

A DECEPTIVE DINNER

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. DORCHESTER SQUARE - AFTERNOON

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

ABBY

You know we can make this for half the price right?

MATTHEW

Yes Abby, but its only eight bucks and in this economy thats a bargain.

ABBY

Come on Matthew. You won't always have eight dollars. Don't you cook sometimes?

The small part of the music loops, as Abby's last sentence echos in Matthews head as the shot changes to a close up of Matthew's face. Then the music continues.

MATTHEW

(Lying)

Of course. When I'm not with you.

ABBY

Really? You never told me that.

MATTHEW

It's my hidden talent.

ABBY

Oh. What kind of food do you make?

MATTHEW

Anything! Is there a favourite meal I shall make for you?

ABBY

Oh, now that you asked. I'm craving some fettuccine with grilled chicken.

MATTHEW

I'll prepare it all from scratch.

ABBY

Even the noddles?

MATTHEW

You know it. And dessert?

ABBY

A simple strawberry cake will do.

MATTHEW

Noted, all from scratch.

ABBY

So when will you make this meal chef Matthew?

MATTHEW

Friday night around 7 at my place.

CUT TO:

INT. IGA SUPERMARKET - AFTERNOON

CARD: FRIDAY

He strolls around the aisles with his cart. He looks at the list of ingredients to make noodles from scratch, as he feels dizzy, taking a preformed one instead, then he just takes the wrong kind of noddles.

MATTHEW

She won't even notice.

Matthew bumps the cart into a shopper named Lisa.

LISA

Watch it buddy.

Matthew embarrassingly walks past her.

MATTHEW

Sorry.

Lisa looks at him crossed. Matthew gets the other ingredients and gets a strawberry cake from the fridge.

INT. MATTHEW'S HOUSE - EVENING

Matthew preps the ingredients on the table top.

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

MATTHEW (V.O)

(Echo)

I always cook when I'm not with you.

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

A knock is heard, Matthew sighs and opens the door.

ABBY

I'm excited for dinner.

Matthew covers Abby's view of the kitchen.

MATTHEW

The food isn't ready yet, wait in the living room, I'll call you when it's ready.

ABBY

Why so secretive?

MATTHEW

Just want to keep it a big surprise.

ABBY

Alright. But just to let you know I invited Margaret and her boyfriend along for dinner.

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

MATTHEW

Ok.

Matthew becomes nervous as he goes back to the kitchen and Abby relax in the couch.

He becomes more stress as he has to plate four meals and didn't start cooking yet.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Abby patiently waits with MARGARET, 19, Abby's friend, and her boyfriend RICHARD, 19, sitting on the couch watching a film.

ABBY

He said everything will be made from scratch.

MARGARET

Exciting. Matthew must be super rich living in this house all alone.

ABBY

He rents but this place is good enough for the four of us.

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! IS IT DONE!

Abby shouts.

MATTHEW (O.S)

Not yet.

ABBY

Better check on him.

Abby gets up.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Matthew is struggling to plate everything, until Abby comes in.

ABBY

MATTHEW! What's taking so long? Margaret and Richard are starving.

We see Matthew peeping the food, scared to look back at Abby far away in the dinning room.

MATTHEW

One more minute.

ABBY

It's almost nine o'clock.

MATTHEW

It's close to finish, give me a second.

ABBY

Make it quick.

MATTHEW

I'M TRYING!

Abby walks away as 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 so long?

MARGARET

Matthew cooks? 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 BLACK:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Matthew presents the meals to everyone.

MATTHEW

I apologize for the wait but we got a great meal here on our plate. Like the quebecois people say Bon appetite.

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 burnt.

MARGARET

MANNERS! I'm so sorry Matthew.

RICHARD

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

Matthew becomes more nervous as the lighting turns red and then back to default.

MATTHEW

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

Matthew presents the strawberry shortcake as Abby looks around the kitchen to see no mixer and becomes curious.

RICHARD

It looks store bought.

MATTHEW

I made it.

His words keep echoing.

ABBY

Not that 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 Margaret. How can you not tell. It taste exactly like it. He's a fraud.

MARGARET

Richard! Again I apologize Abby.

Abby becomes more suspicious as Matthew looks in fear.

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

You're a fraud, I don't care about yourself, this house means nothing. This is all a lie.

The light turns red.

MATTHEW

I'm trying to please everyone. Not that you were invited personally.

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? You want to fool my Margaret sure, but me, you're not going fool me buddy.

MATTHEW

I couldn't care less about what you think.

RICHARD

Admit it this was all premade.

MATTHEW

It's not.

RICHARD

Where's the dough, where's the spill, where's the bowls and stuff.

MATTHEW

That's none of your concern.

Richard throws a punch at Matthew tumbling down.

MARGARET

RICHARD!

Margaret stops him from attacking again.

Richard looks at the trash for the cake box as he pushes it to his face.

RICHARD

I KNEW IT! ADMIT IT MAN. YOU'RE A PATHETIC LIAR.

Matthew stays quiet.

ABBY

Matthew?

Richard is about the punch Matthew again as he misses.

ABBY

SAY SOMETHING!

We hear a loud rumble as everyone is confronting him.

MARGARET

Unbelievable, he lied to us.

RICHARD

How can you be so stupid to not realize.
It's literally pre made stuff.

MARGARET

Don't talk to me like that.

ABBY

MATTHEW! SAY SOMETHING.

The voices form together to make a chaotic mess of noise and then it stops.

MATTHEW

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

RICHARD

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

An awkward silence.

MARGARET

Who's this Lisa, Richard?

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

RICHARD

It's a friend from work.

MARGARET

You call me stupid and you're cheating!

They leaves as its just Abby and Matthew.

Silence happens.

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, you mislead all of us into believing you were made everything from scratch and a good chef. You practically embarrassed me to my friends.

Abby walks away as Matthew tries to bring her back.

MATTHEW

One lie won't kill anyone.

She stops and turns to him.

ABBY

But that lie will grow unless you are sincere. Maybe you are for the streets.

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

FADE OUT:

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