It is gratifying that this book is a sincere effort from my side to explore a particular facet of Tennessee Williams' plays viz. crime and punishment, in its entirety. The analysis of the representative plays from the early to later period are shown the progressive development and change in Williams in his treatment, presentation and ideas of the theme of crime and punishment. There are three phases which are shown in the book; early phase, middle Phase and later phase. The theme of crime and punishment is depicted in a very realistic manner. The themes of rape, homosexuality, nymphomania, alcohol abuse, and mental illness all appear in his plays. This particular topic was untouched, though similar topics have been taken up by others but it could not throw light meticulously on this area. This book highlights the full length study of crime and punishment as a thematic study of the plays of Tennessee Williams. It was still unexplored area which attracted me to take for my degree of doctor of philosophy.

"The Ritual of Self-Assassination in the Drama of Tennessee Williams," a thesis submitted to Columbia University, 1974 by Matthew, David Charles Cameron is a prominent work on the line. The self-sacrifice is one of the most powerful rituals found in theatre, it may be seen equivalent to suicide. "Some Aspects of Crime and
Law in Modern European Literature," a dissertation by Montjoye, Irene, Indiana University, 1975 deals with 19th and 20th century novels and plays which are concerned with crime and punishment and social attitude toward law and sinners. Gulshan rai kataria in his book “Animal Images in Tennessee Williams” has shown the wildness of the characters and the cause of their suffering. Since the heroines are very powerful in Tennessee williams’ plays another book by Gulshan kataria “The Faces Eve: A Study of Tennessee Williams's Heroines. Robert Emmet’s book “Tennessee Williams’ Early Heroines are also an example of the same theme. “Sexual roles in the works of Tennessee Williams” by Robert Emmet is a great effort to throw light on Williams’ theme of sex. Jeanne M. McGlinn’s "Tennessee Williams' Women: Illusion and Reality, Sexuality and Love" is a wonderful piece of writing. If we go through the book we will see that Williams’ characters have been observed very minutely. Norman J. Fedder in his book “The Influence of D.H. Lawrence on Tennessee Williams” has depicted the characteristics of Williams which are very similar to D.H.Lawrence. There were many similarities in their personal lives too. Marlon B. Ross’ "The Making of Tennessee Williams: Imaging a Life Imagination" is also an example of his powerful imaginations which has been seen in his works.

Though umpteen number of subject matter is available in the market primarily focusing on Tennessee Williams and his work. In
my opinion this particular facet has not been able to garner considerable attention hitherto. The purpose of this study is to determine and analyse the change and development in the view of Williams' vision and also to explore and review his theme of crime and punishment. Every effort has been put in from my side to write this thesis in the most lucid and comprehensible manner possible. While writing this thesis, great effort has been taken to decipher the niceties of various characters so as to portray a true picture of Tennessee Williams thought process.

I hope this work would be a great help for upcoming scholars and academicians who want to peep deeply inside this particular aspect of Tennessee Williams.

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