known that since before?”

The chap felt worse when he saw her audacious behavior. He asked with much heartache, “Mu Huan, how can you be such a girl!”

She was the first girl he dated seriously, and he’d thought that she was sensible and non-materialistic. She was one he had spent much effort to pursue because he liked her so much!

In the end, these were only vile attempts on her part to rouse his attention!

He found her to be a girl who was very materialistic. For the sake of money, she was willing to be a bar hostess just so she could buy branded bags. Down the road, she was even willing to marry an aged man who was close to 30 for money's sake!

Looking at the bags spread around on the floor, it looked like she did not feel ashamed of marrying an old man at all. In fact, she was enjoying the process thoroughly!

Although he had been telling himself that a girl like her did not deserve his love or heartache, still, he could not help feeling down when he saw her in this manner.

*How can you be such a girl?* Mu Huan smiled. She recalled him asking her the same question before.

That was when she was cornered in a dire situation, where she had to put down her pride and dignity to ask him to lend some money to her so she could bring her granny away from Yun Cheng, and far away from the Mus' control.

At that time, all he saw were a few branded bags and a couple of photos showing her working part-time at a bar. These were detrimental "evidence" planted in her room by someone. He believed the words of Lin Qingya and her grandma, then concluded that she was greedy and conniving. To him, she was a girl who would sell her body for money. He thought the reason she was with him was that he was rich.

He did not believe her no matter how she tried to prove her innocence.

After forming his own theory about her, he then asked her why she could be such a woman...

He also told her that she would never be able to get a single cent from him. By telling her to never appear before him again, he effectively cut off her last strand of hope.

"What kind of a girl I am has nothing to do with you. The two of you, please get lost from my sight right now or I'll turn nasty!" She had never been known to say much to people whom she did not like.

"Mu Huan!" Gu Chenyi chided in disappointment.

"Do you really want me to turn nasty?" she quipped impatiently.

He was so angry that he let go of Lin Qingya's arms. He was about to walk up to Mu Huan to reason with her when Lin Qingya refused to let him go.

"Chenyi, don't be angry. Xiao Huan is behaving in this way because she has lost her mother."

When he saw how her former good friend tried to shield her despite being badly treated, he was even more disappointed with her. "Since you willingly degrade yourself in this way, then so be it!"

With that, he left in a huff.

Lin Qingya cast a glance at Mu Huan before running after the boy.

As she watched them disappear from her sight, her lips curled into a sneer, her eyes rimmed red.

From her first taste of fluttering love to fantasizing about a better future, and then coming to the present before it became the past.

Her first love ended, even before she had a chance to hold his hand.

...

Lin Qingya had to give chase all the way before she could catch up with Gu Chenyi at last.

"Chenyi..." Panting breathlessly, she was about to say something when he interrupted her.

"I'm not able to accompany you to buy the stuff you need for the reopening of the school term. I'm sorry, please shop on your own!" He was still flustered after bumping into Mu Huan and was in no mood for further activities.

As she bit her lower lip, a trace of bitterness flashed across the girl's eyes. She did not expect her former good friend to have such an impact on him still!

If she had known earlier, she would not have told him that she saw Mu Huan. Originally, she had wanted to reaffirm the boy's impression of his ex-girlfriend as being materialistic and greedy.

Chapter 23: Jealousy Makes One Ugly

"Are you still angry with Xiao Huan?" she asked gently.

He felt worse the moment she mentioned her name. "How can she be such a girl..."

This was something he repeatedly said to his ex-girlfriend. He simply could not accept the fact that the girl he liked so much could turn out to be such a person.

“You can’t blame her...” Lin Qingya did not want to put in a good word for her former good friend, but she needed to keep up the pretense of being concerned for her, and this was a line she commonly used for that purpose.

“Who can I blame if I can’t blame her? There are many who have lost their biological mothers and have stepmothers. These girls didn’t turn materialistic, so why did she? She could have told me directly what she wanted! I could have given her whatever she wanted! Why did she lie to me? Why?!” The boy came from a wealthy family, and many people tried to befriend him with ulterior motives. Thus, he could not stand the thought of anyone drawing close to him for his money.

“If she had told you directly what she wanted, would you still have liked her? She had no choice but to do that, Chenyi...”

Before she could complete her sentence, he interrupted her.

“That’s enough, stop speaking up for her. I don’t wish to hear anything about her again! I have to go now!” With that, he strode away without a second look.

This time around, she did not give chase. She knew that he would start to dislike her if she were to bother him in his fury.

Although she was frustrated that he left because of Mu Huan, she gained much comfort from knowing how much he detested her from his earlier behavior.

Just when she was about to leave, she saw Mu Huan’s assistant carrying all her shopping bags to the car. There were so many bags that one entire vehicle was required to carry them.

Mu Huan then got into another car.

*Her cars are expensive!*

She went green with jealousy!

*The heavens are unfair!*

*Life is exceptionally good to Mu Huan!*

When the two of them were living in the Mu household, Mu Huan was the young mistress of the Mu family whereas she was merely the daughter of a lowly kitchen helper. Finally, she got a chance to gloat when the young mistress lost her mother and was subsequently bullied by her stepmother. But not long after, her granny came and took her away, and the young mistress was under someone else’s protection again.

As for her, she got a stepfather and was mistreated by him.

She studied very hard in order to go to a good high school and college. On the other hand, despite not studying and spending all her time working, her young mistress was still able to score better results than her. She liked Gu Chenyi so much but her affection was not reciprocated. Instead, he put himself down to please Mu Huan, who was initially not interested at all.

She had reckoned that by marrying a man who was almost 30 years old, her mistress now should be suffering and hanging her head in shame. It turned out that that man was neither old nor ugly, as she was told by Mu Kexin. And now, he even indulged her in a wild shopping spree!

*It's unfair! Life is just too unfair!*

Mu Huan was looking out of the car window as the vehicle passed by Lin Qingya.

Seeing her former friend made her heart feel unbearably painful.

They grew up together in the same household. She was very pampered when she was young, and she would ensure that Lin Qingya got to share what she had as well. Afterward, her mother passed away and in came a stepmother who mistreated her. Every time her stepmother refused to let her eat, Lin Qingya would secretly pass her some food from the kitchen at the risk of being caught. She had thought that they were the best of friends.

#### Chapter 24: Three Seconds' Tears

But who would have known...

Her friend used the trust she had to create false evidence against her. First, she took some ambiguous pictures of her when she came to visit her while working in the bar. Then, she placed those branded bags into her room and went to inform her ex-boyfriend of it, on the pretext that she helped her friend to cover up her materialistic ways.

"Grandma Mu did not force Xiao Huan to do anything she didn't want to. Xiao Huan's granny is fine as well, she's receiving treatment in the best hospital right now!"

"Xiao Huan wants to borrow money from you not because she has no other ways to help her granny, but because she wants to go overseas to have fun!"

"When Xiao Huan refused to go on date with you, she was lying when she said she was busy. She was at the bar the whole time..."

“But this is not what she wants. After losing her mother as a kid, she became so insecure that she turns to money for comfort. She feels uneasy when she’s broke, that’s why she works as a bar hostess.”

“I’m her best friend. If I don’t cover up for her, what will happen to her?”

“Chenyi, don’t be mean to Xiao Huan. She might have been interested in only your money at first, but she really fell in love with you after that!”

“Xiao Huan, don’t be upset with me. I’m doing this for your own good! I have to tell the truth now so you won’t turn from bad to worse! You’re my best friend and I can’t watch you sink!”

She did not know that her friend could put on such a good act.

It was also Lin Qingya who suggested an evil plot to Grandma Mu. In order to prevent her from turning against the family after marrying Bao Junyan, Grandma took her friend’s suggestion to create falsehood against her, which the old lady was using now to blackmail her.

Still, no hurt was greater than the pain brought by her friend’s betrayal. For a period of time, she could not trust anyone or anything.

“Stop the car,” she ordered out of the blue.

After the chauffeur pulled the brake, she got down from the car and walked up to her former friend.

“Xiao Huan!” Lin Qingya maintained her happy countenance when she saw her approaching.

“Lin Qingya, since Gu Chenyi isn’t around now, you don’t need to keep up your pretense. Doing this will only want me to give you a punch!” She was a fighter who preferred to use her hands rather than words to resolve any conflict. Her instinct right now was to retaliate.

The forced smile on Lin Qingya’s face slowly disappeared. “Xiao Huan, don’t treat me this way. We were best friends!”

“Please don’t insult the word ‘friends’ with your behavior!” Looking at her disdainfully, she quickly added, “I’m here to tell you, you can do what you like with Gu Chenyi, but don’t play such games with me again. Leave me alone and I won’t pursue the past. If you cross my path again, you’ll be my enemy! And you know how ruthless I can be toward my enemies!”



After the whole incident, she did not return an eye for an eye with her friend. That was because she could not forget how Lin Qingya took a great risk to steal food for her to eat when she was almost dying from hunger. When she was found out subsequently, her friend got a bad thrashing as well, together with her.

And it was because of this that she had avoided the sting of her betrayal. She did not want revenge. All she asked was for her former bestie never to appear before her again.

When she saw her at the mall earlier, she only wished the latter to disappear before her eyes immediately.

But she finally realized that this was not the way to go. She could not run away from the truth forever. School was about to reopen, and being in the same faculty, she was bound to see her again.

She would cut the past ties clean! In the future, she had to stay away from her!

Lin Qingya did not want to maintain their friendship either. But her former bestie had married a rich man, and the man so doted on her!

More importantly, if she stopped being friends with and stayed away from her, then there would be no way for Gu Chenyi to give up his ex-girlfriend totally. She needed to create a chance to get the boy's heart for herself.

Looking at Mu Huan, forlorn tears started to fall from her eyes within three seconds.

Chapter 25: Forgive Me This Time, Please?

They grew up together, so she knew Mu Huan very well. Knowing that the latter was a warm-hearted person who would instinctively take care of the weak, she had always played the role of one in front of her in order to take advantage of and enjoy her protection.

"Xiao Huan, I know I did you wrong. I shouldn't have done that to you just because of my deep feelings for Gu Chenyi and burning desire to be with him. I know I deserve death. I..." She choked on her words and was unable to go on.

However, Mu Huan only gave her a cold look. She did not act like how she used to, showering her with concern and comfort and telling her not to cry, telling her that she would always be by her side and would never let her get into trouble.

"Believe me. I truly know my mistakes..."

“Lin Qingya, do you think I’m a fool?” There was no way she would believe that she was crying over their lost friendship. After all, she was a first-hand witness to her superb acting.

“How can that be? You’re the smart one here. If I was truly a malicious person, how would I be able to stay friends with you for these many years? I was momentarily blinded by my love back then!” The other woman grabbed her hands and looked at her pleadingly.

“Never mind about whether or not you’re a bad person who was blinded by your love, just know that I don’t give second chances to those who betray me!” To be honest, she had realized that her bestie was not as good as she thought her to be since the start of high school. However, on account of their childhood friendship, she’d chosen to overlook those flaws as she felt that no one was perfect.

“Can you really bear to do that? Have you forgotten the times we spent secretly eating food and receiving punishment?”

Lin Qingya knew that she was a devoted and kindhearted person who would pay back ten-fold the kindness she received, so she deliberately mentioned the times she used to sneak her food when her stepmother abused her.

“That’s why I’m calling it even instead of settling the score with you. On account of our past friendship, I’m here to formally tell you to mind your own business and lead your own life. Don’t come antagonizing me in the future!”

“Xiao Huan...”

“Don’t say anything about us being friends again. We can never be friends again!” interrupted Mu Huan.

Looking hurt, the former cried out, “Why are you so heartless? Even though I did make a mistake, you have a happy ending now! Look how good you’re living now! Not only did you marry a handsome, rich man, but he also dotes on you!”

*Mu Huan has some darn good luck, indeed!*

“Why? Do you think I should thank you for this?” the other woman scoffed in response.

“I don’t mean that. What I’m saying is to err is human. I might have made an unforgivable mistake, but even murderers get their death sentences deferred if they’re truly repentant. Won’t you forgive me this time, please? Now that things have ended between you and Chenyi, we no longer have any conflict in interest, so we can go back to how we used to be!”

“Xiao Huan, I know you’ve always treated me well, and you would share with me everything you had when we were young. When I got abused by my stepfather, you even taught him a harsh lesson just so that he won’t dare bully me again. Without you, I wouldn’t have been able to survive, let alone attend high school or college. I truly know my mistakes! I swear, I won’t ever do you wrong again! For you, I can even throw my life away! Just forgive me this one time, alright?”

She knew that Mu Huan was most softhearted to those she valued. From how the latter was willing to call things even despite the atrocities she had committed to her, it meant that she still saw her as a friend. She was bound to relent if she continued to plead with her.