

THE SPLIT BULLET

John Shields

FADE IN:

1. INT. LES SOEURS DU CAFÉ - EVENING

WE OPEN to an overview of the cafe's interior. Lights are creeping in through the blinded windows. Customers are sitting at booths and the counter, consuming pies, cakes and coffee while chatting. The camera pans to the back of a JOE RYDER sitting at the counter and waiting to be served. A WAITRESS behind the counter walks over to Joe.

WAITRESS

Hey, what can I do for you?

JOE

I have a cup of coffee and a millionaire shortbread, thanks.

WAITRESS

How do you take it?

JOE

Black as obsidian.

WAITRESS

Right, a cup of Joe and a little treat.

JOE

Exactly, just like me.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry?

JOE

Oh, my name is Joe, Joe Ryder. Never mind, it's a stupid corny joke I make.

WAITRESS

(sniggers)

Well, Joe I'll go get that ready for you.

The Waitress goes to prepare Joe's order. A MAN sitting beside Joe turns to him.

MAN

Joe Ryder? The same Joe that caught the Mayor's daughter doing the dirty work?

JOE

Yep, you're looking at him.

MAN

Well, I suppose that's one way to make a living.

JOE

It may not seem like it but it's honest work.

MAN

Honest work does not have to be honest.

JOE

(sniggers)

You said it!

MAN

I am going to head out, enjoy your coffee Joe.

JOE

Nice talking with you.

The Man pulls out a dollar from his pocket and leaves it on the counter. The Man then gets up and walks out of the cafe. The Waitress has prepared Joe's order and brings it over to him.

WAITRESS

Here you go, Joe, enjoy!

JOE

Many thanks.

Joe takes a sip of the coffee, then picks up the shortbread and takes a bite.

FADE TO:

2. EXT. STREETS OF NEW ANWINN