

## NOTES FOR A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

### Scene 6

#### I. Mitch and Blanche's date:

A. Discussing the failure of the evening, B. takes all the blame, claiming it's a lady's *role to please the man*

B. Says she soon must leave Stanley and Stella's  
--hinting so that M. will hurry to propose, if he's going to

C. M. asks for a kiss

--B. explains that "it's wasn't the kiss I objected to. I liked the kiss very much. *It was the other little familiarity--that I--felt obliged to--discourage....I was somewhat flattered that you--desired me! But, honey, you know as well as I do that a single girl, a girl alone in the world, has got to keep a firm hold on her emotions or she'll be lost!*"

D. B. comes on to him in French

1. makes an illusion to famous French novel about a courtesan who is reformed by *her lover Armand, but dies*

2. In French asks him to go to bed with her

E. Discusses M.'s

1. Perspiration

2. Heavy build/weight

3. Relationship with Stanley

--B. reveals her belief about Stanley: "The first time I laid eyes on him I *thought to myself, that man is my executioner! That man will destroy me...*"

F. M. asks B's age

--B. avoids the answer by talking about M.

G. B's marriage

"He was a boy, just a boy, when I was a very young girl. When I was sixteen, I made the *discovery--love. All at once and much, much too completely. It was like you suddenly turned a blinding light on something that had always been half in shadow, that's how it struck the world for me. But I was unlucky. Deluded. There was something different about the boy, a nervousness, a softness and tenderness which wasn't like a man's, although he wasn't the least bit effeminate looking--still--that thing was there....He came to me for help. I didn't know that. I didn't find out anything till after our marriage when we'd run away and come back and all I knew was I'd failed him in some mysterious way and wasn't able to give the help he needed but couldn't speak of! He was in the quicksands and clutching at me--but I wasn't holding him out, I was slipping in with him! I didn't know that. I didn't know anything except I loved him unendurably but without being able to help him or help myself. Then I found out. In the worst of all possible ways. By coming into a room that I thought was empty--which I thought was empty, but had two people in it...the boy I had married and an older man who had been his friend for years....Afterwards we pretended that nothing had been discovered. Yes, the three of us drove to Moon Lake Casino, very drunk and laughing all the way. We danced the Varsouviana! Suddenly in the middle of the dance the boy I had married broke away from me and ran out of the casino. A few moments later--a shot! I ran out--all did!--all ran and gathered about the terrible thing At the edge of the lake! I couldn't get near for the crowding. Then somebody caught my arm. 'Don't go any closer! Come back! You don't want to see!' See? See what! Then I heard voices say-- 'Allan! Allan! The Grey boy! He'd stuck the revolver into his mouth, and fired--so that the back of his head had been--blown away! It was because--on the dance-floor--unable to stop myself--I'd suddenly said--'I saw! I know! You disgust me...' And then the searchlight which had been turned on the world was turned off again and never for one moment since has there been any light that's stronger than this--kitchen--candle...*"

**Mitch:** "You need somebody. And I need somebody, too. Could it be--you and me, **Blanche?**"

**B:** "Sometimes--there's God--so quickly!"

**II. This scene**

**A. Explains**

1. B.'s seduction of the paper boy
2. Her aversion to light
3. Her secretive drinking
4. Her hearing the music, the gunshot, and getting sick
5. Her concern about age

**B.** Starts off with B trying to manipulate M. into a marriage propose; and ends with a **sincere and true** expression of emotion and need for each other

**C.** B. is tragic; what has happened to her has often been beyond her control or **knowledge**

**III. Would Blanche and Mitch have a successful relationship/marriage?**