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One Last Game (2011/MVD Visual DVD)

Picture: C Sound: C
Extras: D Main Program: C+

Gellert is a high stake gambler, a card shark, cheat and womanizer; he just can't walk away from money, or when other taunts him, but specially when there is \$250,000 on the table. Between drinking games, strip games, poker and Texas hold them up, Gellert finds himself in a heaven and hell prison of his own creation. No way out except to play the one last game to win it all... only catch is if someone wins, someone else must lose. Unfortunately in Director Ayassi's **One Last Game**, Gellert is an addict; his problems are compared to Elizabeth Kuebler Ross's 5 stages of grief, *denial*, *anger*, *bargaining*, *depression*, and then *acceptance*.



Denial that he is addicted, *anger* that he can't stop and to admit he has a problem, *bargaining*, trying to fooling himself and buy his way out, *depression* realizing he HAS problem and the past which haunts him, and finally his *acceptance* of the truth. As he plays each game he sells a piece of his soul, he get flashback of past and people he knew, their love and his betrayal and he realizes the last game is not when he wins everything, but when he loses everything.

Funny how this plays like **Alien 3**, this takes place in entirely in a small room (another stuck-in-a script) with a poker table and a bar with 3 over the hill gamblers and 1 old lady. As the characters play their games, the line between reality and past blur, specially when a dead person from a characters past joins in. The main character bounces back and forth from being with friends playing game to them torturing him. It pretty apparent early on the character was already dead, and compared his life to a card game and abstract psychology.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image and lossy Dolby Digital sound are not great and show the low budget here, plus there are no extras. Those curious should catch it, though.

- Ricky Chiang