



The Glass Menagerie (Third Edition)

Tennessee Williams

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A new edition of this beloved classic—with a new Tony Kushner introduction—to honor the centennial year, 2011, of America's greatest playwright.

When it opened in Chicago in 1944, *The Glass Menagerie* marked a turning point in American theater and in the life of its then unknown author. Tennessee Williams's elegiac masterpiece brought a radical new lyricism to Broadway—and today the tragedy, fragility, and tenderness of this "memory play" endure.

In a cramped St. Louis apartment the aging Southern belle Amanda Wingfield, long preoccupied by memories of gentlemen callers and a world that no longer exists, is energized by the dilemma of how to save what remains of her family. Her restless son Tom — factory worker, aspiring poet, and the narrator of the play — is swept up in Amanda's comic and heartbreaking schemes to find Laura, his agonizingly shy and handicapped sister, a husband.

This new edition of *The Glass Menagerie* comes with an exciting introduction by the playwright Tony Kushner. Williams's classic essay on the effect of swift and unexpected fame, "The Catastrophe of Success," his original production notes, and a new essay on the autobiographical background of the play by the distinguished Williams scholar Allean Hale are also included.



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