

DUOLOGUE

FAN

By Danielle Brame Whiting

ARTIE and PEL stand side by side, feet apart, arms stretched out in front of them.

ARTIE

Don't move.

PEL

I'm not.

ARTIE

Expending any energy at this stage will undo all our good work.

PEL

I said, I'm not.

ARTIE

I know. I just want to make sure you understand.

PEL

How kind.

ARTIE

There's no need for that. We need to work together right now. Sarcasm is counter intuitive. Can we promise each other that, from this point on, we'll discard the snarky remarks and sarcasm and just focus on the task at hand?

PEL says nothing.

Pel? I need an answer. I'm not talking for the sake of hearing my own voice you know.



PEL

I'm right next to you.

ARTIE

Yes, I know.

PEL

It should go without saying that I can hear you.

ARTIE

I'm simply looking for an acknowledgement. That you understand what I'm saying.

PEL

Well, I'm a moderately intelligent individual who speaks English as a first language. I'd say it's a pretty safe bet I understand.

ARTIE

I'm not sure this is going to work.

PEL

I know it's not going to work.

ARTIE

I must be honest... I'm offended by how complacent you are being about this. You're negative, snarky, and, in general, unpleasant to be with.

PEL

I have one theory that might work.

ARTIE

Oh, something constructive. Will wonders never cease. Well go on then, what?

PEL

Stop talking. We have one small fan, and if you keep blowing hot air into like you have for the last minute and a half, we'll never cool down. My plan is - Shut. Up.



ARTIE

Good plan.

Beat.

ARTIE

But if I might add to that plan.

PEL

No! Okay, Artie, no. You can not add to the shut up plan because the plan requires you to shut up. That means don't add anything. Don't add words. Don't add movements. Just. Shut. Up.

ARTIE

Yes, I do understand the concept of shutting up and assure you I will do so after this one suggestion/

PEL

Oh what? What suggestion could you possibly have that will improve upon shutting up. Please enlighten me because I just can't imagine what could make the plan any better than it already is.

ARTIE

Well, there's no need to get aggressive about it.

PEL

I feel that I made my aggressive stance clear enough when I told you to shut up. Now, what is your suggestion?

ARTIE

We are meant to be in this together, you know. If we're fighting with each other it is going to make everything that much harder and/

PEL

WHAT is your suggestion, Artie?



ARTIE

Well, I just think before we both shut up that I should point out you have a whopping great spider on the back of your jumper.

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