

Quotations on Laura Wingfield's Shyness

Amanda, having failed to establish contact with reality, continues to live vitally in her illusions, but Laura's situation is even graver. A childhood illness has left her crippled, one leg slightly shorter than the other, and held in a brace. . . . Stemming from this, Laura's separation increases till she is like a piece of her own glass collection, to exquisitely fragile to move from the shelf. (Character Descriptions, 394)

"I wonder," she said, "if you could be talking about that terribly shy little girl who dropped out of school after only a few days' attendance?" (Amanda reporting on a conversation with Laura's typing instructor, 407)

And she said, "No—I remember her perfectly now. Her hands shooks so that she couldn't hit the right keys! The first time we gave a speed-teest, she broke down completely—was sick at the stomach and almost had to be carried into the wash-room!" (Amanda reporting on a conversation with Laura's typing instructor, 407)

It was the lesser of two evils, Mother. I couldn't go back up. I—threw up—on the floor! (Laura to Amanda, 408)

From Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* in *Tennessee Williams: Plays 1937–1955*. (NY: The Library of America, 393–465).