

A Streetcar Named Desire

Speaker/Context	Quote
Stanley:	Hey, there! Stella, Baby!
Blanche:	They told me to take a street-car named Desire, and then transfer to one called Cemeteries and ride six blocks and get off at -- Elysian Fields!
Blanche:	And funerals are pretty compared to deaths. Funerals are quiet, but deaths--not always.
Blanche:	The poor little thing was out there listening to us, and I have an idea she doesn't understand you as well as I do. ...All right; now, Mr. Kowalski, let us proceed without any more double-talk. I'm ready to answer all questions. I've nothing to hide. What is it?
Blanche:	On the contrary, I saw him at his best! What such a man has to offer is animal force and he gave 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!
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:	When people are soft--soft people have got to shimmer and glow--they've got to put on soft colors, the colors of butterfly wings, and put a--paper lantern over the light...It isn't enough to be soft. You've got to be soft and attractive. And I--I'm fading now! I don't know how much longer I can turn the trick.
Blanche:	Don't you just love these long rainy afternoons in New Orleans when an hour isn't just an hour--but a little piece of eternity dropped into your hands--and who knows what to do with it? You--uh--didn't get wet in the rain?
Blanche:	I want you to have a drink! You have been so anxious and solemn all evening, and so have I; we have both been anxious and solemn and now for these few last remaining moments of our lives together--I want to create--joie de vivre! I'm lighting a candle.
Blanche:	...that man is my executioner! That man will destroy me, unless --"
Stanley:	It's not my soul, it's my kidneys I'm worried about!

Stanley:	Her future is mapped out for her.
Blanche: Mitch: Blanche: Mitch:	What's on your mind? I see something in your eyes! It's dark in here. I like it dark. The dark is comforting to me. I don't think I ever seen you in the light. That's a fact!
Blanche:	I don't want realism. I want magic! Yes, yes, magic! I try to give that to people. I misrepresent things to them. I don't tell the truth, I tell what ought to be truth. And if that is sinful, then let me be damned for it! ---Don't turn the light on!
Blanche:	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! But I guess I was asking, hoping--too much! Kiefaber, Stanley and Shaw have tied an old tin can to the tail of the kite.
Stanley:	We've had this date with each other from the beginning!
Blanche:	And when I die, I'm going to die on the sea. You know what I shall die of? I shall die of eating an unwashed grape one day out on the ocean.
Blanche	Whoever you are--I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.
Blanche	Now, then, let me look at you. But don't you look at me...no, no, no, not till later, not till I've bathed and rested! And turn that over-light off!
Blanche	I, I, I took the blows in my face and my body! All those deaths! The long parade to the graveyard!
Narrator	Since earliest manhood the center of his life has been pleasure with women...he sizes women up with a glance, with sexual classification, crude images flashing into his mind and determining the way he smiles at them.
Blanche	Poems a dead boy wrote. I hurt him the way that you would like to hurt me, but you can't! I'm not young and vulnerable any more.
Stella	It's always a powder-keg. He didn't know what he was doing...He was as good as a lamb when I came back and he's really very, very ashamed of himself.

Blanche	What such a man has to offer is animal force...but the only way to live with such a man is to--go to bed with him!
Blanche	It was because--on the dance floor--unable to stop myself--I'd suddenly said-- "I saw! I know! You disgust me..."
Stella	You didn't know [her] as a girl. Nobody, nobody was tender and trusting as she was. But people like you abused her, and forced her to change.