

HARD EIGHT BEAT SHEET 8.17.07

beated by Nicholas Jarecki

1. Dark repeating beat over title credits establishes ominous mood.
2. At a coffee shop truck-stop, a young man sits outside. An older man approaches, offers to buy him coffee and cigarette.
3. They sit in diner, Sydney intros to John, we learn that John is upset, was gambling, trying to make money. Sydney says don't play blackjack unless you can count cards. John combative, Sydney reprimands, tells him how to behave properly. John accepts. Sydney says he wants to help. John needs six thousand to bury his mother. He has no friends, family, no money. Sydney says what would you do if I gave you 50 bucks? How long could you survive? Sydney says come back to vegas, I'll loan you 50, teach you how to win. John says why help? I'm not a fag. Sydney says get in car. John funny threatening, music building. John decides, he lists things dumbly, they go.
4. In car, John sits in back, nice ride. Says pull over, cuts to being in front. Asks for cigarette, Sydney has one too. John goes for lighter, broken, Sydney offers matches, John won't use. Why? (Hold wheel while I light mine). Had bad experience, swore never to do it again. Tells story about waiting in line at movie theater, spontaneous friction, matches exploded in my pocket, scared me, huge burn, new pair of jeans. Sid laughs. John says things happen, deal with it... Sid says I'll loan you 50, if you play a certain way, you can get bed and meal. Can't win 6,000. John says if you show me, I'll do that.
5. In casino, Sid tells John go to bathroom, use razor- John growing beard. Sid ignores, says meet me after. He shaves, attendant approves. Then he meets Sid in bar. Says he lied, need 150, John disappointed. Sid says don't worry. Go to cage, look for floor man. He does, approaches and says he'll spend money, wants rate card, clearly saying what Sid told him. He comes back to Sid, says he got rate card. Sid gives 150, says take to cashier, they'll make note, you want dollar tokens. He does it at cage, it works. Sid says find slot machine, John does, but make sure floor man sees you. Play \$20, make it last, dollar at a time. John does. Waitress comes by, he orders. Sid sees from bar, walks over, asks about drink? Yeah. Forget it- don't drink, will be 150 cocktail. Come with me. John does, Sid explains to give tokens to cashier, get 100 bill. Cashier asks want bill or 20s? A bill. Sid explains now give other cashier bill and rate card, more tokens. Cashier takes, puts credit note on card. Sid says now how much on rate card. Uhh.. 150 then 200, so 250. Sid- you only spent

- 20 though. So keep circling bill. Cash to tokens. Spend what's left of 50, show for floor man. Then do it for an hour, take break, etc. Find you later. John goes back to slots, sits next to married couple in neck brace, they say they're lucky. Cut to John cashing in rate card, doing the scam. Floor man drops by, observes. John nods, walks off. Then- John wins a slot machine! Says he needs a bucket. Walking to cashier, happy. Back to other, happy, putting more on rate card.
6. Later in hotel room, John sits on bed watching TV. Knock at door, Sid enters. Racked up 2k on rate card, it worked, floor man came over, do you want room, show tickets? I got you a show ticket, then I hit machine for 200! It works. You do this? Sid doesn't anymore. He gives Sid back money, says hang out, watch pay per view, minibar? Sid says what will you do now? John hasn't thought through. Can't keep doing this. John about to ask question, Sid cuts off- no way to win 6k. Forget it. John knows, sad, confused. Sid says he has friend in LA, maybe can help, we can work this out. Says not selfish, just hope you'd do same for me. They shake hands, Sid says good to meet new friend. Sid goes to leave, John says can I come with you, watch you gamble? Yeah. John zips up his velcro shoes, exits.
 7. Title card: Two Years Later, Reno.
 8. Music plays in casino bar. Waitress offers Keno, Sid sits at table, plays two bucks. Slow-mo sees Clementine, waitress, walking sexily. She says hello captain, remember me? He does. She knows his name. Calls him captain cause John follows you like you are captain. He says John's old friend. Gives good tip to Keno waitress, Clem comments. Sid asks if she has to flirt to tables, she says yeah, otherwise I get hassled by management, and blow the tip. Sid says don't do with me. Goes to pay, Jimmy paid for it. Sid sees Jimmy, black man, and John by bar. Sid gives Clem \$20 tip. Jimmy walks with John to table, says another drink, John and Clem have brief Hello.
 9. Jimmy and John sit, Jimmy's friend of John's. Works at Sand Dunes. Do what? Consulting. Parking lot? No, inside. Jimmy saw Sid in Vegas a couple years back, bet 3k on hard eight, didn't win. Sid says stupid. Jimmy says you were with old dude, Sid interrupts for Keno. Jimmy takes cig from John, criticizes brand. Then ridicules Sid for betting Keno. John says once we saw guy make 38k. Jimmy says other night I saw guy at craps have heart attack, everyone at table ignored. Funny story, but he overdoes it. Sid plays Keno again. Jimmy looks at ass, says we're surrounded by pussy. Sid doesn't like talk, says waitress can hear. Jimmy says women love it. Sid says not from me. Jimmy says half waitresses are hookers, my

- friend runs it at other hotel. John says Jimmy chill, Jimmy keeps on. Sid critical. John says let's go off, Jimmy wants drink, they'll get at tables. Jimmy says Sid, call with anything you need in town. They leave, Sid watches Clem in slow-mo again taking money from ogling guys.
10. Sid walks through casino in long steadicam, buttons jacket. Finally arrives at craps table, shakes with pit boss, starts gambling.
 11. Later, exits casino back, lights a smoke. Sees Clem exiting hotel room suspiciously. She sees him, meets on street. Chatter, says she was seeing friend, don't tell anyone, not supposed to be in rooms. Sid knows, confronts on unfairness of whoring. She's embarrassed.
 12. In diner, they chat, she lives alone, he asks if she's in school, saving up? No, I just do my life, have nice car. I have to pay bill or else fucked credit and life fucked. She says you look at me as piece of shit now that you saw me in room. No. She says what, save up for beauty parlor? Fuck that. I do what I want... Will you tell John? No. She asks how they know each other, Sid tells story. She likes that he took care of John, she thinks John's love for Sid is adorable, Sid defends, she says he worships. Asks if he has real kids, yes, he's estranged, boy your age, daughter. Don't know where they live. Argument at other table, they leave.
 13. Sid and Clem enter Sid's hotel room, it's opulent (sleazy though), sexual tension. He points to bedroom, she walks in. He says he'll get robe. She waits, anxious. Slow pan up as she touches herself, adjusts her bra to expose cleavage. Looks damaged, touches her mouth, legs. He returns, brings robe. She says you want to fuck me? He's offended. Hard on her. She says why are you being nice then? He says not that way. I'm giving you comfortable bed, a nice shower. She says don't get angry. He says he's not, he understands. She says now you really think I'm piece of shit. No. She says okay, he says John will be back late, it's his room? Not tonight. Leaves.
 14. Next morning, rooms service delivers coffee, Sid grabs, brings in to John's room. Hears John and Clem talking, John telling match story. He enters, John calls him captain, he says that's Clem's name for me only. They're hanging out. He says John will take you to go buy something. She says she needs to go home and get clothes, Sid says go to mall, buy something nice. Sid offers money, John says he's got money, don't worry. They agree, Sid walks off. John and Clem talk more, smoke. She asks why two TVs? He shows her scam, how they steal pay per view movie, wire up from desk, tricking system. Don't say anything. She laughs. He laughs. Says will be back, talk to Sid.

15. Sid in bathroom dressing, John asks how'd you do? Okay. Didn't show up. Yeah, I was with Jimmy, second drink. He thinks you don't like him. Sid doesn't. Then Sid says be nice to Clem. John asks if he fucked her. Sid says no, laughs. John relieved. They'll meet later at poker. Later.
16. In diner, Sid studies a form, eats heartily. Later Sid at poker table gambling with younger kids, throwing chips. Later, playing craps, throwing, winning. Expressionless as mid-ironic music plays. Hoffman, young gambler, at other end of craps table starts hassling Sid, saying he doesn't wait for old people. He's shooting, says he's lighting cigarette, I like you, wait for your bet. I'll roll and fuck you. Real asshole, ridiculing him, says have some fun. Doing thing with cigarette, ridiculing, says he's gonna light, waiting for bet, come on, hurry, do it! Sid bets 2k hard eight. Everyone gasps. Hoffman impressed. Laughs. Says he's big time. Rolling, wants Sid to win now. Hard six. Sid dispassionate. Hoffman bets 100 on hard eight, too. Wants it. Crazy. Throws. We see a tiny expression from Sid, anticipation. Soft eight thrown, Sid loses. Hoffman apologizing. Sid walks off. Hoffman calls after let me buy you a drink.
17. Blackness, ringing phone. Sid wakes up, what, where? Yeah. You okay? Right away.
18. Sid's car pulls into parking lot, camera tracks long as he walks cautiously up motel steps to second floor. Arrives at door, knocks. John's voice inside, says wait, all cool? Yeah. Open door. Promise you'll help me? Sid says open. Promise? Open the fucking door! He walks in. Lights off, John says wait, Sid turns on lights, sees something. John says you promised. Sid says what is this, who's this man? We don't see yet. He's a hostage, passed out. John starts crying, sorry. Sees body on bed, bloody, Clem in chair. Goes over, Clem says he won't pay me, met in bar, he owes me. She asked John to come help. Sid pulls up Clem, she's hit, but okay. Sid gathers details, he owes 300, why not let go? Can't. Anyone knows he's here? No, just his wife, we called her, got name, told her to get money. Clem asks will you help? Do what? Wife's called cops. No. Of course! Didn't you tell her you'd kill him? Yeah. Close on Sid- he swears for first time, it's fucked up. You promised you'd help, I didn't. Clem says don't, yells at him. He says not my fault, humble yourself! Takes gun from John, Jimmy gave it to him. Jimmy here? Clem says not true. Sid talks to Clem, asks what happened exactly. They went shopping, then went home to get stuff. Told you to buy clothes! I wanted them! Then we had sex. Sid- how do you get here, what went wrong? He thought he was smart, I'm not stupid. Sid- this is stupid. Clem wants money. Sid insults. John upset, Sid yells at John. John says she's my wife! We got married this afternoon. Guy

- in room wakes up, says you're dead bitch! John hits him with gun, knocks him out. Sid says fuck off, goes to leave.
19. John follows out, Sid says I can't be involved, I can't stay. Sid explains gravity, says this is serious! Sid says let's just leave, okay? John listens to reason. Sid says how'd you let this happen? He says she's nuts. But she said yes to marriage, I didn't want her to say no later. When I saw her on bed it was sign from heaven! Been seeing her for 2 months, never had courage, I love her! Sid says it will work out, hugs him. They go back in, John tells Clem we're leaving. Sid wipes down prints. Maybe he won't remember. John says cops will come, we must go. Clem says not leaving. He fucked me and he owes me! John says don't be crazy, we must leave. She won't, wants money. John says listen to Sid. She says I won't tell them if I get caught. He says don't you care about our marriage? I love you! She says I don't care. He says fuck you, calls her whore, slaps her! Then sorry. Sid runs over. On his knees begs her, says if you stay you'll be caught. Kidnapping. Serious stuff. Look at me. You love John? He hit me. Yeah, but you love him, right? You're not gonna spoil it on this bullshit. She says okay, they grab stuff to go, Sid unlocks cuffs. Looks at him, sees he's breathing. Pick up cigarettes. Then, phone rings. Who's that? Maybe his wife, dunno. Clem says Jimmy knows we're here. John panicked, let's go. Guy stirring, waking. Sid walks over, hits him hard with gun, says right, let's go.
20. They exit room, John apologizing. Sid says I drive with Clem, you follow. Sid asks Clem, anyone see you at bar, any friends see you? No. No. John walks to car, music building. Cars drives off.
21. Clem tells Sid in car she is scared. Sid says be strong. She's so embarrassed, will Sid feed her cats? She gives him keys, says how to deal with cats. She gives him tape of wedding, they made for him. She's freaked, why'd I do this, I'm so stupid! John comes around, they go to his car. Sid says you're on honeymoon, I will talk to casino about your job, don't worry. Sid offers money, I'll give you whatever you need when you need it. Okay. Where you going? Can't think. John- Vegas? No, ha! Clem says Niagara falls, John been, doesn't want, Sid says go! Okay. He hugs Clem, then tells John it will be okay. He won't let anything happen, hugs him. All fine. They drive off.
22. Hopeful music begins, sort of old gunslinger style. Sid walks by drain, throws gun and handcuffs down. John's car drives down highway, he asks if Clem wants to have marriage annulled. Does he? No. She doesn't either, says she won't fuck up again, promises. Sid in hotel drinks scotch, smokes, watches wedding video, close on him. Then we see them on

tape, happy laughing, vows. Sid watches. Fade to black.

23. He awakens in hotel room, reading paper as maid cleans, finds note on table, reads it.
24. At night, gets out of car in parking lot, lights cigarette. Hears car drive by, looks over, sees other car flash lights. Gets inside, Jimmy inside. He says don't smoke, Sid ignores, Jimmy protests, Sid says what do you want? Fuck off, I will smoke. Jimmy says okay, give me one then? Jimmy says you got note. Sid says what you want? Jimmy says you took care of John and Clem, good. Jimmy saw Clem's john walking around casino like nothing happened. Sid- maybe he didn't call cops. Jimmy- I'm sure, I would have seen them, motel across street. Guy wants to avoid embarrassment. What about wife? Jimmy laughs, no, just trouble at home. No cops. Sid- why give gun? Jimmy- wasn't loaded. Wouldn't do that. You still have gun? Sid- threw it away. Why do you want me here? Jimmy- I have other guns. Sid- you want something? Jimmy- not here for that, John's a friend. You're classy. I respect old-time. Plus nothing to get. Sid- so, what? Jimmy smokes- says John and Clem safe in Niagara. Sid realizes he talked to John. Jimmy says this isn't about motel. I know some things about Atlantic City. Sid says yup, laughs. Gets out of car. Jimmy says where you goin, gets out, chases. Sid says what, tough guy? Tell me what! Jimmy says I didn't tell John, I know what happened. You shot his father in the face! Sid walks off, gets in his car. Drops his keys. Reaches. Jimmy smashes window, trains gun on Sid, says turn car off. John doesn't know, but I'll tell him, I'm threatening you with words, you understand, you want that? No! I'll go to Niagara. I want 10k. Now. Sid- not possible. Jimmy yelling, says I'll kill you. Sid- tomorrow, Jimmy- Now! Sid freaking over gun, Jimmy says I am tough guy! Sid says I have 6k, Jimmy says where's the money? In bank. Jimmy says move over, gets in car. Starts driving. They arrive at hotel.
25. Enter Sid's hotel suite. Jimmy commands Sid to sit. Asks for cig, Sid gives. Jimmy opens windows, looks out, want coffee? No. Nothing. Jimmy says we're here till John calls or bank opens. Jimmy says this not easy- John friend. I know you killed his father like stories I heard. If someone killed mine, I would have to react. Stories I heard were that you were tough guy, you killed dad. You think you can walk through life without punishment? I know all your old timers, they sit in diners and tell stories. Smirk at me, think I'm asshole, I'm not killer like you. You think you're mr cool? You're an old hood. You ask me if I do parking lots? No. I'm trusted! Sid ridicules. Jimmy grabs, yells. I know you old guys, think you're high and mighty? I'm a loser? Not with gun and facts I know. Bottom line: you're not his father. Sid sits up, says money is here. Jimmy laughs. Sid says I'll give it to you, I

- don't want to die, don't want you to tell John. I love him like my own child. Yes, I killed his father, no excuse, but I won't trade my life for Johns. But I'll give you money, after this, I will have done everything I can. I ask you don't kill me, don't tell John about past. After you get money I never hear from you, this is it.
26. Taking money out of safety deposit box. Sid hands to Jimmy, Jim says no, kitchen, then hands it there. Jimmy collects, laughs, stares ridiculing. Leaves.
27. Phone rings in room, Sid picks up, John, bumbles with phone, says he's halfway there. Any problems? Sid says all good. Clem sends love, you too. John loves her. Thanks Sid, says will call when they get there. Sid says I have to tell you something, you need to know... I love you, John, I love you like you were my own son. John pauses, choked, says thank you, I love you, too. They hang up. Hopeful music.
28. Jimmy exits his house dressed up, gets in car, drives off. Sid watches, then gets out of his car, enters Jimmy's house, creeping. Breaks window, opens door. Checks closet, finds suitcase, opens, guns. Takes one out. Checks clips, cocks it. Moves out seat in living room, sits, waits. Slow pan in as ironic music. Shot of door in anticipation.
29. Music playing. In casino, Jimmy all dressed up in suit, rolling craps, laughing, hooting and hollering. Shot of Sid waiting. Shot of John driving, talking with Clem. Back in casino, Jimmy bets a \$2,000 hard eight. Rolling, laughing. Doesn't make eight. Sid waits. Clem stretches in car. Jimmy still laughing, waiting for hard eight. Rolls, makes it! Laughs, crazy, happy. Yes! Slow move on Jimmy's door. Jimmy exits casino in slow-mo with blonde on arm. Sid waits with gun. Move on door as Jimmy approaches with girl. Lights out, he comes inside, they're fooling around, move to couch kissing. Girl moaning, Jimmy says let me see that pussy. She's touching, he unzips fly, turns on light, turns and sees Sid. Sid pumps rounds into him as girl screams. Car alarm goes off. Sid tells her get out. She runs. Sid goes through Jimmy's pockets, takes out fat roll of cash. Wearing leather gloves. Leaves gun on table. Exits.
30. Sid drives as ironic music plays. Shot of Clem in car, snuggles next to John as he smiles. Sid driving again. Fade to black.
31. Fade up on coffee shop from opening. Sid enters past same place he saw John sitting. Overhead (God) shot shows him smoking. Cut and he drinks coffee, thinks. Looks down at cuff and sees small dab of blood on end.

Pulls down overcoat to cover it. Slow move on his face as music jams and credits roll.