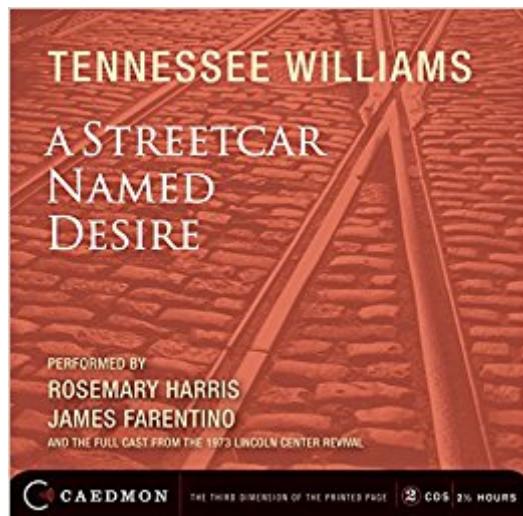


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# A Streetcar Named Desire CD



## **Synopsis**

Caedmon is proud to release this archival full-cast recording of Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* on cd for the first time! Blanche DuBois arrives at her sister Stella's New Orleans apartment seeking refuge from a troubled pastâ "but her ethereal spirit irks Stella's husband, the loutish Stanley Kowalski. Crudely, relentlessly, he unmasks the lies and delusions that sustain Blanche, until her frail hold on reality is shockingly severed. This atmospheric recording of Tennessee Williams's powerful classic stars Rosemary Harris and James Farentino as Blanche and Stanleyâ "roles they performed to acclaim in a smash revival at New York's Lincoln Center.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD: 672 pages

Publisher: Caedmon; Abridged edition (January 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061714658

ISBN-13: 978-0061714658

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.4 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 347 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,169,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Poetry & Drama #121 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #127 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Drama

## **Customer Reviews**

Williams's classic play begins with Blanche DuBois's arrival in New Orleans to stay with her sister and brother-in-law, Stella and Stanley Kowalski. The determinedly genteel Blanche is shocked by their lower-class lifestyleâ "and by Stanley's frequently aggressive behavior. As Blanche's secrets catch up with her, a seedy reality trumps her love for romance. Rosemary Harris embodies Blanche with all the flare, attitude and Southern drawl commonly associated with the cultural icon. The role of Stanley is so physical that his presence is diminished by the lack of a visual performance, but James Farentino's Stanley is excellent. The overall production quality is excellent with musical segues and sound effects that enhance without distracting the listeners. This recording captures the cast of the 1973 Broadway revival (which won Harris a Drama Desk award and Farentino a Theatre World award). (Feb.) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Lyrical and poetic and human and heartbreaking and memorable and funny.--Francis Ford Coppola  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There's a strong drive and passion in many of the characters in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. A definite rawness in emotion and complexity is within many of the scenes and situations. I had read *A Streetcar Named Desire* once before, but never really caught on at how so much is working underneath the surface of the dialogue. In many estimations, Blanche is a character deeply rooted in pathos and tragedy. Her vision of what the world should be, as opposed to what it truly is, is at the center of her unhinging. Arriving to her sister's apartment in New Orleans, she has taken a leave of absence from her teaching, and there are more undercurrent issues that have taken hold of her, most notably losing *Belle Reve*, their childhood home. At her opposite, Stanley, Stella's husband, represents the brute, harsh, realities of the world. I think that, in many respects, Williams creates an intensity that builds as the play moves forward until the dramatic final scene. There is a power in Stanley and Blanche's confrontations, especially in the final scenes as we learn more and more about Blanche's past. These moments are written so eloquently, so human, clearly by someone who has experienced, witnessed, and reflected on the impact of human sufferings and failings. In short, clearly Williams was a man who could project real human situations into dialogue in such a clear, convincing way. *A Streetcar Named Desire* is a very powerful and thought-provoking play, with characters who breathe strong emotion throughout, making the scenes really come to life. It is no wonder that this epic play was made into a fine classic 1951 film with Marlon Brando as Stanley and Vivien Leigh as Blanche.

Williams is an expert of dissecting and analyzing complex personalities and he does it expertly in his classic "*A Streetcar Named Desire*." The book was very easy to read with simple dialogue. The plot starts with Blanche Dubois coming to New Orleans to visit her sister Stella and her husband Stanley Kowalski. The sisters both grew up in a place called *Belle Reve* and had not seen each other in years. Throughout the book, readers start to see Blanche go a little insane as she tries to forget the loss of her former husband who killed himself years before. (Stella feels guilty over her husband's suicide.) Stanley starts to harass Blanche and begins to accuse her of lying about her past. Towards the end, Blanche gets physically overpowered by Stanley and tries to tell Stella but she failed to believe her. In result of that, Stella sent Blanche off to a mental hospital because of her strange behaviors and because she thought she had made up everything. Stella continued to stay

with Stanley even though, in reality, he really did hurt Blanche. The readers are left off to figure out why Stella chose to side with Stanley and not with her own sister. This book also leaves readers to form several different opinions about each of the characters. Overall, the book was very well written with a very interesting plot and characters.

A true classic. A quick read as well. Read in one day while my boyfriend steam cleaned the carpet and I was confined to our bed for a couple hours amongst all our overturned furniture. Reads like a short story which was great because I dislike plays quite strongly. A little slow to start but push through and prepare to be engrossed in Blanche's jaded view of the life, invested in what happens to her and her sister and surprised by some of the developments along the way! Also, a great vocabulary booster. Would strongly recommend for a moderate reader who wants to increase their skill. This book is not suitable for children due to content (13+).

People tend to dismiss the male protagonist of the play, it is ofcourse easy to single out a person and place the blame on a single individual. I think what Williams was trying to do was to show that there is rarely a perfect individual and often enough it is the combination that mixes best. Another underlying theme that it often comes to mind is the basic instinct of survival, if civilization and modern gadgets are taken away from us we will be reduced to the one common law that is always constant... The Law of Survival... those who adapt the fastest survive as in the Darwinian theory of evolution. **AND THIS BOOK IS NOT BORING !**

A masterpiece. Tennessee Williams may be the best contemporary playwright America has ever seen (may he rest in peace). The story is flawless, and the stage directions are so specific and meaningful. Every word is filled with intent, every color is painted through the text, and the message is timeless. The relationships the characters share are well flushed out and highly sophisticated. Williams even describes the music playing during scenes. I hope you read this over and over again, just as I do. A timeless classic, a masterpiece of American Theatre.

Favorite play! Its commentary on illusion vs. reality through Blanche's disillusionment throughout the scenes is riveting! The characters are exasperating but I found myself REALLY wanting the best possible outcome for them. **SPOILER:** no one gets that beautiful and desirable ending, and Stella, who resented Blanche for embracing an easier-to-swallow fantasy, hypocritically embraces her own jarring illusion of "everything is okay, life goes on" that is meant to help her move on and continue

living a stifled life of repression and suffocation with Stanley.

Excellent product, a good purchase and , price excellent quality recommendedThank you

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