

哈佛  蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides


Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

# 热铁皮屋顶上的猫

原著 Tennessee Williams (美)

导读 Sparknotes

翻译 胥丽华

 天津科技翻译出版公司



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哈佛蓝星双语名著导读

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Sparknotes 导读

胥丽华 翻译

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# 致读者

CONTEXT

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于对名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列78册,多为古典及经典题材,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次推出的新品种20册均以现代及当代畅销书为首选,流行性和可读性更强,进一步丰富了该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

## CONTEXT

**T**homas Lanier Williams was born in Columbus, Mississippi on March 26, 1911 to a family that his biographers are fond of comparing to the dysfunctional ones of his plays. Williams's father, Cornelius, was an inveterate gambler and drunkard whose indulgences kept the family constantly on the move. Williams's sister, Rose, was a schizophrenic ultimately forced to undergo a frontal lobotomy by their mother, Edwina. This event—recounted in *Suddenly Last Summer*—particularly horrified Williams, who became his sister's caretaker. In 1931 Williams left home to begin studies at the University of Missouri. While at school, he both received the nickname Tennessee from a college roommate and decided to become a playwright upon seeing a production of Ibsen's *Ghosts*. Williams's plans were abruptly thwarted by his father, who demanded that he leave school to come work at his shoe factory. There, he befriended a man named Stanley Kowalski, who would later appear as the antihero of his perhaps most famous play.

Ultimately Williams resumed his schooling at Washington University, finishing his degree at the University of Iowa where he locally produced some of his plays. He then moved on to New Orleans where he staged his first major success with *The Glass Menagerie* (1945). Steeped, like many of Williams's works, in what irresistibly appear as biographical references, the play imagines the tumultuous struggles between of a son, his disabled sister, and their controlling mother Amanda. Short-


## 来龙·去脉

托马斯·拉尼尔·威廉姆斯于1911年3月26日出生在密西西比州的哥伦布市，他的传记作者经常将他的家庭与其作品中那些有缺陷的家庭相比较。威廉姆斯的父亲科尼利尔斯是个十足的赌棍和醉鬼，他的嗜好使得整个家庭总是居无定所。威廉姆斯的姐姐罗斯患有精神分裂症，被他的母亲埃德温娜送到医院做了脑叶切除术。这件事——在《去年夏天突然来到》中有所表现——使威廉姆斯非常惊恐，从此以后他一直照顾着姐姐。1931年，威廉姆斯离家到密苏里大学学习。在校期间，同屋室友给他起绰号叫田纳西，他欣然接受，而且自从看了易卜生的《群鬼》后他决定将来当剧作家。但是威廉姆斯的计划突然受阻，他的父亲要求他放弃学业回到他的鞋厂工作。在那里，威廉姆斯结识了斯坦利·科瓦斯基，这位朋友日后成了他最著名作品中的非正统派主角。


威廉姆斯最终在华盛顿大学重新开始学习，并在衣阿华大学取得了学位，在衣阿华时他写了一些剧本。他随后迁居到新奥尔良，并在那里第一次成功上演他的作品《玻璃动物园》(1945)。这个剧本和威廉姆斯的许多作品一样都带有很强烈的传记色彩，故事描述了儿子、残疾的姐姐和掌控他们的妈妈之间的混战。《玻璃动物园》完成后不久，



ly after *Menagerie* closed, the playwright went to work on a new piece about a woman stood up by her fiancé, producing his Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947). Another Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, followed in 1955. The crux of this latter work concerns the conflicts of a Mississippi family following the diagnosis of its patriarch, Big Daddy's, stomach cancer and the revelation of his darling alcoholic son's homosexuality. *Cat* premiered in New York under the direction of Elia Kazan, who revised the third act to give the play a more redemptive resolution. In 1958, director Richard Brooks adapted *Cat* into a hugely popular film starring a stunning Elizabeth Taylor, an improbably handsome Paul Newman, and corpulent Burl Ives. To Williams's dismay, Brooks excised all explicit references to Brick's homosexuality in deference to the studio censors.

In 1979, Williams moved to Gainesville, Florida working with the Hippodrome State Theatre. Williams died in 1983 when he choked on a plastic bottle cap. He is generally recognized as one of the greatest writers to emerge from the American South as well as a chief architect of the new American drama that followed in the wake of World War II. Certainly his plays shocked their contemporary audiences in their unprecedented treatment of the violence, rape, incest, alcoholism, and other secret traumas that haunt the everyday. Ultimately their insight, however, goes far beyond their "shock value"—that is, their capacity to offend conventional morality. If such were the case, Williams's impassioned, seductive, and often nightmarish visions of American life would be far easier to forget. 

他又开始写作一部新剧《欲望号街车》(1947),描写一位妇女如何被她的未婚夫抛弃,该剧获得了普利策奖。另一部获普利策奖的作品《热铁皮屋顶上的猫》于1955年完成,主要描写了一个密西西比州的家庭在得知一家之主大阿爹得了胃癌的消息后所发生的家庭冲突,也展现了大阿爹疼爱的、酗酒的儿子的同性恋问题。《猫》剧在纽约首演时导演伊莱亚·卡赞修改了第3幕,为该剧融入了救赎的色彩。1958年,导演理查德·布鲁克斯将《猫》剧搬上银幕,主演为漂亮的伊丽莎白·泰勒、潇洒的保罗·纽曼和肥胖的伯尔·艾夫斯。这部电影获得了大众的喜爱。为了通过电影审查,布鲁克斯在电影中删除了所有能清晰展现布里克同性恋问题的情节,这令威廉姆斯非常沮丧。

1979年,威廉姆斯迁居到佛罗里达州的盖恩斯维尔,在Hippodrome州立剧院工作。1983年,他因一个塑料瓶盖儿卡住咽喉窒息而死。威廉姆斯被认为是从美国南方走出来的最伟大的作家之一,也是二战后美国新戏剧的鼻祖。当然,他的作品因其对日常困扰人们的暴力、强奸、乱伦、酗酒和其他秘密创伤的空前处理方式而令当时的观众震惊。然而,他们的洞察力最终还是远远超出了他们的“震惊值”,也就是他们挑战传统道德的能力。如果事情真是那样的话,威廉姆斯对美国生活的那些充满激情、诱人但通常又是可怕的想象将会更容易被人忘记。

## PLOT OVERVIEW

**B**rick is taking a shower in the bedroom he shares with his wife, Maggie. While undressing, Maggie complains that his brother Gooper and wife Mae have been having their monstrous children perform for Big Daddy, incessantly reminding him of their own childlessness. Now that Daddy is dying of cancer, Mae and Gooper are trying to cut them out of the estate. The doctors have lied to Daddy and Mama, claiming that Daddy only suffers from a spastic colon, but tonight the truth will be revealed.

Brick is not helping any with his incessant drinking and much-publicized stunt on the high school athletic field. Brick broke his ankle jumping hurdles. Maggie is confident of their advantage, because Big Daddy dotes on Brick, abhors Gooper and his wife, and has a “lech” for Maggie herself. Suddenly Maggie catches sight of Brick staring at her in the mirror. She cries that she knows she has become hard and frantic. Living with someone who does not love her has made her a “cat on a hot tin roof.”

Fiercely Maggie locks the door and draws the curtains. As she attempts to seduce him, Brick warns her against making a fool of herself. Maggie murmurs she has realized her mistake: she should not have confessed to making love with Skipper.

Maggie continues and says that Brick and Skipper’s love was sad and awful because it could never be satisfied or even talked about. Maggie recalls how on their double dates in college it always seemed the boys were out together. The night of

## 情节·览

布里克正在卧室洗澡，他的妻子玛吉一边脱衣服一边抱怨，说他哥哥库珀和嫂子梅一直让他们那帮怪物似的孩子为大阿爹做这做那，想以此不断地向大阿爹暗示他俩没有孩子。大阿爹得了肺癌，将不久于世，梅和库珀企图剥夺她和布里克的继承权。大夫对大阿爹和大阿妈撒了谎，说大阿爹只是得了结肠痉挛，但今晚事实真相将被公开。

布里克在此事上一点儿忙都帮不上，他不仅酗酒，而且还在学校的操场上摔了一跤，闹得满城风雨。布里克跳栏时崴了脚。玛吉对他俩的优势很自信，因为大阿爹宠爱布里克，讨厌库珀和梅，而且对她也“动了心”。玛吉突然看见布里克在镜子中注视着她，于是就大声说她知道自己已经变得又冷酷又暴躁。与不喜欢她的人一起生活让她变成了一只“热铁皮屋顶上的猫”。

玛吉用力锁上门，拉上窗帘。她试图引诱布里克，但他提醒她不要做蠢事。玛吉嘟囔着说她意识到了自己的错误：她不应该坦白与斯基普做爱的事。

玛吉继续说道，布里克和斯基普之间的爱情令人伤心，令人厌恶，因为它永远无法满足，也无法被谈论。玛吉回忆起大学时期他们的双重约会，结果两个男孩却一起走了。感恩节比赛那天晚上，

the Thanksgiving game, Maggie confronted Skipper on his desire. He made a pitiful attempt to prove her wrong.

Threatening to kill her, Brick hurls his crutch at her. Maggie insists that now is her time of the month to conceive and they must make love. Brick wonders how she plans to have a child by a man who cannot stand her. Big Daddy enters ferociously and greets Brick. The servants enter with Daddy's cake, and a grotesque sing-a-long commences. Daddy furiously orders everyone to stop. Mama sobs that he has never believed that she loved him. "Wouldn't it be funny if that was true..." Daddy murmurs.

Daddy bellows for Brick. Maggie delivers him, giving him a kiss on the mouth that he immediately wipes off. Daddy asks Brick why he wiped off her kiss. Mae and Gooper have been saying that he won't sleep with Maggie. As Brick freshens his drink, Daddy asks him about his drinking problem. Brick cannot explain.

Drawing Brick close, Daddy recalls his world tour with Mama. He anxiously closes the doors and asks if Brick has ever been terrified of anything. He aims to cut loose and get himself a woman. Brick explains that he has not gotten the click in his head that makes him peaceful, and he attempts to flee his father. Daddy makes Brick a deal: he will give him a drink if he tells him why he drinks. Daddy knows that Brick is lying since he started drinking when Skipper died. Daddy asks if there was something "abnormal" in their friendship.

Daddy replies that having just come from "death's country," he is not easily shocked. Brick insists that his friendship with Skipper was clean and true until Maggie got the idea Dad-

玛吉满足了斯基普的情欲。他勉强跟她亲热，以此来证明她说的不是事实。

布里克将拐棍儿扔向玛吉，威胁说要杀了她。玛吉坚持说现在正是她受孕的好时候，所以他们必须做爱。布里克想知道她如何计划让一个受不了她的丈夫和她生孩子。大阿爹一脸凶相地走进屋，并和布里克打了招呼。仆人拿着大阿爹的生日蛋糕进来，一场荒诞的祝寿仪式开始了。大阿爹命令大家安静，大阿妈抽泣着说他从来不相信她爱他。“这要是真的才怪呢……”大阿爹自言自语道。


大阿爹大声叫布里克。玛吉将他送了进来，然后在他嘴上亲了一下，布里克立刻用手去擦。大阿爹问布里克为何要擦掉玛吉的吻。库珀和梅一直说布里克不与玛吉同房。当布里克再次斟酒时，大阿爹问起他喝酒的事。布里克无法解释。

大阿爹让布里克坐近些，并回忆了他和大阿妈的世界之旅。然后他焦急地关上门，问布里克有没有对什么事担心得要命。他打算放松放松，找女人乐一乐。布里克解释说还没有听到脑子中出现能让他安宁的咔嚓声，他试图从父亲那逃开。大阿爹与布里克做了笔交易：如果布里克解释酗酒的原因，那么他就给他一杯酒。大阿爹知道布里克在撒谎，因为自从斯基普死后他便开始酗酒。大阿爹问他俩之间的友谊是否有些“不正常”。

大阿爹说他刚从“阴曹地府”回来，再大的事也吓不倒他。布里克坚持说他和斯基普之间的友谊是纯洁、真正的，直到后来玛吉心里起了刚才大阿爹


dy is talking about. Upon his back injury, she put the idea into Skipper's head, and he became a lush and died. Daddy knows he is not telling the full story and Brick says that Skipper made a drunken confession to him over the phone, and Brick hung up on him. Brick's disgust with mendacity is disgust with himself. Daddy curses the "lying dying liars" around him and goes to bed.

Mae appears, and the family soon follows. Now that Daddy has gone to bed, they can finally talk. The family surrounds Mama and begins to tell her of Daddy's cancer. Mama calls for Brick, her "only son." She implores Maggie to help straighten Brick out so he can take over the place. Gooper protests and says he has always resented Daddy's love for Brick. Gooper and Mae present Mama with a drafted will and Mama rejects it in disgust.

Mama embraces the distant Brick, begging him to provide Big Daddy with a grandson before he dies. Suddenly Maggie announces that she and Brick are to have a child. Sobbing, Mama flees jubilantly to tell Big Daddy. Mae accuses Maggie of lying. Maggie thanks Brick for saving her face. Brick puts down three shots, finds his click, and exits indifferently. Maggie forlornly gathers Brick's liquor bottles and locks them away, refusing to release it until he has sated her. Desperately she declares her love for him. The distant Brick can only reply: "Wouldn't it be funny if that was true?" 

说的那个念头。在布里克背部受伤期间，玛吉将这个观念灌输给了斯基普，他就变成酒鬼死掉了。大阿爹知道布里克没有将事情的全部讲出来，布里克承认斯基普给他打过一个电话，并在电话中醉醺醺地向他坦白，但他把电话挂断了。布里克厌恶欺骗实际上就是厌恶他自己。大阿爹诅咒他周围的那些人是“该死的撒谎精”，然后上床睡觉了。

梅来了，其他家人也跟着进来。大阿爹已经睡了，他们终于有机会可以好好谈谈了。一家人都围着大阿妈，开始将大阿爹得癌症的事告诉她。大阿妈叫过来她“唯一的儿子”布里克，她恳求玛吉帮助布里克振作起来，这样他就可以接管土地。库珀抗议说他憎恨大阿爹对布里克的偏爱。库珀和梅给大阿妈拿出了一份起草好的遗嘱，大阿妈厌恶地让把它拿开。

大阿妈拥抱了站在远处的布里克，恳求他在大阿爹死前为他生个孙子。这时玛吉突然宣布她和布里克就要有孩子了。大阿妈一边抽泣，一边欢快地跑去向大阿爹报告这个消息。梅指责玛吉撒谎。玛吉感谢布里克叫她保住了面子。布里克连喝了三杯酒，咋嗒声终于来了，他冷漠地走了出去。玛吉愤怒地将布里克的酒统统锁了起来，要等她满足她之后才开锁。玛吉不顾一切地表达了对布里克的愛，但站在远处的布里克只回答说：“那要是真的岂不可笑？”



## CHARACTER LIST

### **Margaret**

The play's cat. Maggie's loneliness and Brick's refusal to make her his desire, has made her hard, nervous, and bitchy. The woman constantly posing in the mirror, Maggie holds the audiences transfixed. The exhilaration of the play lies in the force of the audience's identification with its gorgeous heroine, a woman desperate in her sense of loneliness, who is made all the more beautiful in her envy, longing, and dispossession.

### **Brick**

The favorite son and mourned lover. Brick embodies an almost archetypal masculinity. At the same time, the Brick before us is also an obviously broken man because of his repressed homosexual desire for his dead friend Skipper.

### **Big Daddy**

Brick's father. Affectionately dubbed by Maggie as an old-fashioned "Mississippi redneck," Daddy is a large, brash, and vulgar plantation millionaire who believes he has returned from the grave. Though his coming death has been quickly repressed, in some sense Daddy has confronted its possibility. In returning from "death's country," Daddy would force his son to face his own desire.