

The Stanley Parable

The Text Adventure

[Start]

This is the story of a man named Stanley.

Stanley worked for a company in a big building where he was employee number 427. Employee Number 427's job was simple: he sat at his desk in room 427, and he pushed buttons on a keyboard. Orders came to him through a monitor on his desk, telling him what buttons to push, how long to push them, and in what order.

This is what Employee 427 did every day of every month and every year, and although others might have considered it soul-rending, Stanley relished every moment that the orders came in, as though he had been made exactly for this job.

And Stanley was *happy*.

And then one day, something very peculiar happened. Something that would forever change Stanley. Something he would never quite forget.

He had been at his desk for nearly an hour when he realized that not one single order had arrived on the monitor for him to follow. No-one had showed up to give him instructions, call a meeting, or even say "Hi". Never in all his years at the company had this happened - this complete *isolation*. Something was very clearly wrong. Shocked, frozen solid, Stanley found himself unable to move for the longest time. But as he came to his wits and regained his senses, he got up from his desk and stepped out of his office.

1. Step out of your office
2. Close your office door

2 Close your office door

Stanley stands in the door way, taking one last look at the grand work space in front of him, and closes his office door.

Stanley simply couldn't handle the pressure. What if he had to make a decision? What if a crucial outcome fell under his responsibility? He had never been trained for that! No, this couldn't go any way except badly. The thing to do now was to wait. Nothing will hurt me, Stanley thought, nothing will break me. In here I can be happy *forever*. I will be *happy*.

Stanley waited. Hours passed. Then days. Had years gone by? He no longer had the ability to tell. But one thing he was sure of was that some day, the answers would come. Eventually, they would arrive. Very soon now, this will end. He will be spoken to. He will be told what to do. Now it's just a little bit closer. Here it comes...

1 Step out of your office

As he stepped out of his cubicle, Stanley was dumbfounded to find his day-to-day office, usually packed with his busy co-workers, was completely empty. No one was clacking at their keyboards, staring at screens, drinking their mugs of coffee, nothing.

As Stanley walked into the hallway, he came to an empty room with a set of two open doors: One on his left, and one on his right. The way to the meeting room was the left door, so without hesitation, he entered that one.

3. Enter the left door

4. Enter the right door

3 Enter the left door

Stanley walked through the hallway into the meeting room. Once again, he was greeted with an empty room, filled with a large table with several chairs up against it. Business charts riddled with statistics littered the walls.

Coming to two opposite staircases, Stanley walked upstairs to his boss's office.

5. Walk upstairs

6. Walk downstairs

4 Enter the right door

This was not the correct way to the meeting room, and Stanley knew it perfectly well. This of course was the way to the employee lounge, so perhaps Stanley wanted to stop by it first, just to admire it.

But eager to get back to business, Stanley left the employee lounge and came to a hallway with a door on his left and a door in front of him. Seeing as the meeting room was through the left door, he entered that one.

3. Enter the door on your left

12. Enter the door in front of you

6 Walk downstairs

But Stanley just couldn't do it. He considered the possibility of facing his boss, admitting he had left his post during work hours. He might be fired for that. And in such a competitive economy, why had he taken that risk? All because he had believed everyone had vanished?

His boss would think he was crazy.

And then something occurred to Stanley.

"Maybe," He thought to himself. "Maybe, I *am* crazy. All of my co-workers blinking mysteriously out of existence in a single moment, for no reason at all?" None of it made any logical sense.

Crazy ending

5 Walk upstairs

Stepping into his manager's unnecessarily large office, Stanley was once again stunned to find not an indication of any human life. Shocked, unraveled, Stanley wondered in disbelief who orchestrated this, what dark secrets were being held from him!

What he could not have known was that the keypad behind the boss's desk guarded the terrible truth that his boss had been keeping from him, and so the boss had assigned it an extra secret pin number:

2 - 8 - 4 - 5.

7. Enter 2-8-4-5 into the keypad

12 Enter the door in front of you

Stanley was so bad at following directions, it's incredible he wasn't fired years ago. He came to an enormous room filled with cargo crates, trucks and forklifts. Yet, that was all on the deep floor of the factory, separating two rooms. Oh look, an elevator platform. Why don't you jump on that, or try your luck at falling down the deep pit below.

13. Fall down the pit

14. Jump on the elevator platform

7 Yet amazingly, by pushing random buttons into the keypad, Stanley discovered the correct code by sheer luck. Bravo, Stanley. The panel on the wall opened up and Stanley walked in and saw a large button with a light bulb insignia stuck out of a control deck. He pushed the button, and lights flicked on to reveal an enormous packed with television screens. "What horrible secret does this place hold?" Stanley thought to himself, but did he have the strength to find out?

A catwalk rose out of the ground and connected the current platform with another one in the distance. *Stanley walked onto the catwalk that lead to a monstrosly large screen that read 'Mind Controls Idle, Awaiting Input...'*

8. Walk up to the screen

13 Fall down the pit

SPLAT

But in his eagerness to prove that he is in control of the Story and no one gets to tell him what to do, Stanley lept from the platform, and plunged to his death.

Good job, Stanley. Everyone thinks you are very powerful.

14 Jump on the elevator platform

The elevator platform whirred into motion as it gradually moved to the other room.

Look, Stanley, I think perhaps we've gotten off on the wrong foot here. I'm not your enemy, really I'm not! I understand that investing your trust in someone else can be difficult, but the fact is the Story has been about nothing but *you*, all this time!

There's someone you've been neglecting, Stanley; someone you've forgotten about. Please, stop trying to make every decision by yourself. Now, I'm not asking for *me*...

...I'm asking for *her*.

The elevator platform came to a halt at the other room.

15. Walk into the room

13. Jump off the platform

8 Walk up to the screen

Stanley walked up to the large screen and came to a control deck with two buttons: 'OFF' and 'ON'. Knowing what was best to do, he pushed the 'OFF' button to end this madness once and for all.

9. Push 'OFF'

10. Push 'ON'

15 Walk into the room

The door shut behind Stanley.

This is a very sad story about the death of a man named Stanley.

Good morning Employee 427.

9 Push 'OFF' Yes!

He had won! He had defeated the machine! Unshackled himself from someone else's command!

10 Push 'ON'

Stanley pushed the 'OFF' button and the room...

...Wait, Stanley, you just activated the controls. didn't you? After they kept you enslaved for all these years you go and try to take control of this machine for yourself, Is that what you wanted? *Control*? This isn't how the story goes, you were supposed to get to this control deck, turn the controls *OFF*, and leave. If you're going to throw my story off track, you're going to have to do much better than that, for example; and I think you'll find this pertinent:

Work endings