1.

Emma Falconer is an Ambulance Paramedic, she is just leaving the A&E department of the Gilbert Bain Hospital when she hears the tones going on her radio. A quick glance at the screen reveals they are returning to the Thule Bar. Her partner for the shift is Paramedic Sam Leask, “for God’s sake weve just been there” he says “It’ll be some other body from the rumpus that was going on, thought the Police had got it under control didna see anybody looking like they needed us”

They close up the Ambulance doors and jump into the front seats, Sam turns the key and the engine firs into life. With the blue lights activated they set off on the short journey to the towns Esplanade, as they near the main road there is some traffic, so Sam presses the centre of the steering wheel and the sirens come to life. Two minutes later they pull up outside the Thule Bar, one of the towns oldest drinking establishments. There is a small crowd gathered around a young man lying on the ground just outside the front door

Buzz Buzz, he awakens gradually as his Fitbit continues to vibrate gently on his wrist. Angus MacInnes rolls over laying his arm out to cuddle his wife Emma. He realises he is alone in the bed, firstly imaging she has woken early but then remembers Caitlin was on night shift in her role as a Paramedic.

It was now Saturday morning, so this meant she had been working during one of the busiest nights of the week. Unfortunately, he was due on shift in his role as a Detective Sergeant in just over an hour. In the past two days they had only seen one another briefly as one come home from work just prior to the other leaving. Neither were rostered to work tomorrow so they had planned to spend some time together, but both appreciated the others workload, so nothing was taken for granted.

As Angus climbs out of bed, he uses the Sonos app to switch on to Radio 2 he sets it to play on the speakers in the bedroom, sitting room and kitchen that way he can continue to listen as he prepares for the day ahead.

Zoe Ball is currently at the helm for the breakfast show, and he tunes in just in time to catch the news headlines. Fortunately, nothing major has happened overnight and Zoe now cues up “Hunter” by Dido. Angus waits patiently for the kettle to boil, realising it is now just after 7 so if Emma’s shift does not overrun, they may have half an hour to catch up before he leaves.

As Angus leaves the shower he spots the front door opening, in steps his wife Emma she looks gorgeous, impossible to believe she has just done a 12 hour as a Paramedic on a frontline Ambulance. “Good morning beautiful” he greets her, the same greeting he has used every morning for the 10 years, it always reminds of The The’s song of the same name. Every morning when he says it in his mind he hears Matt Johnson growling it out.

“How was your night?” he enquires.

“Just the usual Saturday night pretty much every job involved alcohol or drugs, your guys were quite busy too a few fights in the Thule.” You can tell by her voice, these type of jobs are not why she does the job. She has been in the Ambulance service since she was 21, at first as an Ambulance Technician then returning to university after 18 months to become a Paramedic, now she was in her last year of her advance Paramedic degree. Angus couldn’t believe the level she was currently studying at, many times he told her “ your near enough a Doctor now” she would always reply “their training is 7 years so they’re way more qualified than us.

2.

Angus enters CID’s office on the 3rd floor of police headquarters, the building is only a few years old but is already showing signs of being well used.

Five years Angus has been a sergeant and is regarded by his unit as a senior. In February he sat and passed the inspectors exam, next month an interview panel would be held. Angus had his fingers crossed he would secure a post at least at his current station if not actually in his current department.

As he enters, he is aware of DC Stuart Macinnes heading towards him looking purposeful. Whether Stuart was comfortable with it or not everyone in the team just called him Mac.

“Morning boss” Mac says with a big grin on his face, “DI wants us in his office in 5 minutes, want a coffee”.

“Good thinking” replies Angus, “Make sure it’s a decent one not the muck that’s in the tea fund cupboard”

As they approach the DI’s office, mugs in hand, they can see he is on the phone, a slightly puzzled look on his face.

“Good morning you two, nice of you to bring me a cuppa” says DI Bristow with a tone that suggests he is actually desperate for one. “That’s the Fiscal been on the phone, there was a young lad died last night after a fight outside a bar, his injuries at the time didn’t seem bad and the Ambulance took him to A&E, but he died a few hours later. It’s probably just been bad luck, but the Fiscal would like us to cross the T’s and dot the I’s so to speak.”

Angus knew right away the DI felt something could be suspect. Angus and DI Andy Bristow had worked as part of a team for nearly 10 years now.

Andy was only 5 years older than Angus and had become one of Police Scotland’s youngest DIs at 29, If Angus got his post next month, he would beat Andy by a few months. When Angus had joined the team as young Detective Constable he quickly became friends with Andy who was also a DC at the time. It would only be a matter of a few weeks later when Andy was promoted to Detective Sergeant taking the young Angus under his wing.

Angus tells his boss “Emma was working last night, they were pretty busy she said we were too. Do we have someone in custody if it turns out be a result of his injuries”

“Uniform have just sent over the statements from last night, seems there were quite a few involved so might not be so easy to nail down who struck the fatal blow so to speak” replies Andy “the Pm’s at nine can you attend. Let me know if there is anything and I will get DS Holland and Mac to start looking at the statements just in case”

Angus enters the mortuary at the Hospital, Russell O’Connor the Chief Pathologist sees him coming.

“Any idea what the Fiscal thinks we’re going to find?” he asks.