

# [Stanley are actually "rhinestones”1 on a "tiara”1,](https://assignbuster.com/stanley-are-actually-rhinestones1-on-a-tiara1/)

Stanley is presented as cruelthrough his psychological brutality. As soon as Stanley finds out the ‘ truth’about Blanche he proceeds to torment her for the rest of the play which leadsher to insanity at the end of the play. His desire in finding out the truthstems from his mask of false virtue.

In scene three this is evident when hesearched through Blanches belongings after Stella told him about Belle Reve. After assuming that Blanche sold it off, he uses the “ Napoleonic code” 1to act as though he is protecting Stella from being “ swindled” 1 byher sister. However, the Napoleonic code favours him as he would get the moneyand so Stanley is using this code to assert his patriarchal power over Stellato claim Belle Reve as his own.  So, whenStella is presented as the voice of compassion by Williams as she explains thatthe “ diamonds” 1 on Blanches “ crown” 1 (as Stanley states)are actually “ rhinestones” 1 on a “ tiara” 1, Stanley doesnot want to believe this as it would go against his fantasies.

Yet again, inscene 5, Stanley acts as though he is trying to find out the truth aboutBlanche by mentioning “ hotel Flamingo” 1, when what he really wantedto do was shame her and get revenge on her to uphold his male dominance. Theaudience are immediately made to feel sympathy for Blanche by Williams’ use ofdramatic irony. The fact that Stanley now knows what the audience already knew, Blanche used to be a prostitute, makes the audience feel dread as we know thatStanley would use this information to harm her. Stanley only seeks factualtruths rather than the psychological truth which is why, unlike the audience, he is unable to understand her.

Williams is suggesting through Stanley that” all cruel people describe themselves as paragons of frankness” 1. Stanley is not honestbecause if he was then he would tell the whole truth and not only get factsfrom other sources but also from Blanche herself. This can be seen in sceneseven when he tells Stella about Blanche being a prostitute and getting “ mixedup” 1 with a seventeen-year-old boy. As Stanley did not state thatthe only reason that happened was because Blanche was going through the traumaof her husband’s death that happened when he was around that boy’s age, showsthat he was not telling Stella this out of his need of being truthful. This wasalso the case when he told Mitch this information, Stanley was acting as thoughhe was being a good friend when in fact he only told Mitch to ruin Blanche’slife with her one chance at happiness. 1Tennessee Williams – New York Times – 1975