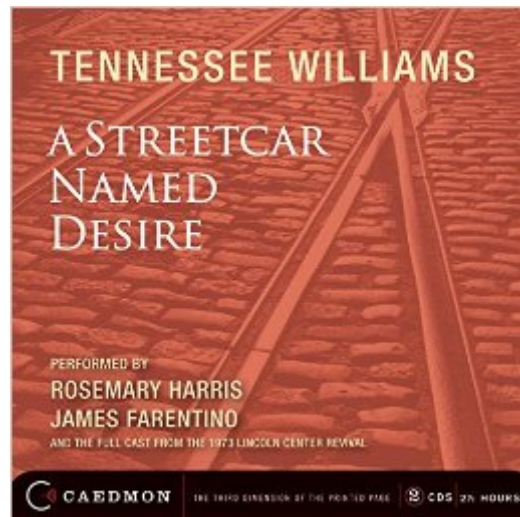


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A Streetcar Named Desire CD



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 past—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 Stanley—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: 4.5 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (306 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #168,764 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Books on CD > Poetry & Drama #12 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #13 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Drama

Customer Reviews

This is another classic from my high school days that seems wasted on youth. How can a fifteen-year-old in prep school appreciate the desperation and human frailty of Blanche DuBois? Or the dichotomy inherent in Stanley Kowalski's passionate brutality?=====

=====BLANCHE: What you are talking about is brutal desire--just--Desire!--the name of that rattle-trap street-car that bangs through the Quarter, up one old narrow street and down another...STELLA: Haven't you ever ridden on that street-car?=====

=====Many will have seen either the stage or film versions of *Streetcar*, but reading through Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play allows for the depression to really set in. Readers may even recognize qualities in friends and family

members approximating those of alcoholism or domestic

violence.=====

=====BLANCHE: A hot bath and a long, cold
drink always give me a brand new outlook on

life!=====

=====There are so many great dialogue exchanges
here, outside of the classic "kindness of strangers" quote. I'll snip a few of my
favorites.=====

=====MITCH: You ought to lay off his liquor. He
says you been lapping it up all summer like a wild-cat!BLANCHE: What a fantastic statement!

Deception seems to be one of the most salient themes. As Goleman writes, "We are piloted in part by an ingenious capacity to deceive ourselves, whereby we sink in obliviousness rather than face threatening facts."Blanche buries her devious past with a new start in New Orleans and skirts questions with a swift wit in conversation. She waters down the pains and frustrations of the past with concealed drinking and shrouds her aging face from gentleman callers in a soft light. She delusionally and openly believes that a fictional Texas oil magnate will arrive to whisk her away from yet another prison she finds herself in.Blanche maintains a very interesting relationship with Stanley, the bane of her existence in the French Quarter. While Stanley is ostensibly boorish and untamed, Blanche poorly masks these same latent characteristics in her own personality with a ladylike charm, frequent bathing, and heavy perfume. Her attacks on Stanley are actually projections, effectively assaults on the qualities she hates most about herself. Her outward disdain for her sister's husband is likely an aggressive reaction to what is better known as jealousy.What's more, this behavior runs in the family (another universal Williams theme). Stella convinces herself that an abusive relationship is fit to raise a child in. And at one point, the sisters recall their mother's refusal to accept her own mortality and her imploration to her young daughters to participate in this shared collusion.In the final scenes of the story, as Stella is giving birth to their son, Stanley finishes what he started, defeating Blanche completely in a territorial act of rape.

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