

## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY

Thomas Lanier William is a great American Writer who took for himself the name "Tennessee". In 1947, he wrote a play entitled "***A Streetcar Named Desire***" which I was impressed and decided to use as data and analyse it. William was one of the first American dramatists who concerned with a social problem which in thosedays was shocking, such as, suicide, child abuse, sexual intercourse, and wife battering.

William uses women characters in his play. A woman is presented at a moment when frustration has led to a crisis. She has only two possible ways of acting : to face reality or to retreat into illusion. In "***A Streetcar Named Desire***", the women characters all act under the influence of an illusionary views of themselves and their worlds.

"***A Streetcar Named Desire***" consists of eleven scenes. The first four scenes involve the first two days of Blanche's arrival. Scene 5 and scene 6 contain how the relationship between Blanche and Mitch are developing while Stanley is prying into her background. Scene 7 up to 10 focus on

Blanche's birthday party and her being raped by Stanley. Scene 11, in which Blanche is sent to an asylum, is a kind of wrap-up.

## II.2. SYNOPSIS

Blanche DuBois comes to visit her sister Mrs. Stella Kowalksi, who lives in the French Quarter of New Orleans. She is shocked by the disreputable looks of the place. While a neighbour goes to find Stella, Blanche looks around the apartment for a drink. When her sister comes, Blanche criticises the place. She explains that she had to come for a visit her nerves were shattered from teaching. She tells Stella that she cannot live alone. She explains to Stella that their ancestral home, Belle Reve, has been lost. While Stella goes to the bathroom, Stanley, her husband, comes and meets Blanche. He questions her past and her earlier marriage, which makes her feel sick and upset.

The following night Stella and Blanche plan to have dinner out and go to a movie while Stanley plays poker with his friends. But before they leave, Stanley wants to know how Belle Reve got lost. Blanche tries to explain and gives all the paper and documents which have reference to the place. Later that night when Blanche and Stella come home, the men are still playing poker. Blanche meets Mitch, one of Stanley's friends, who

seems more friendly than the others. While Mitch is talking to Blanche, Stanley becomes angry when Blanche turns on the radio. He throws the radio out of the window, hits Stella when she is trying to stop him, and has to be prevented by his friends from doing more damage.

The next morning, Blanche goes to Stella and tries to make her see that Stanley has behaved like an animal. She is surprised that Stella could accept him. Stella tries to explain that her husband was a gentle man and she loves him so much. Blanche could not say anything.

Some time later, Blanche has a date with Mitch. She tells Stella that she wants him because she is so tired of struggling against the world. Stella assures her thatt her marriage to Mictth might happen. She leaves with Stanley to go bowling, but just before Mitch arrives, a paper boy comes and Blanche keeps him to stay long enough to kiss him because he reminds her of her young husband. When Blanche and Mitch return from their date, Blanche explains to Mitch how much Stanley hates her, and also about her past life, her marriage with a young man and an old man. She also tells him that her young husband has killed himself. Mitch tells her that they both need each other.

In Mid-September, Stella is preparing a birthday cake for Blanche. Stanley gives her the ticket back to Laurel, Mississippi as a

present. He tells her that Mitch will not be coming over and Blanche cannot understand why Mitch does not come. As Stanley is about to leave, Stella has her first labour pains and has to be taken to the hospital.

Mitch arrives later that evening. Blanche has been drinking rather heavily. He confronts her with her past life. At first she tries to deny it, but then she confesses that after the death of her young husband, nothing but intimacies with stranger seemed to have any meaning for her. Mitch then tries to get to her sleep with him, and Blanche demands marriage. Mitch tells her that she is not good enough. Blanche screams "fire" so as to make Mitch leave.

Later that night Stanley comes home from the hospital to find Blanche dressed in an old faded evening dress. He tells her that the baby will not come before morning. She is frightened to stay with him, especially when Stanley begins confronting her with all the lies she has told. As she tries to move around him, he decides that she would not be too bad to interfere with. After a scuffle, he rapes her.

Three weeks later, Stella is packing Blanche's clothes and waiting for a doctor and an attendant to come and take her to the state mental institution. Stella did not believe Blanche's story that Stanley has raped her. Blanche thinks that an old boy friend is coming to take her on a

cruise. When the attendant arrives, she does not recognise him and tries to run away. Then Stanley and an assistant trap her. The doctor approaches and Blanche is quite willing to go with him, having always depended on the kindness of a stranger.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA**