

Sweet Smell of Success – tenor cheat sheet<sup>1</sup> as of 10/27

**1. Rumor / The Column**

Someone started a rumor                      About me, about you,

Such a terrible rumor,                      What I wouldn't give to make it                      true

[S&A] With a wink and a whisper    They've been linking our names

With a wink and a whisper                      Someone's playing dirty little                      games

Oo, it's good to be                      in an innuendo with you

Oo, what they're saying you did                      I wish you would do

[S&A] If you're up for a rumor,                      [T&B] If you're itchin' to know

I could tell you a rumor                      [S] Blow by, [A] Blow by, [T] **Blow by**, [B] Blow by,                      blow

[S&A] Someone started a rumor, [T] **rumor**,                      [B] rumor

[Dialogue...] cue *Madge*: "Sinatra? You sure?"                      *JJ*: "Write it down. Write it down."

You could say that it's gossip,                      You could call it a lie,

Funny thing about gossip...

Oo, once it's rollin' it feels beyond your control,

Oo, watch your fingers and grab ahold o' your soul!

[Dialogue...] cue *Sidney*: "Gotta get in the column, Or I'm out of a job. Gotta get into JJ,

J J, [S&B] JJ    Gotta give him the gossip,                      Gotta tell what you know,

Gotta give him the gossip,                      Blow by blow.

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<sup>1</sup>                      Black is tenors singing; red is tenors speaking; green is leads singing; blue is leads speaking.

[Dialogue...] cue *Sidney*: “There are signs rising over Times Square that say it all...”

J J! cue *Sidney*: “Flashin’ his eyes at you this way, that way, this way, that way.”

He runs his column like a road show gangster, But it’s the column, it’s the column you need;

Because it happens he’s a road show gangster sixty million people read.

But what sixty million people don’t know is how the whole system works!

*Sidney*: “A press agent works for a client.” [T] **Yup!** *Sidney*: “A press agent likes to eat.” [T] **You bet!** *Sidney*:  
“The client says ‘Get me in JJ.’” [T] **JJ!** *Sidney*: “The press agent feels the heat.” [T] **Ouch!** *Sidney*: “JJ says ‘What’ll  
you give me?’ Here’s where you crawl like a bug.”

**Just give him dirt, Make it hurt.** He gives your client a plug!

[Dialogue...] cue *JJ*: “No hatchet ever got buried deep enough.”

And the presses are rollin’, Bangin’ out the early edition,

The presses are rollin’, [S&A] Loud enough to wake the dead.

And the city is out there Waitin’ for the early edition!

cue *Sidney*: “Holdin’ your breath ‘til the time ticks by, Pitchin’ a prayer to the skyline sky, Waitin’ to see if I live or die!”

[S&A&B] Someone started a [T] Rising over the town, He sees it all!

**JJ!** Rising high, Rising over the town cue *Sidney* singing: “He tells it all!”

Gotta give it to J J [S&A?] JJ [T] J J

Blow by, blow by, blow by blow Blow by, blow by, blow by blow Blow by, blow by blow!

## 2. Voodoo Club

[Dialogue...] cue *Sidney*: “It’s your lucky night. I got a great item I’m phoning in to JJ. JJ asked me to call him on his private line.”

Look at Sidney Falcone Playin’ games with his dime

Dishin’ out the baloney Scramblin’ fast and runnin’ out of time

### 3. Welcome to the Night

[Dialogue...] cue JJ: "The whisperers are whisperin', They hiss and they coo. The street is talkin',"

Street is talkin', Sidney. JJ: "it's talkin' to you" [T] You [A&B] You

Welcome to the night! You been expected and you're such a pretty sight.

We heard a rumor you were sniffin' at the bait, Flirtin' with your fate tonight.

We're gonna get ya started,

Welcome to the dark! To the advantages of swimmin' with the shark

You're lookin' eager in that thirty dollar suit, Tossin' off a cute remark.

JJ: "Tell me, Sidney, where you been?" Where you been?

JJ: "You been nowhere at all" Nowhere at all

JJ: "Always outside looking in. So come on inside" Come on inside JJ: "Across the divide" Across the divide

[T1] Come on in-side Come on inside

[T2] Come on in, Come on inside

Sidney's got a friend, Don't even wonder what your friend here may intend,

You got an angel and he's pickin' up the tab, Grab what you can grab tonight!

[Dialogue...] cue Van Cleve: "But I got a press agent. My wife." JJ: "Now you got a new one. Thanks to Sidney, you're in."

Welcome to the night! JJ: "Just like that" I got a dollar says your future's lookin' bright.

JJ: "Right off the bat" We get excited when the Cub Room has a Cub **Welcome to the club!**

[Dialogue & dancing...] Welcome back from the tailor, Sidney's lookin' slick.

You've been watchin' the trailer, Now you see the flick [Key change — ½ step higher!]

Help yourself to a freebie, JJ's bein' nice

Oh, but what will the fee be? [whisper] Freebies have a price

## 7. What If

*Susan*: “What if you decided to help, the way I made a choice to help you?” *Sidney*: “Let me figure this out.”

Boy, ya better be careful      If you do what she wants

Better, better be careful      Sidney      *Susan*: “What if?”      Careful      *Susan*: “Sidney”

[Dialogue & singing...] cue *Susan*: “Could you just imagine being happy? Just happy? I could. What if?”

Better be careful      If you do what she wants

*Susan*: “Life could be Dallas.”      You gotta be careful      Think about J J

Careful      Think about J J      Think about J J      Think about J J

[Dialogue & singing...] cue *Susan*: “Sidney, I’d like you to meet a girl full of life, a girl I could”

Better be careful, the road looks bumpy      Better watch out how you help this chick.

Thinkin’ o’ J J, it gets me jumpy      Thinkin’ o’ bombs goin’ tick, tick, tick.

Sidney be nimble, Sidney be quick!      Sidney be nimble, Sidney be quick!

Sidney,      be careful.      Sidney,      be careful.

Careful, careful, Sidney.      Careful, careful, Sidney, Sidney.

## 10. Act 1 Finale

[Singing...] *Dallas*: “I offer you, I offer you me.” cue *JJ*: “What’s going on here?”

What you gonna do, Sidney?      What you gonna do?

What you gonna do, Sidney?      What you gonna do?

Think, Sidney      Hop, Sidney      Run, Sidney      Stop, Sidney

Now, Sidney      Quick, Sidney      Show us a trick, Sidney

What you gonna do?                      What you gonna do?

Think, Sidney      Hop, Sidney      Run, Sidney      Stop, Sidney

What you gonna do, Sidney?      What you gonna do?      Sidney      Sidney

## 11. Break It Up

[Dialogue...] cue *Sidney*: “No worries, JJ. I’ll clear this up.” *JJ*: “Clear it up? Clear it up? Break it up!”

Break it up!      Break it up Sidney      Break it up

Break it up!      Break it up Sidney      Break it up

Take those two and pull them apart      Be like Cupid, aim for the heart

Shoot those love birds out of the blue

Break it up!      Break it up Sidney      Break it up

Break it up!      Break it up Sidney      Break it up

Word is out you’re losin’ your grip      Sad how fast a fella can slip

What’s a slipp’ry fella to do?                      **Tear them in two!**

Hey, Sidney, you’re such a clever chap

You got a life without a future      So give yourself a clap

And give us a smile      [S&A] Say goodbye to it all      *Dallas & Susan*: “I cannot hear the city.”

Your way with a word      [S&A] Say goodbye, Sidney      *Dallas & Susan*: “I cannot hear a sound.”

Tell us a joke      We’ve already heard

[Dialogue...] cue Susan: "I want you there." Sidney: "Why?" Susan: "I'm scared." Sidney: "You're scared?"

Break it up! Break it up Sidney Break it up

Break it up! Break it up Sidney Break it up

[Dialogue...] Susan: "JJ." JJ: "Look at you two kids" cue JJ: "I gave you a task..."

Say goodbye to it all Say goodbye, Sidney Say goodbye to it all

[Singing...] cue Sidney: "Not about to be taking a dive, when I've only just started comin' alive."

Break it up! Break it up Sidney Break it up

Break it up! Break it up Sidney Break it up

Make whatever trouble it takes Give the mix a couple o' shakes

[Sidney] "No more time for makin' mistakes." Strike before the city awakes

Time is up and payment is due

[S&A] What you need is a rumor, [T&B] With a pinch of a smear

Add a smidgen of humor pour it in a sympathetic ear

[Sidney] "Oo, once you've been there it's tough to settle for less, Oo, I'm so close I can smell the smell of success." Success

[Dialogue...] cue Sidney: "Here's the key. Buy some champagne."

Rumor Rumor

Make your way to the table Like a man on death row

Tell your fabulous fable Blow by blow

[Dialogue...] cue Sidney: "This is not something JJ would print."

Smell the smoke on Otis's breath In his eye a bit of Macbeth

Get this guy to pick up his cue

[Dialogue...] cue *Otis*: "You lost my attention, Sidney. What are you drinking?" *Girl*: "Get lost."

Take this lech and give him a shove      You've got something Otis would love

Time to give the Devil his due

### 13. Dirt

Feel the heat      on the street      Can ya feel it?  
Gonna, gonna be      Gonna, gonna be good      Feel it comin'  
Yes Yeah Good      Uh-huh

Hot      Hot Hot

Give me what I'm hungry for      The one thing that's never a bore

Nah!      Nah!      Ahh...

Dirt      It's the reason I read

Dirt      It's an animal need

I don't pick up the paper      For the sports or the news

Those ain't      the sport      that I choose

Dirt      With my bacon and eggs

They go together like a skirt      And a nice pair of legs

Got the ink on my fingers      Got the smudge of the smear

Oh my,      what dirt      we got here

Dallas is a dooper      Dallas is a red      Susie's gonna leave him flat

Dallas used to grope her      They were gonna wed      Look out, look out, splat!

Oh      Kinda makes you feel bad

But don't the public have a right to know      Like our forefathers had?

## It's in the constitution!

Call a commie a commie      Give his reefer a light      Dallas is dirt in black and white!

There he is      This is it      Go on over and see what the paper says

You could sit      For a bit      Later on you can read it to Susie in bed

Man, you're already dead      Don't you know?

Watchin' them rise is a ball      But nothin's as sweet as the fall!

**Dirt**      Gotta hunger to feed

Got a hunger and a thirst      Gimme, gimme some dirt

Take me down in the dirt      It's an animal need

## Give it to me in the first amendment

Gimme somethin' that can get me through      Something dirty in the whole "who's who"

And keep this in mind as you do      It don't have to be true

Don't have to be true      Don't have to be      true

### 18a. Finale, Part One

[Dialogue...] cue JJ: "What is it, Susie? Yes? Are we struck dumb? What is it?" Sidney: "JJ..."

Better, better be careful      careful

### 19c. Finale, Part Three

[S&A] You could say that it's gossip, you could call it a lie. Funny thing about gossip

Oo, once it's rollin' it feels beyond your control,

Oo, watch your fingers and grab ahold o' your soul!

And Sidney Falcone                      He's sportin' that boyish grin

One ship went sailin' off              One ship came in!

*Sidney:* "There's a sign rising over Times Square"              That says it all      It says it all

Falco              Falco              Falco              Falco

[Singing...] cue *Susan:* "The raging town was waiting down the stair. We made it vanish."

**Falco, Falco, Falco**