

As stated in her introductory paragraph, Blanche “must avoid strong light”, because she is later discovered to be a bearer many secrets. This private past life that she is attempting to escape, however, follows her mercilessly into her new life with Stella. Stanley represents the “strong light” that Blanche must evade, because when he discovers about her shameful past, she is almost completely driven out of her sanity. From that point onwards, Blanche’s mental health only begins to deteriorate, as she is being gradually exposed until all her flaws are completely unveiled.

Mitch is a character in the play whose role holds a massive responsibility for Blanche’s loss of hope in her love life and thus resort to fantasy. This is made clear in Scene 9 when Blanche says to him, “I don’t want realism. I want magic!” As the nearly insane character she is, Blanche begins to speak of a non-existent character named Shep Huntleigh, who will apparently take her away on vacation. This assertion she makes, however, is obviously untrue as she has only created it for herself as a form of mental escapism from the “storm-all storm” that she was “caught in the center” of.

The closing scene of the play consists of what may be the strongest indication of all of Blanche’s flaws put together; her insecurity, her sexual and emotional deprivation, and finally her show of affection towards strangers. A doctor and a nurse come to Stanley and Stella’s apartment to take Blanche in to stay at a mental asylum. In these last pages of the play, the female nurse attempts to get Blanche to follow her outside the apartment. She is immediately reluctant to this approach and says, “I don’t know you. I want to be left alone – please!”. When the male doctor, however, smiles at her and kindly extends his arm to her, she is compliant and obediently says to him “Whoever you are – I have always depended on the kindness of strangers”

These last words of Blanche are extremely indicative of her now fully developed madness, especially since she did not look back at her sister Stella who desperately yelled “Blanche! Blanche! Blanche!” as she walked right past her with the doctor.