

Review on a streetcar named desire by tennessee williams and on a supermarket in ...

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Of Pathos, Romance and Realism- A Streetcar d Desire. Perhaps American Literature's and undoubtedly playwright Tennessee Williams' most revered work, A streetcar named desire is a story that depicts pathos and human fixation to do with sex, desire, money, class consciousness and struggle, deceit and fallacy, relationships, beliefs and modernism. The Post war New Orleans, where lust and casual sex came as a relief in times of stress and grief serves to be a suitable milieu for the play, where Tennessee Williams juxtaposes conflicts and complexities, throws open a debate favoring an individual's singled out madness as an option for survival in the new order of America.

The story weaves around two central characters at odds with each other- Blanche Du Bois, a Mississippi schoolteacher, ostracized a defunct upper crust, owing to her unscrupulous behavior and Stanley Kowalski, an auto parts supplier and Blanche's brother in law who, towards the beginning of the play comes across as a stanch egalitarian hero, later unfolds as a crude man having animalistic instincts and towards the end of the story as a committed and loving husband.

The series of event in Blanche Du Boi's life- her arrival at her sister Stella's house, a brief disdainful stay at New Orleans, denial from her suitor Mitch, followed by Stanley's cruel act of raping her, her state of madness, then the resort to start a second life with her doctor is rightly summarized in her metaphoric statement, " They told me to take a street car named desire, and transfer to one called cemeteries and ride six blocks and get off at Elysian Field".

This thought provoking play, A streetcar named desire stands leaves us with

a sense of pity for the protagonist and creates in our minds scuffle between false notions and naked reality, the search for ideal. Blanche's escapism from reality becomes our own inherent desire and inhibition. And we are left to wonder whether we must accept crude realities or live in our world of whimsy.

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A Supermarket in California.

A supermarket in California is probably Ginsberg's response to Whitman's poem " I hear America Singing". In his metaphorical overtone, the poet shows his disapproval of commercialism in the 20th century America. The 'neon fruit supermarket' is symbolic of America's commercialization and growing apathy towards nature.

In the poem he addresses Naturalist poet, Whitman and Garcia Lorca and reminisces about the natural beauty America once enjoyed. Feeling sorry about Whitman's American dream falling apart, he calls him a solitary man, an old grubber, as people no longer subscribe to the old obsolete ways. They feel that Whitman has nothing to offer to them.

As Ginsberg takes a stroll in the supermarket, he observes the aisles full of husbands, wives in avocados and babies in tomatoes. This is a figurative remark about the fact the modern world is indifferent to humans and treats them as mere produce.

Ginsberg sympathizes with Whitman and shows respect for him. He refers to Whitman as his courage teacher. Perhaps he draws inspiration from the great naturalist to struggle for his existence and individualism.

Towards the end, Ginsberg insists that the two will go for a stroll, dreaming

their great American dream- of a happy classless society. He dreams of an America which offers equal opportunity for all inhabitants and where an individual has a freedom to opt for a lifestyle that is natural being.