

NOTES FOR A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
SCENE 3

- I. The wild poker game**
- A. A Man's game**
1. "Pablo: 'One-eyed jacks are wild'"
 2. "Steve: (dealing a hand) 'Seven-card stud.'" "
- B. Stanley: angry / out of patience (snarling like an animal at others)**
1. Losing
 2. Tired (it's 2:30 a.m.)
 3. Drinking *"Stella: Drunk--drunk--animal thing you!"*
 - a. He seems unaware of his actions after he hits Stella
 4. Yells at women to turn down the radio
 5. Hits Stella *"Eunice: 'You can't beat on a woman an' then call 'er back!...I hope they do haul you in and turn the fire hose on you, same as the last time!'"*
 - a. Has done this before
*all men aren't
partic*
- C. Mitch**
1. "Blanche: '[Mitch] seems--superior to the others'"
 - a. tries to go home to sick mother (A sucker for needy people? Women esp.?)
 - b. has silver cigarette case with inscription from dying girl
 - c. not a "wolf"/animal; sensitive & has manners
 - d. not drunk
 - e. not as good a job as Stanley
 - i. not as intelligent? But more empathy
- II. Blanche**
- A. Light motif:**
1. Stands in the light while undressing (consciously or subconsciously?)
 - a. Needs attention/desires to be noticed
--using her body to get attention
 2. Asks Mitch to cover the light
--"Blanche: 'I can't stand a naked light bulb, any more than I can a **rude remark or a vulgar action.**'"
 3. Hides her age
--Blanche: "We've made magic"
- B. Illusions motif:**
1. Lies
 - a. "Yes, Stella is my precious little sister, I call her little in spite of the **fact that she's** somewhat older than I."
 - b. "Stella hasn't been so well lately, and I came down to help her for a **while. She's very** run down."
 2. Waltz ("Wien, Wien, nur du allein") that is played when Mitch and Blanche listen to the radio is a love song for old-time Vienna
 - a. When the play occurs, the Vienna of the song is just an illusion since it **lay in ruins after** the bombings of WWII
 - b. The romantic and lovely old Vienna is a contrast to the run-down **apartment of the** Kowalski's.
- C. Bath**
--comes home, meets the poker gang, they snub her, she wants to take a bath
- D. Has loss of loved ones in common with Mitch**
1. Blanche: her husband and her family

2. Mitch: his girlfriend and soon his mother

III. Stanley vs. Blanche (Round 3): Violence vs. Peace

A. Stanley's animal brutality and coarse behavior

1. Foreign behavior to Blanche; she is used to the genteel behavior of refined and civilized men

2. Amazed that her sister, who was raised the same way,
would be attracted to, and put up with it

a. an indication that the Kowalski marriage is based on physical attraction since they share no
other traits, likes, or values

b. Maybe this is the wedge Blanche can use to break up the marriage?

3. Would this scene have taken place if Blanche had not been visiting?

B. The animalistic relationship between Stella and Stanley and the sensitive, quietness of the budding
relationship between Blanche and Mitch is contrasted here