

America, which Stella also clings to- being her only way of survival “without Belle Reve to protect us”. Therefore, one may argue that Stella, despite her “different background” manages to adapt to the New American values and stray away from Belle Reve, referred to as “abandoned”, being almost a tool of salvation and survival to her. Furthermore, Stella and Stanley’s child stands for the growing power of the New America and many have argued that the rape scene happens while the Stella is giving birth to show the ultimate triumph of Stanley’s masculinity and its growing power and relevance, submitting Blanche to her fatal fall, once again driven by men and her inability to let go of the ideas of gentlemanliness, submitting to the power of the police address- “Miss DuBois”. Despite this, her ideals are not fully disintegrated- her final wishes are also ones of purity and delicacy but are also ones heavily saturated with ideas of death- “clean white sack” and “my first lover’s eyes”, which may be a reference to the dead Allan Grey and Blanche’s inability to escape from the ideas of him. The last scene may also be seen as a cyclical closure to the play, once again mirroring the decay of the Old South and eliminating its last successor under the power of the expressionist techniques- “the blue piano and the muted trumpets”, representing the New South’s culture, accompanied by Stanley’s dominant sexuality- “Now, honey. Now, love, Now, now love”, mirroring the opening scene and signifying the inevitable and almost pre-determined fall of Blanche.

In conclusion, Belle Reve starts the conflict of the play and leads Blanche to her fatal end with the tragic heroine unable to let go of the values Belle Reve stood for. Similarly, Willy is unable to let go of his house and the ideals it represents, largely irrelevant and stuck in the past, resulting in his tragic fall, overwhelmed by the fast-changing and cruel nature of the New America.

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