R3320  RED SPIDER  (USA, 4/21/1988)  [TV]

Credits:  director, Jerry Jameson ; writer, Paul King ; novel (One Police Plaza), William J. Cauntiz.

Cast:  James Farentino, Jennifer O'Neill, Amy Steel, Philip Casnoff, Soon-Teck Oh.

Summary:  Detective/mystery film set in contemporary New York City. A cop is found dead in a hotel, brutally murdered, a spider cut into his stomach. The police believe his death might be connected to the fact that he was a corrupt cop - Internal Affairs was already after him - but then several other people are murdered in the very same way, and there seems to be no connection between the cases. The culprit turns out to be NYPD Detective Patrick Shaunessy (Casnoff), a Vietnam veteran cross-dresser who poses as a prostitute to lure his victims, all of whom were former members of his Special Forces unit in Vietnam, to their deaths. Seems a wounded Patrick was left behind by his unit in Vietnam and captured by the NVA who gang raped him. A sympathetic fellow detective then allows Shaunessy to kill himself and presents the death to the D.A. as an accident to preserve Shaunessy's honor and his widow's pension.


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