

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

By Tennessee Williams

SYNOPSIS

The year is 1955, in a plantation house in the Mississippi Delta, the dysfunctional but wealthy Pollitt family celebrates the sixty-fifth birthday of Big Daddy, as they sentimentally dub him. The mood is somber, despite the festivities, because a number of evils poison the gaiety: greed, sins of the past, and desperate, clawing hopes for the future spar with one another, as the knowledge that Big Daddy is dying slowly makes the rounds. Maggie, Big Daddy's daughter-in-law, wants to give him the news that she has finally become pregnant by Big Daddy's favorite son, Brick, but Brick won't cooperate in Maggie's plans and prefers to stay in an alcoholic haze the entire length of his visit. Maggie has her own interests at heart in wanting to become pregnant, of course, but she also wants to make amends for an error in judgment that nearly cost her, her marriage. Swarming around Maggie and Brick are their intrusive, conniving relatives, all eager to see Maggie put in her place and Brick tumbled from his position of most-beloved son. By evenings end, Maggie's ingenuity, fortitude and passion will set things right, and Brick's love for his father, never before expressed, will retrieve him from his path of destruction and return him, helplessly, to Maggie's loving arms.

CHARACTERS

Note: characters age is listed—actors need to be able to play this age (range).

Margaret / Maggie (29)

Self proclaimed “cat” is the heroine and is the most forceful character in the show. Intelligent, attractive, and determined to get what she wants.

Brick (30)

Former athlete and sports broadcaster, younger favored son of the Pollitt family. Alcoholic who drinks out of disgust for all the lies people tell. “The TruthTeller”.

Mae / sometimes called “Sister Woman” (30's)

Gooper's pregnant wife; a mean, agitated woman who schemes with her husband to secure and control Big Daddy's estate .

Gooper / sometimes called “Brother Man” (late 30’s)

Brick’s older brother, a successful corporate lawyer, who resents Brick. He viciously relishes in Big Daddy’s illness and ruthlessly plots to secure control of Big Daddy’s estate.

Big Mama

Brick’s Mother, dedicated to a man who despises her; in denial of her husband’s disgust. Considers Brick her “only son”.

Big Daddy

Brick’s father, plantation owner, millionaire.
Brash, aggressive, vulgar. Can be brutally mean.

Reverend Tooker (50-65)

Tactless, opportunistic and hypocritical.
Embodies the lie of conventional morality.

Doctor Baugh (50-65)

The sober Baugh is Big Daddy’s physician.

MINOR ROLES

Lacey	Servant, Handyman
Sookey	Servant, Maid
Daisy	Servant, Farm Worker
Brightie	Servant, Farm Worker
Small	Servant, Farm Worker