Sweet Smell of Success – tenor cheat sheet as of 10/27 11/3/25

*Updates are highlighted in yellow

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 playin' 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,

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

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,

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

Gotta give him the gossip, Blow by blow.

Black is BASSES singing; red is BASSES 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." [B] Yup! Sidney: "A press agent likes to eat." [B] You bet! Sidney: "The client says 'Get me in JJ.'" [B] JJ! Sidney: "The press agent feels the heat." [B] 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 rumor about me, about you

Such a terrible JJ! Gotta give him the gossip, Gotta tell what you know cue Sidney singing: "He tells it all!"

[S&T] Gotta give it to J J [A&B] \mathbf{J} [S&T] J J

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

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" [S&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

[B1] Come on in-side Come on inside [B2] Come on in, Come on inside

Sidney's got a friend, Sidney: "What a friend I got"

Don't even wonder what your friend here may intend, Sidney: "Why me? Why not"

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, J J's bein' nice

Oh, but what will the fee be? [whisper/sing] 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 Susan: "What if?" Think about J J

Susan: "Sidney" Careful Susan: "What If?" Think about JJ Think about JJ Think about JJ

[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?

cue Tony: "Mr Hunsecker, remember me? The bartender at the Voodoo?"

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

cue Tony: "Great Item! The Voodoo-where studs play before they're stars."

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?

cue Tony: "She was always a lady."

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

Dallas & Sidney: "Not everyone who plays the game survives."

Break it up! Break it up Sidney Break it up Dallas: "You're never gonna."

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!

[Dialogue...] cue Madge: "Hp a slow boat to China, Sidney. You're out. Sidney: "Madge –"

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 J: "You had to come through" Say goodbye, Sidney

JJ: "You had to make good." 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] "I'm so close I can smell the smell of success." Success

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

[S&A] Rumor [T&B] Rumor

[Dialogue...] cue Bartender: "He left. Maybe he heard you were coming. You looking for a columnist? Otis Elwell is over there."

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 doper 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"

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

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16. Don't Look Now

[JJ] "Don't look now." {{Whistle}}

[JJ] "He took you to the cleaners, don't you know." {{Whistle}}

[JJ] "Well, don't." **{{Whistle}}** [JJ] "Look" **{{Whistle}}** [JJ] "Now."

[Dialogue...] cue Sidney: "Hi, Rita." Rita: "Go rot in hell"

Strolling along the avenue, cutting across the park

[JJ and S&A] "Find you alone in the dark."

Maybe we get to pick our spots, maybe we choose the date

[JJ] "Maybe we get to call the shots, maybe it's up to fate."

Somehow the magic will find you, find you alone, alone in the dark

Don't look now, but something that you had is gone [JJ]: The magic act goes on and on

You never know when, where and how

[JJ]: He'll make your bunny disappear along with your hat; he'll saw your girl in half and then he'll leave her like that

So don't look, don't look, don't look

[Dialogue...] cue JJ: "Don't worry, America. He's one of us"

So don't look, don't look now

17. At the Fountain (reprise)

[Sidney]: He offers, you take the part.

Breathe in the city, drink in the night, bathe in the neon light

[Sidney]: I'm finally at the fountain

Finally at the fountain

[Sidney]: Finally at the start. It's time to tear through that door. It's time now to soar

It's time now to soar

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

[Dialogue...] cue JJ: "Is he dead? Susan: "Rita called me."

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

Sidney: "One ship went sailin' off One ship came in!"

There's a sign rising over Times Square That says it all It says it all

Falco Falco Falco

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

Falco, Falco, Falco