

## NOTES FOR A *STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*

### SCENE 4

- I. Blanche
- A. Outsider while attempting to get Stella to see Stanley as common and animal-like, she only alienates Stella
1. “Stella (slowly and emphatically) ‘I’m not in anything I want to get out of.’”
  2. “Blanche: ‘On the contrary, I saw [Stanley] at his best! What such a man has to offer is animal force and he gave me a wonderful exhibition of that! But the only way to live with such a man is to-- go to bed with him! And that’s your job--not mine!’”
  3. “Blanche: ‘I take it for granted that you still have sufficient memory of Belle Rive to find this place and these poker players impossible to live with.’  
Stella: ‘Well, you’re taking entirely too much for granted.’...  
B: ‘I understand how it happened -- a little. You saw him in uniform, an officer, not here but -- Stella: ‘I’m not sure it would have made any difference where I saw him.’”
  4. “Stella: ‘I have told you I love him.’... Blanche: ‘Well,--if you’ll forgive me--he’s *common*’”
- B. Retreats to illusions of escaping
1. Shep Huntleigh
- C. Money
1. “Blanche: ‘Y’know how indifferent I am to money. I think of money in terms of what it does for you.’”
  2. “Stella: I know how it helps your morale just having a little pocketmoney on you.’  
Blanche: ‘No , thank you--I’ll take to the streets!’”
- D. Sex/ Physical Attraction:
1. See IA2
  2. “Stella: ‘But there are things that happen between a man and a woman in the dark--that sort of make everything else seem--unimportant.’  
Blanche: ‘What you are talking about is brutal desire--just--Desire!--the name of that rattle-trap streetcar that bangs through the Quarter, up one narrow street and down another...’  
Stella: ‘Haven’t you ever ridden on that street-car?’  
Blanche: ‘It brought me here.--Where I’m not wanted and where I’m ashamed to be...’”
- E. Blanche’s world (civilized) vs. Stanley’s world
1. Stanley as an animal
    - a. “Blanche: ‘You can’t have forgotten that much of our bringing up, Stella that you just *suppose* that any part of a gentleman’s in [Stanley’s] nature! *Not one particle, no!*...There’s something downright--*bestial*--about him! You’re hating me for saying this, aren’t you?’  
Stella:(coldly): ‘Go on and say it all, Blanche.’  
B: ‘He acts like an animal, has an animal’s habits! Eats like one, moves like one, talks like one! There’s even something subhuman--something not quite to the stage of humanity yet! Yes, something--ape-like about him, like one of those pictures I’ve seen in--anthropological studies! Thousands and thousands of years have passed him right by, and there he is --Stanley Kowalski--survivor of the stone age!...Night falls and the other apes gather together! ...His poker night... this party of apes! Maybe we are a long way from being made in God’s image, but...there has been *some* progress since then! Such things as art--as poetry and music--such kinds of new light have come into the world since then! In some kinds of people tenderer feelings have had some little beginning! That we have got to make *grow!* And *cling* to, and hold as our flag! In this dark march toward whatever it is we’re approaching...*Don’t --don’t hang back with the brutes!*’”
    - b. Stanley has heard Blanche’s epithets and now resents her more and is justified in wanting her gone