

A DECEIVING DINNER

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. DORCHESTER SQUARE - AFTERNOON

WE OPEN to the mouth of MATTHEW, 19, liar, eating a sandwich with ABBY, 19, girlfriend, on a bench.

ABBY

We need to start eating at home or we go broke. Don't you cook?

MATTHEW

Of course. When I'm not with you.

ABBY

Really?

MATTHEW

Yes. Is there a favourite meal I shall make for you?

ABBY

Oh! Fettuccine with grilled chicken.

MATTHEW

I'll prepare it from scratch. And dessert?

ABBY

A simple strawberry cake.

ABBY

When will you make this meal chef Matthew?

MATTHEW

Friday night at my place around 8.

They are about to kiss.

INT. SUPERMARKET - AFTERNOON

He strolls around the aisles with his cart as he looks around for the ingredients he needs.

MATTHEW (V.O)

(Conscience)

What was the meal she wanted again? Pizza? Angus burger? No, thats what I wanted.

MATTHEW

That's right! Fettuccine with grilled chicken.

A shopper looks at him weirdly.

Matthew grabs everything he needs, but everything is pre packaged including the cake.

INT. MATTHEW'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Matthew preps the ingredients on the table top.

He looks at the steps, becoming extremely dizzy and regretting that lie he made.

Matthew starts boiling the pasta as we see him in a dizzying mode.

The door bell is heard, Matthew sighs and opens the door off screen.

ABBY (O.S)
I'm excited for dinner.

We see that the pasta is boiling high as Matthew runs back to the kitchen.

He continues making the meal, but struggles.

ABBY (O.S)
I hope you don't mind. I bought Margaret and her boyfriend along for dinner.

We zoom towards Matthew's eyes, as he looks more stressed.

He continue prepping the meals for four now. The pasta is overcooked as he tries to plate the food.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Abby patiently waits as across her is Margaret and her boyfriend Richard sitting.

ABBY
He said everything will be made from scratch.

MARGARET
Exciting.

Richard looks at his watch.

RICHARD
Abby, does the food usually take this long?

Margaret hits Richard for the insult.

MARGARET

Richard, where are your manner? I'm terribly sorry Abby.

ABBY

That's alright. I'm wondering too.
MATTHEW! WHERE'S THE FOOD!

MATTHEW (O.S)

Uhh, it's coming now.

ABBY

I need to check on him.

INT. MATTHEW'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Matthew is struggling to plate everything, until Abby enters the kitchen which he quickly blocks her view.

MATTHEW

Hon, everything isn't ready just yet.

Abby looks annoyed.

ABBY

It's almost nine o'clock. We have guest remember.

MATTHEW

Five more minutes.

The timer goes off and Matthew pushes Abby away.

Matthew gets the pasta and plates everything while the chicken starts to burn as the smoke almost hit the smoke detector.

We get a small montage of Matthew plating the food while looking at the clock and the guest including Abby talk as floating heads echo.

RICHARD

I wonder if his cooking will be good.

ABBY

What's taking too long?

MARGARET

Matthew cook? Richard can make a medium rare steak like Baton Rouge.

RICHARD

He's probably going to overcook everything.

The voices becomes quick and the montage gets faster then it stops.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Matthew presents the meals to everyone.

MATTHEW

Bon appetite. Like the French say.

Everyone reacts differently, Abby is excited, Margaret is curious, and Richard disapproves it.

Everyone eats the food with different responses.

RICHARD

Matthew, are you sure you made all of this?

MATTHEW

Yes, all from scratch.

MARGARET

I like it, good job.

MATTHEW

Thank you Margaret.

Richard tries to eat the chicken and spits it out immediately.

RICHARD

Are you trying to poison us?

MARGARET

RICHARD!

RICHARD

The chicken is burn, all black.

Matthew becomes more nervous.

ABBY

This sauce taste familiar. Are you sure its all from scratch?

MATTHEW

Yes. Guys, try the cake. It's Abby's favourite.

Matthew presents the strawberry shortcake.

RICHARD

It looks store bought.

MATTHEW

I made it.

ABBY

I'm not saying I don't believe you but there's no way you made a strawberry cake just like that.

Matthew is more anxious.

MARGARET

It's good.

RICHARD

It's from the store. Taste exactly like it.

MARGARET

Richard! I'm so sorry Abby.

ABBY

It does taste from the store. And the pasta looks already made before.

RICHARD

Abby, he did not make it from scratch.

MATTHEW

This is my cooking.

RICHARD

You're hiding something.

MATTHEW

What.

MARGARET

RICHARD.

Richard gets up and pushes Matthew to the wall.

RICHARD

Are you trying to kill us, is that it?

MATTHEW

No, lets just enjoy what I made.

RICHARD

You didn't make this from scratch did you?

Matthew stays quiet.

ABBY

Matthew?

Everyone confronts him and then it stops.

MATTHEW

I LIED. The pasta sauce is from a container I bought at the store, the pasta was premade. I didn't know how to cook the chicken and the cake is from the store.

RICHARD

I KNEW IT! You're a liar. Abby, he's for the streets. I knew something was off, Lisa saw you at the supermarket with a store bought cake.

MARGARET

Who's this Lisa? Richard?

Richard steps away from Matthew and he argue with Margaret outside.

RICHARD

It's a friend from work.

They leaves as its just Abby and Matthew.

Silence happens.

ABBY

You don't know how to cook.

MATTHEW

Abby, I'm sorry. I just wanted to please you.

ABBY

I would've like if you said you didn't know how to cook than lie.

MATTHEW

I made the meal at least?

ABBY

You're a liar. And a bad chef. I'm done.

Abby walks away as Matthew tries to bring her back.

Sad music plays as the credits roll. Matthew eats the food he made and cries.

FADE OUT:

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