

Scene 12

A couple weeks later. Around 3 pm at the Mississippi State Hospital for psychiatric facilities. The hot sun gets reflected by the old, Victorian roof of the building. Blanche sits on her bed, wearing a red silk gown, looking pleadingly into the doctor's face. The room is dark and quiet, the only sound is a blue piano.

Blanche (*stands up and twirls around, without breaking the eye-contact with him*): Do you think I gained weight from this shabby, mouldy hospital food? How should we survive at this horrible place when that kind of food is served all the time? I totally lost my perfect figure! Those circumstances make me look so much older! Don't you agree?

Doctor (*nervously fixing his white tunic*): Someone will visit you today and is currently hoping to meet you in a minute, Miss DuBois.

Blanche: You know, I was waiting for you to compliment me, John.

Doctor: I am well aware of that, Miss DuBois. But I don't want to lose my professionalism on you, ma'am.

Blanche (*looking flattered and flirty*): So you have something nice to say to me, do you? Don't you think we already left all the professionalism behind?

The blue piano gets louder and louder. Blanche, with a coy smirk on her lips, steps closer towards the doctor, reaching her hand in his direction. He nervously harrumphs, as he takes her hand and looks her deep into the eyes. Someone knocks on the door, the music stops abruptly and the doctor softly pushes her away. A nurse steps in, followed by a crying woman. Stella comes running towards her. Immediately, Blanche opens her arms to keep her safe.

Blanche (*holding her tight*): My baby sister. Stella, Stella for Star! What's wrong, baby? Oh honey, I missed you so much!

Stella (*releases from the hug and looks at her sister, while her tears are streaming down her hot cheeks*): I should have never sent you away!

The Doctor looks at the sisters compassionately, but leaves through the door quietly, followed by the nurse, to give them privacy. "L'assassinat de Carala" by Miles Davis is playing.

Stella: I love Stanley with all of my heart... help me, I'm so helpless! Whenever he is drinking, he lays his hands on me – I know you've seen it! He is not the one to blame, it's the alcohol, I know that. But I can't deal with all the abuse anymore! He even batters his own child! Whenever I say something against his abusive behaviour, he hits me even harder and tells me I should obey him because he is the leader in this household! It's unfair, Blanche! Luckily, Eunice noticed and looks out for the baby. He is in safe hands. Stanley doesn't even care that I'm too scared to have my son near him! And the money, Blanche, the money! He keeps everything to himself!

Blanche (*taking her sister's hand and guiding Stella to Blanche's bed to sit on it, in hope that it will calm her down*): Oh Stella my baby, I know. We're women, of course it's unfair. He abused me too, when you were in labour. Unfortunately, we're women and everybody will just laugh at us, when we tell them. But believe me, the alcohol doesn't make it okay. He's well aware of his abusive actions. I tried to tell you all the time to run away! But you never wanted to listen, honey!

Stella (*looking at her sister curiously, raising her right brow, like she had a light-bulb moment*): Tell me, Blanche. Is it too late to run away?

Blanche: It is never too late for that, honey. I can make a call. Shep Huntleigh... -

Stella: Can we go home?

Stella and Blanche look at each other. Both of them immediately know, what "home" means. Belle Reve. They both want to flee into their perfect past, away from the horrible reality. Deep down they know, that this is impossible.

Blanche (*panickily shaking her head*): Baby, I can't do that. I'm not welcome there, your clinical animal already told you the reasons for that, I suppose.

Silence.

Blanche (*harshly jumping off the bed and making her way towards the door*) I need to get John.

Stella (*following her sister*): Who?

Blanche: Let's say I have made a few acquaintances here to pass the time – John will help us escape, honey! Wait here, I'll be back in a minute! (*she shuts the door and leaves Stella alone in Blanche's room*).

Stella knocks on the Doctor's office. Slowly, he opens the door. After he sees her standing there in her silk gown, he gets nervous.

Blanche (*flirty*): John, I got a favour to ask of you.

Doctor: Y-yes-yes. Everything you please, Miss DuBois.

Blanche: You have to help me escape this place.

Doctor (*panicking, looks nervously around, if someone of his colleagues heard her*): I'm afraid I can't help you, Miss.

Blanche: That certainly wasn't a question. It was an order. I'm heartbroken that I have to leave you, you beautiful soul. My tower of strength. But my sister relies on my help. I need you, John. More than I ever needed you.

The Blue Piano is playing. The doctor and Blanche are walking to Blanche's room, where Stella is still sitting on her bed, silently sobbing.

Doctor: I really don't want to help you escape. Blanche, you're not emotionally capable to make the right decisions –

Blanche buries her hands around his neck and kisses him passionately. Stella watches with a shocked countenance.

Blanche (*compassionately and quietly*): If you love me, you need to let me go.

Doctor (*overwhelmed and still in trance*): I will lead you outside for a walk. No one will make assumptions, since I am the doctor. And when no one is watching, you run. You run as fast as you can. Because if you don't, I lose my job and you (*directly looking in Blanche's direction*) will never leave the mental institution.

The three of them slowly walk the stairs down in to the auditorium, which they cross without calling attention. Innocently, they leave the hospital to get to the official garden. From outside, the garden looks like one out of a fairy-tale. Everywhere are pink and blue flowers, that almost cover the whole yard in front of the mental institution. No one would ever suppose that all of the people, that ever walked here, are in desperate need of help.

Blanche: Stella, Stella baby, please tell me, if you stole a little money before you came here!

Stella: No, I guess it would be unfair – he is the man that loves me and owns the money; It's not my place to steal money from him. I'm sure, we'll figure something out.

Blanche: What about the baby?

Stella: Don't worry about him, Eunice loves this child more than anything in this world. She will defend this baby - even if that means murdering Stanley. When we found a place to hide, she will take him to us.

Doctor (*his eyes looking sad*): Now you've got to run.

Blanche (*kissing him passionately as a goodbye*): Thank you, John. I will forever love you.

The girls start so run. Blanche often turns around and almost tumbles. After a few moments, they left the property unnoticed. Now, they're standing in the middle of Whitfield, a little village in Mississippi, 2 hours from Laurel.

Stella (*breathing heavily*): What now, Blanche?

Blanche: Let's take the next streetcar named Fantasy and I'll make a call. Shep Huntleigh will help us, I can assure you.

Curtain