

SHAM MARRIAGE

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

DAVID RODWELL, 26, tall, handsome and with over the top styled hair sits on the sofa next to STUART LOWTON, 30, short and bald.

They're both staring at the switched off television in front of them, a little tense between them.

STUART
Are you still going to see your
parents tomorrow?

David nods.

DAVID
I have to.

STUART
Are you going to tell them, about
us?

David shakes his head.

DAVID
I can't.

INT. CAFE - DAY

David sits on one side of the table with TERRY RODWELL, 50, and REBECCA RODWELL, 48, both dressed as if they're about to head out for a night of ballroom dancing. A long beautiful dress and a tuxedo.

TERRY
Still no girlfriend?

DAVID
Not yet.

TERRY
This is becoming tiresome David.

REBECCA
Are you even trying anymore?

DAVID
Yes, I really am.

REBECCA

This bachelors life, what's it all about?

DAVID

I'm just happy with how things are now.

TERRY

Well I'm not happy to be continuously paying for it. You make moves to find yourself a wife and settle down or I'm cutting you off.

David's horrified.

DAVID

You can't be serious?

TERRY

I'm afraid I am, very.

David tries Rebecca.

DAVID

Mother?

REBECCA

Your father is right, enough is enough. You're not getting any younger.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

David's sitting at the table, head in his hands, dejected.

Stuart's up at the counter pouring out two glasses of red wine.

DAVID

I have to get married.

Stuart joins him at the table.

STUART

What's their rush?

DAVID

Grandchildren, and I'm their only child to give it to them.

STUART
Adopt then.

DAVID
No good, I have to get married.
They need to be able to brag to
their friends that I'm married and
have settled down with a very nice
girl.

STUART
Then what's your rush?

DAVID
I'm not losing this money Stuart.

Stuart's irritated.

STUART
David, you're gay.

DAVID
So are you.

STUART
I wasn't saying it as an insult,
but how are you going get married
to someone who you're also wanting
to give you children the old
fashioned way?

DAVID
I won't be the first gay man to do
it and I won't be the last. I'm not
losing this money.

A beat.

STUART
Fine, then I think I know someone.

INT. GYM - DAY

SAM HEWITT, 21, tall, blonde and beautiful.
She's working out, sprinting on a treadmill.
David moves across to her.

DAVID
Hi, want to go for a drink?

She looks over at him and smiles. Has a thick Australian accent.

SAM
Stuart's friend?

He nods.

SAM (CONT'D)
Then sure I'd love to.

INT. GYM - BAR - DAY

David sits with Sam at a table off and away in the far corner of the bar.

Each with a bottle of beer in front of them.

SAM
You're Stuart's boyfriend?

DAVID
Why?

She smiles nervous.

SAM
Don't take this the wrong way but I can't marry a gay guy, if my folks find out they'd kill me. A sham marriage is one thing, but marrying a gay guy would be quite another.

DAVID
Then I'm straight.

She laughs.

SAM
You sure about that?

DAVID
I know you're very pretty and that helps but I just need to get married as soon as possible.

SAM
What for?

DAVID
Parents. How about you?

SAM
I need to stay in this country, I
can't get kicked out. I can't go
back to Australia.

David comes off of his chair and moves down onto one knee,
takes hold of Sam's left hand.

DAVID
Then there's only one thing left to
ask you, will you marry me?

She laughs, shrugs.

SAM
Sure, why the hell not?

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

David and Sam sit together at a large table with Terry and
Rebecca, who are again dressed far too elegant for where they
are.

Waiting for their food to arrive they're all looking between
each other and smiling.

A beat.

REBECCA
So Sam, where's he been hiding you?

SAM
Don't know dude, he's just a shy
little fella I guess.

REBECCA
Quite.

TERRY
It's really nice to meet you.

REBECCA
It's about time.

SAM
Likewise.

TERRY
So when's the big day?

All three then turn to face David.

He shrugs.

DAVID
I'm not paying for it, so whenever.

TERRY
How romantic. Well if money is the question we can do it at the end of this month?

REBECCA
Oh how excellent.

SAM
Suits me.

DAVID
The sooner the better.

TERRY
Right you are son.

They all raise a full glass of red wine each.

DAVID
A toast.

SAM
To us.

She moves over and kisses the side of David's face.

He cringes.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

David's on the sofa with Sam, she's a little drunk.

She moves closer to him, their legs pressed together.

SAM
Why didn't you tell me your parents were so rich?

DAVID
Didn't see the point in it.

SAM
That's why you want to keep them happy?

He nods.

DAVID
I can't let them cut me out of it.

SAM

That's cool. I don't mind. I'm doing it for a green card, you're doing it for money. Perfect fit.

A beat.

DAVID

You can go anytime you like. You've met my parents so it's OK. I trust you to show up on the day.

SAM

I know babe, but just because it's a sham marriage doesn't mean we can't have some fun together?

She gets even closer, rubs her nose against his neck.

She then reaches down at grabs a hold of his penis.

She kisses him on the lips, but he gives her nothing back.

A beat.

She lets go, pulls back disappointed.

SAM (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

He's uncomfortable.

DAVID

Yeah, I'm fine.

SAM

Is everything alright down there.

He laughs.

DAVID

It's fine, it's not broken.

SAM

Then what?

He takes down a deep breath.

DAVID

I'm gay, so don't take it personally. I'm sure you're a hot looking girl, but my penis doesn't get hard for hot looking girls. You know.

She's annoyed.

SAM
Gay, but I asked you.

DAVID
It doesn't matter. Don't forget why we're doing this. You get what you need and I get what I need.

She stands up.

SAM
That was all I asked for, I'm sorry, I can't marry you. You can lie to your parents all you like but you can't lie to yourself.

He's horrified.

DAVID
But at the end of this month, it's happening!

SAM
Not with us it's not.

She exits.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

David moves along this empty city street with Stuart.

Stuart's in a hurry, trying to get away from him but David's keeping pace.

DAVID
Stuart I need you to find me another girl, the last one was no good.

STUART
Still pretending you're not gay?

DAVID
Come on Stuart, we're friends. You've got to help me.

STUART
Then answer the question, still pretending you're not gay?

DAVID
Why does that even matter?

STUART
Because gay might be all I've got
left to offer you.

INT. GAY BAR - NIGHT

David's up at the bar with MINZY CARTER, 29, short, pretty
with large brown eyes.

They're smiling at each other.

MINZY
Stuart's friend?

He nods.

DAVID
Want to get married?

MINZY
Sure.

DAVID
How come?

MINZY
Get my parents to relax. To back
off. To leave me alone.

DAVID
Great, then I think you're the girl
for me.

MINZY
I'm gay.

He smiles.

DAVID
Me too.

She laughs.

MINZY
I know. Just thought I'd let you
know.

DAVID
It's almost like we were made for
each other.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

David and Minzy on one side of the table with Terry and Rebecca on the other.

Their delicious looking meals in front of them, but no one is yet to start.

Terry and Rebecca are staring out across at Minzy, unimpressed.

REBECCA
And this is your new fiancée?

DAVID
Yes, isn't she pretty.

Terry nods.

TERRY
Yes, very.

MINZY
It's nice to meet you.

REBECCA
And what happened to the Australian one. The one from a couple of days ago?

DAVID
Who knows, but we always promised to stay friends.

TERRY
Are you two are in love?

Minzy nods.

DAVID
Very much so.

REBECCA
That's surprising to hear.

DAVID
Well love is a very surprising thing, who will ever be able to fully understand it?

He reaches out and holds onto Minzy's hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)
But this is the girl I want to
marry.

Terry nods.

 TERRY
Well said, now let's eat.

INT. REGISTRY OFFICE - DAY

David and Minzy are at the front holding hands, their wedding rings on.

Minzy in a white dress with David in a tuxedo.

Minzy's MUM, 50, and DAD, 53, are dressed up for the occasion and watching on with Terry and Rebecca dressed up in their usual over the top style.

These four are the only invited guests.

The REGISTRAR, 40, smiles and gestures out to the 'happy couple'.

 REGISTRAR
I now pronounce you man and wife.

David and Minzy now turn to face each other parents, looking on they couldn't be prouder.

A quick round of applause.

David moves to his parents to embrace them with a hug as Minzy does the same with hers.

INT. CAR - DAY

David and Minzy are in the backseat and being driven off to their new lives as a married couple.

They look over at each other, smiling, shy.

A beat.

 MINZY
What do we done when they start
asking for grandchildren?

He laughs.

DAVID

Don't know. Work it out later I
guess. Lets just enjoy married life
for a little bit first.

She laughs back at him.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END