

ATC Bareboards 2021

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Written by Chris Naylor

Directed by Glen Pead

RUTH: Your secretary kept you too busy?

DON: I wasn't with my secretary.

RUTH: Who was it then?

DON: You're not going to let that go are you?

RUTH: No.

DON: It was a long time ago.

RUTH: She's still working there. *(annoyed, moves to go to the kitchen)*

DON: Yeah, well don't go on.... Where are you going? *(arm out to stop her)*

RUTH: To the kitchen.

DON: You can't just walk off like that. I want to talk.

RUTH: *(brushes past him)* I'm going to cook. *(exits to kitchen)*

DON: *(watches her go, dismissive wave of hand)* Bahh!
(sits down, reads paper, then to kitchen) What's for dinner?

RUTH: *(sticks head back in)* It was a roast.

DON: Was?

RUTH: Your favourite. I've turned it off and on so many times it's probably spoilt now!

DON: You're lucky I came home at all.

RUTH: I'm just telling you.

DON: Ah.

RUTH: I made it especially.

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DET. SMALL: You don't believe all that do you?

INSP. BRITT: I don't know. I think so. It's credible.

DET. SMALL: The marks in the carpet. The scuffle. Her shoe prints.

INSP. BRITT: She said she wasn't in the room at the time.

DET. SMALL: Yeah, but think about it. Her footprints are all around his body. Close by.

INSP. BRITT: She's his wife. She would be. She rushed to him when she came in.

DET. SMALL: Underneath his body?

INSP. BRITT: Underneath?

DET. SMALL: (lifts body slightly) See. Her heel marks.

INSP. BRITT: She's moved him.

DET. SMALL: Or fought with him.

INSP. BRITT: (looks at body) He's a fair size. She's not strong enough to overpower him. ... No. I think her heel marks were there before. The scuffing is to do with the intruder.

DET. SMALL: (looks) So where's this intruder's foot marks?

INSP. BRITT: It's not clear I know. Neither are the husband's. Maybe he had a softer shoe.

DET. SMALL: I don't think there was anyone.

INSP. BRITT: You don't?

DET. SMALL: No. She hits him with something.

INSP. BRITT: What? We haven't found anything. Any weapon.

DET. SMALL: Maybe something from the kitchen. A saucepan.

INSP. BRITT: A saucepan?

DET. SMALL: Yeah.