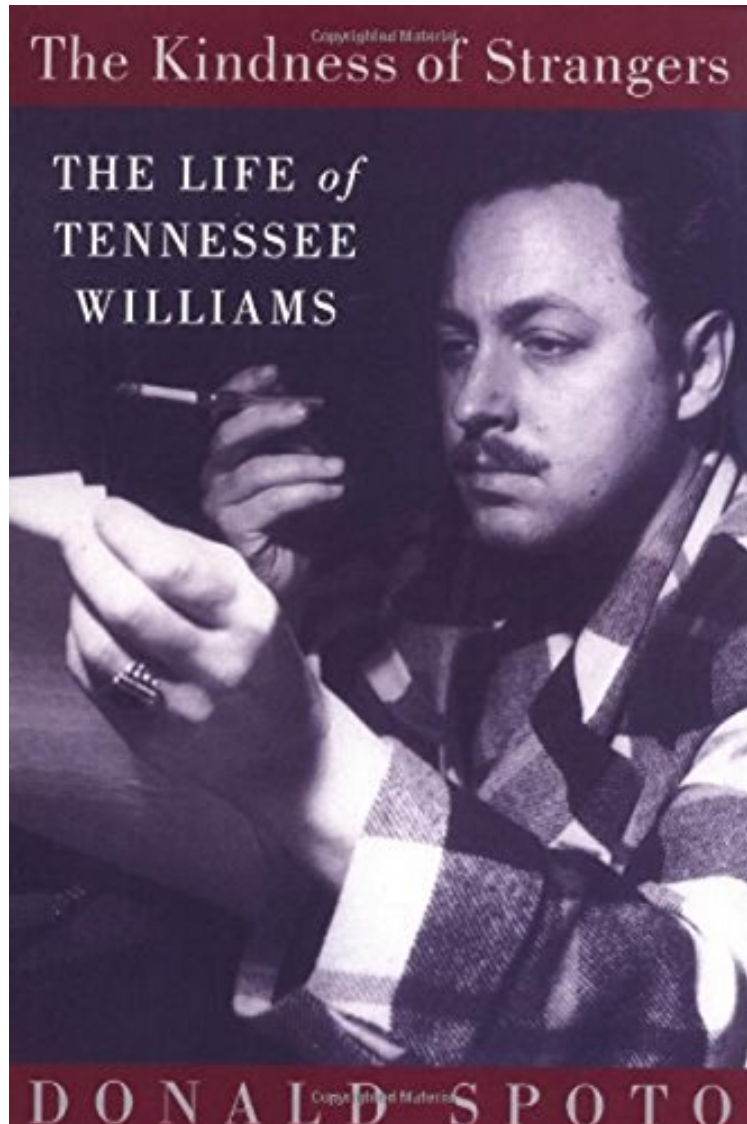


(Mobile ebook) The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams (English Edition)

The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams (English Edition)

Von Donald Spoto

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Von Donald Spoto : The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A thorough life tour of "10," but with a sour thesis.Von Ein KundeYes, Tennessee Williams signed some of his letters as

"10." That's just one of the many things you'll learn from reading Spoto's 1985 biography of this famous American playwright. More complete, thorough and sympathetic biographies have been issued since this one, but Spoto's is still worth reading. It has the virtue of concision (it runs about 400 pages, which for a crowded life like Williams had isn't long), at least. I don't argue with Spoto's view that Williams lived a largely miserable life, sank into rampant substance abuse, and hurt most of the people who cared for him. By the time he died, he couldn't get a good review for any new play he wrote. No one in the theater world liked him. It took his death for his career to start to recover, but at this point the late plays are getting better-reviewed productions, and the scope of his entire achievement (including his work in fiction and poetry) is finally being assimilated. From this distance, the only American playwright of the 20th century who might be put into the same class is O'Neill. I would vote for Williams. Anyone who reads this book will have to be willing to take Spoto's unsympathetic reading of Williams's life. At times he lectures the dead subject of the book like a prim schoolmarm (he did the same in his Hitchcock biography). The book is still a gripping portrait of one of the greatest, and saddest, literary giants America has produced. I believe the tragedy of his genius rivals Poe's.¹ von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Broken World of Tennessee Williams Von Gianmarco Manzione The last words of the book, "at last there was stillness," exemplify Spoto's ability to capture the chaos of this genius's life. Although the book is somewhat fast paced and races over portions of Williams's life, it is meticulously researched and digs up every facet of Tennessee Williams. Spoto reveals the glory days of the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and the nightmare of his last two decades in which he watched success wane as fastidious critics, ignorantly demanding that Williams continue to deliver plays in the vein of *Glass Menagerie* and *Streetcar Named Desire*, beat him literally to death. One must have emotions of steel to get through the book's later chapters, in which Williams suffers a miserable descent into drug addiction and madness. Despite Williams's wealth and fame, the man lived a terribly difficult life. From his chaotic childhood to his drugged, alcoholic and lonely end, Williams's life was perhaps his greatest drama, as Spoto reveals.

Kurzbeschreibung Drawing on a broad range of sources, Spoto weaves Williams's successes, failures, obsessions, and suffering into a "tightly woven chronicle" (LJ 5/1/85). "Spoto's readable biography corrects the...one-sided accounts in Williams's own memoirs and his brother Dakin's `intimate biography.'" This title is for both the serious theater scholar and lay reader alike. Tom Williams was born in Mississippi in 1911. The son of a womanizing, hard-drinking father and an obsessively domineering mother, he sought refuge at an early age in a world of fantasy and stories shared with his sister and closest companion, Rose. By late adolescence, Tennessee Williams had determined on a career as a playwright and found subjects for powerful drama in the conflicts and heartbreak of his family, culminating in the lobotomy performed on the unstable Rose which left her trapped in a twilight world, unable to communicate. In 1945 "The Glass Menagerie", based on this tragedy, brought Williams instant acclaim and from then, at the age of 34, he was considered the greatest voice of the American theatre, producing such enduring successes as "Summer Smoke", "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", "Suddenly Last Summer" and "Night of the Iguana". At the same time, however, his bouts of excess and addiction to alcohol and pills, his homosexual promiscuity and his incessant travelling, combined with overwork to undermine his health and render the last 20 years of his life wretched and creatively barren. This biography is based on a study of the playwright's published work, his private papers and those of his mother, as well as interviews with friends and colleagues. Kurzbeschreibung Drawing on a broad range of sources, Spoto weaves Williams's successes, failures, obsessions, and suffering into a "tightly woven chronicle" (LJ 5/1/85). "Spoto's readable biography corrects the...one-sided accounts in Williams's own memoirs and his brother Dakin's `intimate biography.'" This title is for both the serious theater scholar and lay reader alike. Tom Williams was born in Mississippi in 1911. The son of a womanizing, hard-drinking father and an obsessively domineering mother, he sought refuge at an early age in a world of fantasy and stories shared with his sister and closest companion, Rose. By late adolescence, Tennessee Williams had determined on a career as a playwright and found subjects for powerful drama in the conflicts and heartbreak of his family, culminating in the lobotomy performed on the unstable Rose which left her trapped in a twilight world, unable to communicate. In 1945 "The Glass Menagerie", based on this tragedy, brought Williams instant acclaim and from then, at the age of 34, he was considered the greatest voice of the American theatre, producing such enduring successes as "Summer Smoke", "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", "Suddenly Last Summer" and "Night of the Iguana". At the same time, however, his bouts of excess and addiction to alcohol and pills, his homosexual promiscuity and his incessant travelling, combined with overwork to undermine his health and render the last 20 years of his life wretched and creatively barren. This biography is based on a study of the playwright's published work, his private papers and those of his mother, as well as interviews with friends and colleagues. Synopsis } This is the first complete, critical biography of Tennessee Williams (1911-1983), one of America's finest playwrights and the author of (among many important works) *The Glass Menagerie*, *Summer and Smoke*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, and *The Night of the Iguana*. Award-winning biographer Donald Spoto gives us not only a full and accurate account of Williams's life, he also

reveals the intimate connections between the playwright's personal dramas and his remarkably autobiographical art. From his birth into a genteel Southern family, through his success, celebrity, and wealth, to his drug addictions, promiscuity, and creative struggles, Tennessee Williams lived a life as gripping as his plays. *The Kindness of Strangers*, based on Williams's own papers, his mother's diaries, and interviews with scores of friends, lovers, and professional associates, is, in the author's words, a portrait of "a man more disturbing, more dramatic, richer and more wonderful than any character he created. " }