

A Streetcar named Desire

Scene Twelve

It has been a couple of weeks since the Doctor and the Matron brought Blanche to the mental institution. She sits on a chair at a small table in the lounge of the institution and plays chess by herself. She is wearing a kind of white dress, which also the other patients in the institution are wearing. While she is concentrated on the game, the Matron comes into the lounge.

Matron *(standing at the door which leads to the lounge):* Miss DuBois *(Blanche does not look at her and is still focused on her game)* your sister Stella Kowalski is here to visit you and she is not alone.

Blanche looks at the Matron surprisingly and springs up from her chair

Blanche *(calling out joyfully):* My sister is here to see me! Stella, oh Stella, Stella! Stella for Star!

Stella comes in with her baby in her arms, who is wrapped up in a blanket. The Matron leaves.

Stella: Blanche!

For a moment they stare at each other. Then Blanche runs to her with a wild cry.

Blanche: Oh Stella, my little sister I missed you so much! How long have we not seen each other? Could it have been weeks, months, a year?

Stella *(She laughs):* Blanche it's only been like three weeks!

Blanche: You know, the time flies in here! Come! Let's sit down. *(Blanche walks back to her chair. Stella follows her).*

The Doctor comes in and walks up to them. Dark music begins to play.

Doctor: Hello Mrs. Kowalski! The nurse told me that you came to visit the lovely Blanche! *(Blanche is pale in the face, her body is frozen, and she does not look at the Doctor)*

Stella: Yes! Me and her little nephew wanted to see her.

Doctor: That's great! A little company cannot hurt ha-ha! *(He puts a hand on Blanches shoulder. The dark music begins to play louder).*

Stella notices Blanche's face and looks at her in a skeptical way. Blanche does not say a word.

Doctor: In the beginning of Ms. DuBois' stay, it really wasn't so easy to get along with her, but now it's getting better since we told her how we handle things here.

Stella (*staring at Blanche*): O-Okey. G-Good that she doesn't cause you any trouble (*Blanche looks at Stella with an intimidated look*).

Doctor: I don't want to bother you any longer. I wish you a good day!

He leaves the room through the door where the nurse was standing. Stella watches him leave the room and then turns back to Blanche. The dark music becomes quieter and quieter until it can no longer be heard.

Stella (*concerned*): Blanche! Is everything alright? Do they hurt you? Blanche, please talk to me!

She touches her forehead and has tears in her eyes. The blue piano begins to play.

Blanche: Oh Stella! It's *awful* here! They took *everything* from me! My clothes, my pearls, my hairbrush. Every damned thing! I can't even smoke a cigarette here! Oh Stella, please don't look at me, Stella no, no, no! I look so terrible! They are forcing me to wear this horrible white *thing*.

Stella listens to her intently and then looks down at Blanche's hands.

Stella (*shocked*): Blanche! Your nails!

Blanche: This brat of a nurse cut them all off! (*She looks down at her hands and begins to laugh*) I also must admit that I tried to scratch her several times.

Stella laughs uncomfortably and the music of the blue piano becomes quieter. Blanche looks at the baby in Stella's arms.

Blanche: Show me your little baby boy! What was his name again! I forgot it.

Stella takes her baby out of the blanket.

Stella: His name is Charlie. He has Stanley's eyes.

Blanche (*a little roughly*): Hopefully this little boy got not so much of this Polack!

Stella (*sincerely*): Blanche! When will you stop being so harsh about Stanley?

Blanche (*crosses her legs*): The day he's going to be under the ground.

Stella (*loudly*): Blanche that's enough! I'm tired of you saying such things about my husband! I know you both couldn't get along, but you should stop talking like that about him. After all, it was he who was worried about you and came up with the idea that we should call a doctor!

Blanche jumps up from her chair and the blue piano becomes louder again.

Blanche (*her face turns furious*): It was *his* idea! For heaven's sake! This underdeveloped pig!

Stella: *Blanche!*

Blanche: He brought me in here?! I must have completely lost my mind! (*Shedarts to walk around the room*)

Stella (*nervously*): Please Blanche sit down.

Blanche turns to her with a hysterical expression on her face.

Blanche (*slowly*): Miss Stella, your husband is the reason why I can no longer think clearly! He is the reason why I'm locked up in this place! He is the reason why Mitch and I will never get married! (*There is a pause*) I've been so through so much and now this! I don't deserve this. I don't deserve this!

Stella: Blanche you can't give Stanley the fault for *everything!* You're a grown women and you should admit your own mistakes!

Blanche (*shocked*): Admit my *own* mistakes? So, it was my mistake that *your* husband raped me! Did I understand that right?

Stella looks at Blanche with an outraged expression on her face. She cannot believe the words that came out of Blanche's mouth.

Stella (*slowly and shocked*): How can you say something like that Blanche?!

Blanche begins to shake with intensity.

Blanche: It's the truth my little sister. He raped me in your home and pretended like nothing happened. I've been dreaming about it since I've been here. I'm afraid that one day he might just come over here and grab my hand again and hurt me (*She touches her wrist*).

Stella (*springing*): That's enough Blanche! I will no longer listen to your lies about my husband! He warned me that if I came here, you'd just try to poke at him! I should have listened to him.

Blanche: Stella! Please Stella believe me!

Stella: Stop it, Blanche! I only came to check on you, but that's just too much for me. I will go now and *please* don't even think that I'll come back to visit you!

Blanche: Stella please!

Stella: Bye Blanche.

Stella walks out of the room with her baby in her arms and tears in her eyes. The blue piano is playing louder and louder. Blanche falls to the floor and begins to cry hysterically. She calls Stella's name several times in the hope that she could come back until the Matron comes in and gives a her an injection, so she can calm down.

Curtain