

## NOTES FOR A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

### SCENE 9

- I. Mitch arrives, late
  - A. Blanche has been drinking
    - Music is Varsouviana
  - B. Mitch is unlike Blanche has ever seen him: unshaven, dressed in work clothes
  - C. Blanche begins her charming lady of the manor routine/ pure and innocent but quickly realizes that won't work
    - chattering too much
  - D. Mitch's confrontation
    1. Under the light
      - a. Reveals her age
      - b. Blanche has avoided the light since her husband's death
      - c. Symbolizes the revelation of the truth of her past life
      - d. Blanche's whole theory of life involves magic and illusion; she doesn't want reality; she prefers "what ought to be"; therefore this scene forces her to symbolically face the reality of her actions
        - Tragic Flaw!!!!
    2. Blanche's confession
      - a. Bath motif:
        - I. Mitch: "Three people, Kiefaber, Stanley, and Shaw, swore to [the truth about Blanche]"
          - B: "Rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub! And such a filthy tub!"
        - b. Her explanation: "Flamingo? No! Tarantula was the name of it! I stayed at a hotel called the Tarantula Arms!...Yes a big spider! That's where I brought my victims. Yes, I had many intimacies with strangers. After the death of Allan--intimacies with strangers was all I seemed able to fill my empty heart with....I think it was panic, just panic, that drove me from one to another, hunting for some protection--here and there, in the most--unlikely places--even, at last, in a seventeen-year-old boy but--somebody wrote the superintendent about it--'This woman is morally unfit for her position!' True? Yes, I suppose--unfit somehow--anyway.... So I came here. There was nowhere else I could go. I was played out. You know what played out is? My youth was suddenly gone up the water-spout, and-- I met you. And you said you needed somebody. Well, I needed somebody, too. I thanked God for you, because you seemed to be gentle--a cleft in the rock of the world that I could hide in.  
Mitch: "You lied to me, Blanche.  
B: "Don't say I lied to you.  
M: "Lies, lies, inside and out, all lies  
B: "Never inside, I didn't lie in my heart...."
      3. Mexican woman comes selling flowers for the dead/symbolic
        - a. this reminds Blanche of all the death she has lived through
        - b. She also remembers that the opposite of death is desire/ TITLE!
- II. Mitch tries to rape her
  - A. She threatens to scream fire
    - she's at her lowest point