



A Streetcar Named Desire (New Directions Paperbook)

By Tennessee Williams

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The Pulitzer Prize and Drama Critics Circle Award winning play?reissued with an introduction by Arthur Miller (*Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*), and Williams' essay "The World I Live In."

It is a very short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared?57 years after its Broadway premiere, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. The story famously recounts how the faded and promiscuous Blanche DuBois is pushed over the edge by her sexy and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. *Streetcar* launched the careers of Marlon Brando, Jessica Tandy, Kim Hunter and Karl Malden, and solidified the position of Tennessee Williams as one of the most important young playwrights of his generation, as well as that of Elia Kazan as the greatest American stage director of the '40s and '50s.

Who better than America's elder statesman of the theater, Williams' contemporary Arthur Miller, to write as a witness to the lightning that struck American culture in the form of *A Streetcar Named Desire*? Miller's rich perspective on Williams' singular style of poetic dialogue, sensitive characters, and dramatic violence makes this a unique and valuable new edition of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. This definitive new edition will also include Williams' essay "The World I Live In," and a brief chronology of the author's life.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Williams's classic play begins with Blanche DuBois's arrival in New Orleans to stay with her sister and brother-in-law, Stella and Stanley Kowalski. The determinedly genteel Blanche is shocked by their lower-class lifestyle—and by Stanley's frequently aggressive behavior. As Blanche's secrets catch up with her, a seedy reality trumps her love for romance. Rosemary Harris embodies Blanche with all the flare, attitude and Southern drawl commonly associated with the cultural icon. The role of Stanley is so physical that his presence is diminished by the lack of a visual performance, but James Farentino's Stanley is excellent. The overall production quality is excellent with musical segues and sound effects that enhance without distracting the listeners. This recording captures the cast of the 1973 Broadway revival (which won Harris a Drama Desk award and Farentino a Theatre World award). (Feb.)

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Review

“In *Streetcar* Williams found images and rhythms that are still part of the way we think and feel and move.”
(Jack Kroll - Newsweek)

“Lyrical and poetic and human and heartbreaking and memorable and funny.” (Francis Ford Coppola)

“The introductions, by playwrights as illustrious as Williams himself, are the gem of these new editions.”
(Ken Furtado - Echo Magazine)

“Blanche is the Everest of modern American drama, a peak of psychological complexity and emotional range.” (John Lahr - The New Yorker)

About the Author

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) is the acclaimed author of many books of letters, short stories, poems, essays, and a large collection of plays, including *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Camino Real*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Orpheus Descending*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *The Rose Tattoo*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Maes:

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Elisabeth Martinez:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled A Streetcar Named Desire (New Directions Paperbook) can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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