

TITLE
A Misunderstanleying
or,
The Stanley problem

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

The office is empty. The camera moves through the office space into STANLEY's office as the NARRATOR is speaking.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

This is the story of a man named Stanley. Stanley worked for a company in a big building where he was employee number four two seven. Employee number four two seven's job was simple: he sat at his desk in room four two seven and - wait a minute, where's Stanley?

The camera moves back out of Stanley's office into the main area. Stanley is staring at a phone.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Stanley, what on earth are you doing? You're supposed to be in your office pushing buttons until I say "And then one day, something very peculiar happened." That's when you're supposed to leave your office, not one moment sooner.

Stanley ignores Narrator and proceeds to stare at a plant.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Stanley, why do you insist on ignoring me? After all we've been through, after all the different endings we've experienced together? Sure, sometimes I've blown you up, dropped you into abysses, and insulted you, but that's no reason to just ignore me.

Stanley continues to do random stuff.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Look Stanley, just because we've had ups and downs in our relationship, doesn't mean you should just give up. We've always been friends and you need me.

Stanley continues to ignore Narrator.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You know it's rude to ignore people when they're talking to you. You could at least look me in the eyes.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But no, you keep on doing your own thing, pretending I don't exist, not saying a word. Come to think of it, I don't think you've ever said anything to me. Perhaps you're mute. And deaf. Or maybe you're just an idiot. Well Stanley, if you don't want to listen to me, I don't want to talk to you. You hear me? I'm done talking to you. What do you say to that?
(Narrator pauses)
I'm serious, Stanley.

Stanley continues to ignore Narrator.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I know what you're doing, Stanley. You're using reverse psychology, you think that by ignoring me ignoring you, you can get me to ignore that you're ignoring me. Well it won't work.
(Pauses)
You think I need you, don't you Stanley? You think that I'm lost without you, that without you my existence has no meaning. Well you're wrong. I have plenty of things that I could be doing right now, but I took time to help you go on an epic adventure. But with your current behavior, I don't know why I did.
(Pauses)
All right, I admit it, Stanley, I need you. There, does that make you feel better? Are you ready to cooperate now?

Stanley continues to ignore Narrator.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
All right, Stanley. If that's how you feel, I suppose I'll just leave you here. You can continue wandering around this office for eternity, I don't care, I'll just go and- wait a minute, shouldn't this be plugged into here?
(Sounds of microphone being plugged in)
Ah, there we go. Can you hear me now, Stanley?

Stanley jerks around to face the camera and glances about a bit.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Very good.

Stanley walks off screen and arrives at a set of two doors.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

When stanley came to a set of two open doors, he entered the door on his left.

THE END