

# A Streetcar Named Desire

## Summary

This is a full summary of the ballet production of A Streetcar Named Desire, written and provided by the Scottish Ballet.

## Act 1.

### Chapter 1. Belle Reve

Blanche marries her sweetheart Allan at her family home. At the wedding, Alan meets a young man, finds he is attracted to him and begins a secret affair. Blanche comes upon the two men together and rejects Alan. In despair, Alan runs off and shoots himself, dying in Blanche's arms.

### Chapter 2. Stella leaves home.

Blanche's sister Stella leaves home, leaving Blanche alone with her family and their financial problems. Meanwhile, in the jazz -filled streets of New Orleans, Stella meets and falls passionately in love with a factory worker called Stanley Kowalski.

Blanche is now living in a hotel and she is haunted by the trauma of Alan's death. She seeks comfort in alcohol and in the arms of strangers. Eventually, she is discovered seducing a teenager and is forced to leave town.

### Chapter 3. New Orleans

Now addicted to alcohol, Blanche travels to Stella in New Orleans, hoping to leave her past behind. Blanche senses that Stanley is fiercely territorial and resents her presence in his home.

He feels that Blanche looks down on him and thinks him unworthy of Stella.

### Chapter 4. The Poker Game

Stanley's friends arrive for a poker night and the sisters go to a nightclub together where Blanche drinks heavily. She feels lightheaded and is suddenly overwhelmed by her memories of Alan.

Shaken, she leaves the club and meets a woman selling flowers for graves. Blanche buys a flower and imagines again that young Alan is haunting her.

Back at the apartment, Stanley's poker game is in full swing. Blanche meets his friend Mitch, a shy man, unconfident with women, and unmarried.

When Blanche invites Mitch to dance, Stanley becomes enraged at the interruption to his game and throws the radio out of the window. Stanley is drunk and feels that his territory has been invaded. He attacks Stella.

His friends managed to calm him while the two women run out onto the street. Stanley is full of remorse and calls out to Stella for forgiveness.

## Act 2

### Chapter 5. The Next Morning

Blanche has spent the night with a neighbour and returns just as Stanley is leaving. She is desperate to get Stella away from Stanley before he returns, but he comes back unexpectedly.

Stella sees him in the doorway and leaps into his arms. Once again feeling hopeless, Blanche turns to alcohol and escapes into her imagination.

### Chapter 6. Blanche and Mitch.

Mitch takes Blanche on several dates over the course of a long, hot summer. Over the course of their courtship, Blanche refuses him any intimacy beyond a good night kiss.

### Chapter 7. The Letter

Stanley arrives home with a letter from a friend telling him of Blanche's promiscuous past. He shows the letter to Stella, vividly depicting Blanche's encounters from her time at the hotel. Mitch arrives after being shown the letter by Stanley. He is angry and feeling that he has been deceived. He tries to force himself on her before leaving in disgust.

### Chapter 8. Blanche retreats into fantasy

A delivery boy arrives. He reminds Blanche of a young Alan. After her unsuccessful attempt at seduction, the boy leaves and she is alone.

She is haunted once more by Alan, his lover and her younger self. Feeling that she has nowhere to turn, Blanche drinks heavily and is surrounded by characters from her past. She imagines she is the carefree star of her own life.

Stanley arrives suddenly, sharpening her wits. Blanche is terrified to be alone with him and defends herself with a bottle. She is overpowered and Stanley rapes her.

Some days later we see Blanche, broken and being dressed by Stella.

Stanley has arranged for her to be committed to a psychiatric hospital. When the doctor arrives, Stella must choose whether to protect Blanche or be loyal to Stanley.

Stella sides with Stanley and Blanche leaves with the Doctor.

Blanche retreats completely into fantasy.